



## September Membership Meeting September 14, 2021 @ 7:00PM

Delegates, Alternate Delegates, others associated with member organizations, and the public are invited to attend this virtual meeting.

**Advance Registration is required and must be completed by 12 PM, Tuesday, September 14, 2021.**

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYpcemvqTovEtY65JLTva3F2raL-1OS5TMm>

A confirmation email will be sent with unique meeting log-in/phone-in details. We strongly encourage early check-in, which starts at 6 PM.

To expedite the check-in process, please use your first and last name as your profile name this will help identify participants. See "June Ballot - Update" (below) for new voting procedures.

**\*\*The Secretary must be notified of voting member substitutions by 12PM Monday, September 13, 2021.**

If you are not familiar with Zoom, here is [a link to information and instructions on how to register and participate in CivFed's September 2021 Membership Meeting.](#)

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## September 14, 2021 Membership Meeting Agenda

- 7:00 Regular Business (Pledge, Approve Minutes, Greet New Delegates etc.)
  - 7:10 Candidates Forum
    - County Board
    - School Board
    - Virginia House Delegates
  - 8:30 DEBI (Diversity) Committee resolution
  - 8:50 School Bond Q&A
  - 9:05 New Business
  - 9:10 Adjournment
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## President's Corner

Welcome to the 106<sup>th</sup> season of the Arlington County Civic Federation!  
It is election season, the time of year when we exercise our Constitutional right to self-governance.

Our membership meeting on September 14th is our annual Candidates' Night,

where nominees will present their positions to us, and answer questions. We hope that you will join us. See below for further details.



Our new Civic Federation Board of Directors met over the summer to begin a strategic planning process. Newly elected Board Chair Nicole Merlene facilitated the process whereby we decided on an overall objective for the Civic Federation, and 4 strategic goals. The Board continues to work to develop key strategies to achieve these goals in support of our objective.

The stated objective of the Civic Federation is to enable Arlington to be a place that works for everyone.

This objective aligns with our stated purpose in our Articles of Incorporation, which is to be a civic organization that supports the general welfare of Arlington County and its vicinity in a non-partisan, non-sectarian, non-sectional, and non-political manner.

As the Board further develops the goals and strategies, we will provide additional updates to the membership. I am proud of our new Board of Directors, and the commitment they all have to the betterment of Arlington.

The Board also determined our dues for the coming season, the details are documented elsewhere in this newsletter.

We have decided to meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month this season. This is to minimize schedule conflicts with other county meetings, including board meetings. Also please note that our Membership Meetings will continue to be virtual at least through December.

Our committees have a full slate of activities this year.

The Task Force in Governance and Election Reform (TiGER) is moving into their recommendation phase, they will be presenting their recommendations in November. The Public Services and Legislation Committees will be sponsoring a panel on data privacy, focusing on the Clarendon Safety and Innovation Zone.

Additionally, the Revenues & Expenditures Committee will be looking at the County budget, and the Housing Committee, Environmental Affairs Committee, and the Parks and Recreation Committee will all be looking at these aspects of County life.

We will also host the County Board, the School Board, Superintendent, and the County Manager this year.

After the past year living with the pandemic, life is returning back to normal in many ways. Schools are reopening, many people are traveling for vacations, and stores and restaurants are largely reopened. Although there has been a fair amount of turmoil in the last year, Arlington, and society as a whole, has proven its resilience and community spirit in how we collectively have responded to the upheavals of the last year.

I am proud to live in such a resilient, diverse, and caring community, and to lead the Civic Federation in its shared mission of an Arlington that works for everyone.

Warmly,

[Allan Gajadhar](#)

The Arlington County Civic Federation (ACCF) is pleased to host our annual Candidate Forum on September 14, 2021. As in past years, we have invited candidates who will be on the ballot in Arlington. This year we have planned for panels to include candidates for: Arlington County Board, Arlington School Board, Virginia House of Delegates 45<sup>th</sup>, 47<sup>th</sup>, 48<sup>th</sup>, and 49<sup>th</sup> Districts. All seats are contested.

For more details about Arlington's ballot on November 2, 2021, visit [this link](#).

We have already heard from all but two candidates that they plan to attend. ACCF President Allan Gajadhar will moderate the forum at the September Zoom meeting at 7pm. Please remember to sign into the meeting using your full name starting at 6:30pm.

Questions for Candidates: Because of the Zoom format, there will be a few changes to the evening. Federation President [Allan Gajadhar](#) would like Committee Chairs, delegates and alternate delegates to submit questions for the candidates in advance to him by Tuesday, September 7. He will then pose the selected questions to the candidates.

Delegates attending the meeting may submit additional questions using the Zoom chat function. He will ask them as time permits. We recommend you contact committee chairs and discuss your questions in advance if possible! You will find a list of committee chairs in this newsletter.

Please join us and get to know your candidates as the Fall campaign season gets into full swing. This forum is a terrific opportunity to introduce candidates and to refresh and update yourself on the policies and positions of incumbents.

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## Housing Committee Report

Housing Committee Chair John Vihstadt is in renewed touch with Carmen Romero, president and CEO of the Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing (APAH), about arranging a special tour this fall of APAH project Gilliam Place on Columbia Pike. The tour will also feature a briefing by Paty Funegra of La Cocina VA, the Arlington nonprofit that provides bilingual culinary arts job training and entrepreneurship development on the ground floor of Gilliam Place through its commercial kitchen and Community Cafe. To reserve your place on this limited-capacity tour, write [john.vihstadt@gmail.com](mailto:john.vihstadt@gmail.com).

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## Environmental Affairs Committee Update Progress on report from 5/22/21 Second Public Collaborative on Preserving Arlington's Tree Canopy

Second Public Collaborative work has continued this summer in six teams. The teams explored the concerns identified with the participation of a range of stakeholders. The work generated solutions and strategies for mitigating Arlington's tree loss. The results will be reported to the membership this fall. The teams are focusing on these topics:

- Improving County management of our urban forest
- Financial and other resourcing for tree programs and activities
- Incentives for developers to preserve trees
- Zoning affecting tree preservation
- Enhancing enforcement under current regulations
- Correcting current inequities in the tree canopy

The teams will have an "open door" approach and invite ACCF members and County stakeholders to participate. For information contact Mary Glass at [environmental.affairs.chair@civfed.org](mailto:environmental.affairs.chair@civfed.org) or Eric Ackerman at [thurstonackerman@gmail.com](mailto:thurstonackerman@gmail.com).

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# Have Your Voice Heard: Take the Arlington Civic Federation's Community Engagement Survey

The Arlington County Civic Federation established a task force to re-examine our County governing bodies (County Government and Public Schools), including how the governing bodies receive input from the community and use the input to make decisions. This survey is designed to gather community feedback from individuals on the mechanisms used to provide input to the County and Public Schools. We appreciate your honest feedback. Individual surveys and individually identifying demographic information will not be shared. However, information will be aggregated, and written comments may be shared.

Please share news of the survey with your organizations and networks!

Access the survey by visiting: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CivFedTiGER>.

The Survey will close on Wednesday, September 15, 2021

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## 2021 ACCF Dues Information

On August 29, the Arlington Civic Federation Board of Directors approved the 2021 – 2022 budget which will be used to pay for administrative and web services for the organization.

**Membership Dues for 2021 – 2022 are \$65 per member organization. Dues should be sent in as soon as possible, and are due by December 31, 2021.**

Dues may be paid by check or by Zelle.

If paying by check:

- Send check to Arlington Civic Federation, PO Box 42091, Arlington Virginia, 22203.
- Please be sure to include the name of the organization on the check as a memo.
- Please send an updated list of delegates to [secretary@civfed.org](mailto:secretary@civfed.org).

If paying by Zelle, please email [treasurer@civfed.org](mailto:treasurer@civfed.org) including the following information:

- Name of Organization
- Name of Payer
- Phone Number for Payer (for questions)
- Zelle ID (email address or phone number)
- The treasurer will then respond with the ACCF Zelle payment information.
- Please also email [secretary@civfed.org](mailto:secretary@civfed.org) with the updated list of delegates.

If you have questions, please email [treasurer@civfed.org](mailto:treasurer@civfed.org) for payment information and [secretary@civfed.org](mailto:secretary@civfed.org) for any other questions. Thank you!

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## 2021 School Bond

The 2021 School Bond will be on the November ballot.

Please see [this link](#) for specifics about this year's bond. It is comparatively small (23.1M) and very specific to fund much over due improvements at existing schools. [this bond has

no funding related to the Career Center property]

- Kitchen Renovations
  - Campbell, Swanson, Drew, Randolph, Barrett, Carlin Springs, Science Focus, Ashlawn
- Entrance Renovations/Security Vestibules
  - Langston, Kenmore, Long Branch, Hoffman-Boston, Tuckahoe, Jamestown, Nottingham, Campbell, Swanson, Science Focus
- The Heights/Shriver
  - Make the building ADA compliant, parking and field improvements.

Bond chairs Alistair Watson and Rebecca Hunter will be available at the September Civic Federation Meeting to answer questions.

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## **Diversity, Equity, Belonging and Inclusion (DEBI) Committee**

The DEBI committee has finalized their [Resolution](#) to Affirm the ACCF's Commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging after the initial introduction to the membership. The resolution will be up for vote and discussion at the September meeting.

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## **[The Civic Federation's Website](#)**

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### **2021-2022 Board of Directors**

#### **Officers**

President, [Allan Gajadhar](#)  
Vice President, [Nicole Merlene](#)  
Secretary, [Alistair Watson](#)  
Treasurer, [Stacy Meyer](#)

#### **Board of Directors**

Board Chair, [Nicole Merlene](#)  
Member at Large, [Mary Glass](#)  
Member at Large, [Chris Wimbush](#)  
Member at Large, [Julia Tanner](#)  
Member at Large, [Nadia Conyers](#)  
Member at Large, [Mona Steffens](#)  
Member at Large, VACANT

Voting delegates and alternate delegates who are interested to serve on the Civic Federation's Board of Directors should contact [President Allan Gajadhar](#).

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### **2021-2022 ACCF PUBLIC INTEREST COMMITTEES**

Cultural Affairs – [Chair Tina Worden](#)  
Diversity Committee – [Chair Alistair Watson](#)  
Environmental Affairs – [Chair Mary Glass](#)  
Housing – [Chair John Vihstadt](#)  
Legislation – [Chair Ron Haddox](#)  
Parks and Recreation – [Chair TBD](#)  
Planning and Zoning – [Chair Ben Keeney](#)  
Public Services – [Chair John Ford](#)  
Revenues and Expenditures – [Suzanne Sundberg \(POC\)](#)  
Schools – [Chair TBD](#)  
Transportation – [Co-chairs Jerry Auten and Joe Pelton](#)

- Airport Noise Subcommittee – [Chair Joe Pelton](#)

## 2020-2021 ACCF SUPPORT COMMITTEES

Audit – [Chair Jay Wind](#)

Awards – TBD

Bylaws and Rules – [Chair Adam Henderson](#)

Banquet – TBD

Communications – [Chair Chris Wimbush](#)

Membership – [Chair Eric Cassel](#)

Nominations – TBD

Any Delegate, Alternate Delegate, or member of a Member Organization may participate on any Public Interest or Support Committee. Please contact the applicable Committee chair, point-of-contact, or [President Allan Gajadhar](#) if you are interested in participating on ACCF Committees.

## LINKS TO MEETING DOCUMENTS

- [Link to Draft June 2021 Meeting Minutes](#)
- [Diversity Committee Resolution for Consideration](#)

### ***Interested in being an Arlington County Civic Federation Delegate***

*The Arlington County Civic Federation was founded in 1916. Today, it has 85 member organizations dedicated to advocacy and community involvement. The Federation membership reflects the broad array of interests and talents found in the County and is open and welcoming to all groups within Arlington, firmly believing that a broader range of groups creates better problem-solving outcomes for Arlington and its residents. Our purpose continues to be promoting the general welfare of Arlington County and vicinity in a non-partisan, non-sectarian, non-sectional, and non-political manner.*

*Arlington County Civic Federation Delegates enjoy the full benefits of participation, voting and serving in Civic Federation leadership positions. If your organization is a member of the Civic Federation, ask if it has open slots for delegates. If it is not a member organization of the Civic Federation, encourage it to join. Here is a [link](#) to our website for more details.*

## ACCF Calendar FY2022

### **October 2021**

- NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: September 30, 2021 by
- GENERAL MEETING: Tuesday, October 12, 2021, 7PM, via Zoom; Registration begins: 6PM
- BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Sunday, October 17, 4PM via Zoom

### **November 2021**

- NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: October 28, 2021 by
- GENERAL MEETING: Tuesday, November 9, 2021, 7PM, via Zoom; Registration begins: 6PM
- BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Sunday, November 14th, 4PM via Zoom

### **December 2021**

- NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: December 2, 2021 by
- GENERAL MEETING: Tuesday, December 14, 2021, 7PM, via Zoom; Registration begins: 6PM
- BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Sunday, December 19, 4PM via Zoom

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