



Arlington County Civic Federation

The Civic Voice

The Newsletter of the Arlington County Civic Federation
October 2023 | Volume 108 | Number 02

October General Membership Meeting

Location: Hazel Auditorium, Virginia Hospital Center

Date: Tuesday, October 10, 2023 @ 7:00 PM

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

Delegates: All requests for delegate swaps with alternates must be submitted to the secretary@civfed.org by **Sunday October 8th at 12 noon**. No exceptions.

Options for attending the meeting:

1. **In-Person (Delegates, Other Guests):** No registration is needed to attend in-person.
2. **Facebook Live (Other Guests):** No registration is needed to watch the live stream which can be found on the [ArlCivFed Facebook page](#).
3. **Zoom (Delegates):** [Registration](#) is required by **Monday October 9th at 12 noon**. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. The Zoom passcode is 123456, but if you use the links provided after you register you will not have to enter it.

Meeting Agenda

- 7:00 - 7:10: Opening pledge of allegiance and brief administrative approvals - includes voting on [minutes](#).
- 7:10 - 8:50: Arlington's Vision for 2040 and Beyond
- 8:50 - 9:00: Vote on new Member - LULAC (see article below)

Reminder: Parking passes will be provided. Meetings are held in the 'Conference Center' depicted on the map below.



President's Message

We all hear – locally and nationally – how uncivil our discourse has become. Pundits and commentators regularly bemoan the acidic quality of civic dialogue. And we have certainly experienced incivility right here in Arlington in recent months and years. At your Civic Federation, we aim to promote and model behavior in service of changing that pattern.

We took a major step in that direction one year ago by devoting our October general membership meeting to a civil and wide-ranging discussion of housing issues in the county generally and the County Board's Missing Middle initiative in particular. Many people have told me that discussion was one of the few examples of civil, informative civic engagement they had recently experienced.

Now, at our upcoming October 10 general membership meeting, we're going to apply similar principles to the controversial subject of planning for Arlington's future. The goal is open community brainstorming to inform the priorities for the County and CivFed in developing the planning process for our shared community.

Some feel that Arlington's last serious long-term planning discussion was done decades ago. Since then, debates about planning and density have increasingly permeated almost all discussions, from initiatives like Missing Middle and Master Plan updates to Long Term Planning Committee and site plan reviews.

Our October general membership forum can give us a broad range of ideas and strategies. Afterward, we will ask our CivFed Committees, including a revitalized Planning and Zoning Committee, to review our brainstorming to inform their priorities for how to contribute to the community planning process. This may also include suggestions to the Arlington County Board and Manager on the process of engaging diverse perspectives, identifying relevant data for discussion, and for the planning strategies.

As Jackie Snelling explains below, we welcome and will need your active participation in this effort. Please make a special effort to attend either in person or virtually. And let us have your good ideas and suggestions!

Additionally, upcoming in October we are delighted to offer to our membership the application to join us from the Arlington council of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), further described later in this newsletter.

LULAC's application is part of our continuing work to reach out to expand our membership through outreach to new and different groups as well as to multi-family housing and renters. I would note that LULAC is a contact that was recommended by a current member, and we followed up enthusiastically.

In that spirit, I ask for members' suggestions and introductions of organizations for us to contact.

Finally, I want to briefly preview for members our November 14 meeting, which will be substantially devoted to the vital issue of the effects of climate change on our county and its ongoing response to those challenges, which include stormwater flooding and heat islands.

Among the subjects to be discussed will be an unveiling of the county's multi-year Risk Management Assessment Plan that identifies and evaluates financial risk from calamitous events like the July 2019 floods in many parts of the county. As part of this process, the RAMP can offer projections of changes in intensity, duration and frequency of climate-related events that will influence building construction and the need for more and different investment and planning.

There will also be a discussion and Q and A about the new stormwater utility that will be implemented next year. We plan to offer to our members a thorough public review next month.

Meantime, be well and please exercise care as there are signs that COVID might be returning as a serious threat to our individual and collective health.

Best, John

September Candidates Forum - Outbrief

Candidates for the Virginia House and Senate participated our September Candidates' Forum. Three state-focused discussions were held:

- 1) Virginia House of Delegates, 3rd District
- 2) Virginia Senate, 39th District
- 3) Virginia Senate, 40th District

Key topics/questions raised during the forum included:

- Candidate legislation focus areas
- Legislation to give Arlington parity with other jurisdictions
- Legislation to increase Arlington zoning code authority to address stormwater impacts
- Office vacancy
- Tree canopy
- Staffing crisis
- Mental health
- Law environment
- Affordable housing

Virginia House of Delegates, 3rd District



From left to right above: Alfonso Lopez [D, incumbent], Mike Webb [I]

Virginia Senate, 39th District



Left at table: Adam Ebbin [D, incumbent], Center on Zoom: Sophia Moshasha [R], Right: John Ford [Moderator - CivFed President]

Virginia Senate, 40th District



From left to right above: Barbara Favola [D, incumbent], David Henshaw [R]

Arlington County Board

Candidates for the Arlington County Board participated in the forum. Key topics/questions during the forum included:

- Future vision for Arlington in 2040, and views on the challenges and strategies we should use
- Revenue sources and balanced budget
- Climate impact to Arlington
- ACPD and DHS staffing
- Governance and Election Reform



From left to right above at the table: Susan Cunningham [D], Audrey Clement [I], Juan Carlos Fierro [R]; Center on Zoom: Maureen Coffey [D]; Right: John Ford [Moderator - CivFed President]

From the Board Chair

It has been another busy month for your Board of Directors. At our September Meeting, we were pleased to confirm President Ford's appointments of **Paul Holland as the new Chair of the Legislation Committee** and Board Member **Dave Schutz as the Chair of the Form of Government Subcommittee**, reporting through Legislation. The Form of Government Subcommittee will carry on the groundbreaking work of our Taskforce in Governance and Election Reform (TiGER). Please see the bios of these two new leaders elsewhere in this newsletter. I urge all members who are interested in the work of these two committees/subcommittees to reach out to these new chairs to learn more. Paul may be reached at legislation.chair@civfed.org and Dave at formofgov.chair@civfed.org.

The Board also referred the application of the **League of United Latin American Citizens, Arlington General Council 4613, or LULAC** to the General Membership for approval. Both your Board of Directors and the Membership Committee recommend approval of this application. An article on LULAC and the draft Resolution enabling their membership can be found in this newsletter.

The Secretary and Treasurer have initiated the annual recertification and dues-payment process. As a reminder, dues were held to \$65 per member organization for the third consecutive year. Recertification and dues are due by Monday 20 November. For questions, please contact the [Secretary](#).

Finally, a reminder to all members that our FY2024 Member Survey is currently active. So far, we have received about twenty-five responses. To get the broadest response possible, we will hold the survey **open through end-of-day Sunday 8 October 2023**. I urge you to complete this survey (it takes about ten minutes) as the results will provide valuable guidance to your Officers and Directors on your priorities for ACCF in the months and years ahead. The survey may be accessed at:

<https://forms.gle/yGTysdmyvkBk29yt8>

Until next month,

Adam R Henderson
ACCF Board Chair

Arlington's Vision for 2040 and Beyond – Starting the Conversation

by Jackie Snelling, CivFed Board Vice Chair

What is your vision for Arlington in future years? Come join us on October 10 and provide your input. This program features speakers from diverse perspectives and many opportunities for audience input to start the conversation for planning our future. The goal is open community brainstorming to inform the priorities for the County and CivFed in developing the planning process.

It's hard to believe that Arlington's last long-term planning discussions were done in 1986 for "The Future of Arlington - The Year 2000 and Beyond," and in 2000, an evaluation of the accomplishments since 1986 and a Task Force report on "A Vision for the 21st century." In the 23 years since then, there has been considerable development and implementation of the vision for 21st century; now we are well into the "2000 and beyond." Debates about planning and density permeate almost all discussions from initiatives such as Missing Middle, Master Plan updates, and the frequent Long Term Planning Committee and site plan reviews. The dialog is passionate, competitive, at times acrimonious, and frustrating for all. Frequently the discussion focuses on how to apply competing priorities in the absence of an updated vision.

It's time to think about and talk about our future vision. The Civic Federation has a long history of bringing together a full range of Arlington voices to identify common objectives, to promote respectful listening, and to facilitate discussion, enabling us to work together for solutions.

The goal of our focus on Arlington's vision for 2040 and Beyond is to start a broad and thoughtful conversation among different perspectives for the future. We have worked hard to provide 14 speakers with diverse backgrounds and perspectives and to include audience participation. For all areas, please send me any ideas you have in advance to share with speakers and be prepared to make your quick additions to our topics.

- **Common Objectives** - We'll start with a quick review and audience participation to identify potential common objectives. Come ready to contribute a common objective in a few words or a phrase. You may also send me your ideas for common objectives in advance.
- **Visions.** We'll have 6 speakers give 3-minute "snapshot" visions followed by a series of 30-second additions to visions from the audience.
- **Data.** Two speakers will talk about what data is most relevant, provide some examples of relevant data, and identify some areas where we may need to develop new analyses. We'll ask the audience to make 30-second suggestions for additional data areas that should be a priority.
- **Strategies, approaches, tools.** We have six speakers who will provide their 3-minute ideas on the strategies, approaches, or tools that they think are most important to facilitate the planning for vision/s. Speakers are taking a broad approach to the question. Again, we'll ask the audience to make brief suggestions for other tools or approaches that are important to facilitate good planning.
- **Next Steps.** This forum will give us a broad range of ideas and strategies. We will ask our CivFed Committees, including a new Planning and Zoning Committee, to review the brainstorming to inform their priorities for how to contribute to the community planning process. This may also include suggestions to the Arlington County Board and manager on the process of engaging diverse perspectives, identifying relevant data for discussion, and for the planning strategies.

We look forward to hearing from you and other community leaders on the 10th. Please put this on your calendar to attend or register for the Zoom meeting. You can contact me with comments at board.vicechair@civfed.org.

Approved New Member! African American Leadership Council of Arlington (AALCA)

We are pleased to report that the African American Leadership Council of Arlington (AALCA) membership request was approved by the members at the September 5 General Membership meeting.



Proposed New Member - United Latin American Citizens, Arlington General Council 4613 (LULAC)

LULAC has applied for membership in the Arlington County Civic Federation. LULAC is the local Arlington council of the nation's largest Latino civil rights advocacy group and focuses on advocating, educating, and encouraging civic participation for the Latino community. Since the early 90s, LULAC has been actively involved in the local community, fostering STEM education for young Latinas, addressing youth mental health, and advocating for Latino community involvement.

At the September 17th board meeting, the ACCF Board voted to recommend that the General Membership approve the LULAC membership application. A vote will take place at the October General Membership meeting.

Proposed Resolution

WHEREAS the League of United Latin American Citizens, Arlington General Council 4613 (LULAC) has requested membership within the Arlington County Civic Federation.

WHEREAS the ACCF Membership Committee has reviewed the LULAC membership request and has validated that the organization meets ACCF rules established by the bylaws, including that the organization has at least 20 members, that their demonstrated primary objective and principal work is consistent with the goals and purposes defined by the ACCF bylaws;

WHEREAS the ACCF Board has reviewed and discussed the Membership application;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the ACCF Board of Directors hereby recommends the application of LULAC for membership in the ACCF and refers this request to the General Membership for review and a vote at the next General Meeting.



CivFed Legislative Committee Leadership Update

CivFed is happy to announce that the Board ratified Paul Holland as the new chair of the Legislative Committee. We would like to thank Ron Haddox for his years of service in the role. In addition, the CivFed Board approved the adoption of a Legislative Subcommittee which will continue the work of [TIGER](#). Dave Schutz will chair this new 'Form of Government' Subcommittee.

Paul Holland Bio CivFed Legislative Committee Chair

Paul is lifelong Arlingtonian and lives in the Waverly Hills neighborhood with his wife and two children. Professionally, he is a certified land use planner (AICP) and advises the federal government on climate change and renewable energy policy. In the community, Paul serves as Chair of the Plan Langston Boulevard Community Forum. He is also a member of the Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing (APAH) Board of Directors where he serves at the Chair the Nominations and Governance Committee. Paul is a past President of the Waverly Hills Civic Association (2015-2018 and 2020-2023). Paul previously chaired Arlington's Fiscal Affairs Advisory Commission and the County's Park and Recreation Commission. In 2014, he was a candidate for the Virginia House of Delegates and is a graduate of Leadership Arlington's Class of 2013. A former Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, Paul's adventures include canoeing 2000-miles across Canada's Yukon Territory and Alaska and traversing the Sahara Desert to research the world's largest ships graveyard in northwest Mauritania.



From Paul Holland:

I look forward to working with the Civic Federation's members to advance the priorities of the membership through the legislation committee. It is an honor to serve in this role. Please contact me if you're interested in joining the Committee. I anticipate our first meeting will occur in either October or November of this year.

Paul Holland legislation.chair@civfed.org

Dave Schutz Bio **Form of Government Subcommittee Chair**

Dave Schutz moved to Arlington in 1985. He was quickly involved in the commission system – Site Plan Review and then Chair of the County Park and Recreation Commission – before shifting focus to family for a number of years. Recently he has served on the CivFed TiGER committee and is the current Parks and Rec Committee Chair.



Drop, Cover, and Hold on!

While earthquakes are not common in Arlington, they do happen here ...like the one on 23 Aug 2011 that caused significant damage.

Join us on Oct 19 to practice to be safe.

Join Arlington County Emergency Management and millions around the world in celebrating International Great ShakeOut Day! Great ShakeOut Day is annual opportunity for Arlingtonians to practice what to do during earthquakes and increase emergency preparedness in their homes, schools, and organizations. Practice earthquake safety on **October 19, 2023 at 10:19 a.m.** by participating in the world's largest earthquake drill. Snap a photo when you "drop, cover, and hold on" and tag @ReadyArlington on social media! #GreatShakeOut

**Practice earthquake
safety with us on 10/19
at 10:19 AM EST**

**Remember to "Drop, Cover, and
Hold On" when participating in the
world's largest earthquake drill!**



#GreatShakeOut



The CivFed Housing Committee Invites You to Attend its Next Meeting

by Anne Bodine and Matthew Hall, CivFed Housing Committee Co-Chairs

Community Land Trusts in Expensive Housing Markets, How it Works in Practice
Charlotte Bell, VP of Housing Services for Habitat for Humanity NYC and Westchester County.

Thursday, October 19, 6:30-8:00 pm via Zoom

Register here for a [link](#).

Ms. Bell is Vice President of Housing Services for Habitat for Humanity of NYC and Westchester County. She has been working in affordable housing preservation and community development in NYC for over a decade. Prior to joining the team at Habita, she was the Assistant Director of Co-op Preservation at the Urban Homesteading Assistance Board (UHAB).

Ms. Bell will share her own professional experience putting together community land trusts (CLT's) in New York City and environs. She will discuss how the founding organizations arrived at their current model to address challenges related to affordable housing in that challenging market and we will discuss potential parallels with the Arlington and whether a similar approach could be utilized here.

Please email housing.chair@civfed.org for more information.

The Dream Project: Addressing the Challenges Faced by Immigrant Women

by the American Association of University Women

Monday, October 16 from 7-8:30 pm at Lubber Run Community Center, 300 N. Park Drive, Arlington. Presented by the Arlington AAUW. The Speaker is Dr. Emma Violand-Sánchez, who will share her Bolivian immigrant story and her contributions as an educator and founder of The Dream Project. The Dream Project is a non-profit organization empowering students whose immigration status creates barriers to higher education. Open to the public.

Annual Certification and Dues

by David R Smith, CivFed Secretary

Our annual member certification update and dues request is now in progress. Officers of existing organizations have been contacted by email to submit their organization's certification updates and to pay dues. The certification update includes changes to officers or alternates/delegates. This process is slated to completed by November 20th.

The link to provide this information & payment is at: [ACCF 2024 Annual Dues and Recertification](#).

Please contact David Smith, secretary@civfed.org, with any questions.

2023-2024 Board of Directors

Officers

President, [John Ford](#)

Vice President, [Ron Haddox](#)

Secretary, [David Smith](#)

Treasurer, [Benjamin Watts](#)

Board of Directors

Board Chair, [Adam Henderson](#)

Board Vice-Chair, [Jackie Snelling](#)

Member at Large, [Dave Schutz](#)

Member at Large, [Jim Todd](#)

Member at Large, [Michael McMenamin](#)

Member at Large, [Nicholas Giacobbe](#)

Member at Large, [Richard McNamara](#)

Member at Large, [Scott Miles](#)

ACCF PUBLIC INTEREST COMMITTEES

- Cultural Affairs – Chair Tina Worden
- Diversity Committee – Chair TBD - if interested contact bod.vicechair@civfed.org
- Environmental Affairs – Chair Mary Glass
- Housing – Co-Chairs Anne Bodine and Matt Hall
- Legislation – Chair Paul Holland
- Parks and Recreation – Chair David Schutz
- Planning and Zoning – Chair TBD - if interested contact bod.vicechair@civfed.org
- Public Services – Chair John Ford
- Revenues and Expenditures – Chair Suzanne Sundburg
- Schools – Chair Todd Truitt
- Transportation – Chair TBD - if interested contact bod.vicechair@civfed.org

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 John Ford if you are interested in participating on ACCF committees.

[Link to Committee Website](#)

Interested in being an Arlington County Civic Federation Delegate?

The Arlington County Civic Federation was founded in 1916. Today, it has 80+ 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 its 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.

[The Civic Federation's Website](#)

ACCF Calendar FY2024

October

- Tuesday, 10/10: General Membership Meeting
- Sunday, 10/15: Board Meeting

November

- Monday, 10/30: Deadline for Newsletter Input
- Tuesday, 11/14: General Membership Meeting
- Sunday, 11/19: Board Meeting

December

- Monday, 11/27: Deadline for Newsletter Input
- Tuesday, 12/12: General Membership Meeting
- Sunday, 12/17: Board Meeting

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