

## ACCF General Meeting Notice

**NORMAL START TIME**  
**Tuesday, October 2, 2007, 7:30 PM**  
Hazel Conference Center  
Virginia Hospital Center – Arlington  
1701 North George Mason Drive

1. **7:30 pm** Pledge of Allegiance (formal start)
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes (September 4, 2007)
4. Treasurer's Report & Audit Submission
5. **7:40 pm** Committee Reports/Announcements
6. **7:50 pm** What's My Sign Initiative (*see page 1*)
7. **7:55 – 8:20 pm** – Police District Realignment - Deputy Chief M. J. Farr, Operations Division (*see page 2*)
8. **8:20 – 8:35pm** – Arlington County Treasurer Frank O'Leary – Summary of "**Real Solutions**" (*see Page 1*)
9. **8:35 – 9:20 pm** – Part I – Legislative Program (*see page 2 and page 3*)
10. **9:20 – 9:30 pm** New Business & Other Announcements
11. Adjournment

## Electronic Age is coming (Slowly)!

Many of our members have requested Email notifications of various events, upcoming meetings, availability of the Civic Voice on-line, etc. In the future we also plan to try making our Website more interactive. Many of you have also been reluctant to provide Email addresses to avoid numerous messages.

We have been careful, for example "President's" notifications all last year were less than three – and really important! We desire to have current Email information for VERY limited contact – particularly member Presidents – whether or not they are Delegates or Alternates. Additionally, we would request Email contacts for ALL Delegates and Alternates for future "improvements". Please remit or provide an update to Larry Mayer and/or Sharon Rogers (*see last page*). – Thank you!

## What's My Sign Initiative

No – it is not Astrology! The ACCF Excom has agreed to sponsor a new program for our 2007/2008 year. We have affectionately called it "**What's My Sign**". All are encouraged to participate. Here are the specifics. Member organizations will identify:

- unnecessary or duplicative signs
- ugly signs
- unhelpful/confusing signs
- sign clutter
- absence of necessary signs

These signs should be in their respective neighborhoods and should be Arlington County signs. The ACCF Transportation Committee will vet and judge submissions. All submissions pertaining to County signs will be referred to the County Board, County Manager and appropriate Department for action. ACCF will endorse the top three recommendations via a resolution. All submissions are due by the May ACCF meeting. Members will be invited to identify/highlight good examples at monthly ACCF meetings.

The point of Contact for the contest is Burt Bostwick. Please send him your suggestions/photos at [burt@civfed.org](mailto:burt@civfed.org)

Our Objective is to make Arlington neighborhoods cleaner, less cluttered, and easier to navigate.

## Real Solutions for Tax Payments

Arlington County Treasurer, Frank O'Leary will "launch" and present at our meeting an abbreviated (10 minute) overview of a program called "**Real Solutions**". A short question and answer period will follow.

All too frequently the "Golden Years" are marred by the inability of fixed incomes to match ever-increasing prices and real estate taxes. There are solutions that can and should be explored – right here in Arlington. The Arlington County Treasurer's office has developed an informative program called "**Real Solutions**". This forty-five minute program presents three possible solutions: tax exemption, tax deferral, and reverse mortgages. The Treasurer's office staff, assisted by staff from Arlington's Department of Human Services and PNC Bank, is available for presentations to neighborhood groups and associations. To schedule a session please call **Real Solutions** Coordinator Crystal Dade at 703-228-4016.

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## Tidbits

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New activities or actions, considered or approved, by the Executive Committee since the September meeting is itemized. Unless specifically noted, material has been posted to our Web site. Please refer to that resource for further details where noted:

- **Appointments** – None this period
- **What's My Sign Initiative** – (*See Page 1*)
- **Increased Electronic Communication** – Refer to page 1 regarding the request for Email information. We want to make electronic communications available for those desiring them. We need updated information to do so. Also, it is desirable to have “two-way” interaction with the Web site. The Excom decided to ask for email information. Web site improvements will be made as time is available – please do not expect changes to occur rapidly – our “volunteers have limited time – especially given their remuneration!
- **Banquet** – Banquet dates, locations and speakers were discussed – Standby for an exciting evening (*see page 3*).
- **Website** – Refer to our wonderful Website, at any time, for late breaking news!

**November Meeting:** Tuesday, November 13, 2007  
(*one week later due to Election on November 6<sup>th</sup>*)

**The Major Topics:** Legislative Package – Part II  
Code Enforcement Program

**November Newsletter deadline:** October 22, 2007

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## Police Districts “Realigned”

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The Arlington County Police Department is in the process of redistricting. At the present time the County Police Department is separated into four geographical districts. Each of these Districts is served by a District Captain and a District Team composed of one (1) Sergeant and (4) four Officers. The District team serves as the liaison with the community and works on community initiatives and enforcement that is based upon geographical distribution.

The District Captain also has a secondary responsibility within the Patrol Section with oversight responsibilities to either one of the three time-of-day sections or the Operational Support Section. This creates a dual role for the Captains and does not allow for full time attention to either activity.

**What are the proposed changes?** - The Police Department will be reducing the number of Districts from four (4) to three (3) and reallocating a current position to become a Patrol Section Commander. Because of the reduction of districts from four to three, this will allow for a consolidation of resources within the District Teams.

**How will this affect your neighborhood?** - For the most part, this change will be transparent to the community. There will be

a few civic associations that will fall under a different District and Captain as a result of the boundary lines changing.

### **Will this change affect police service and/or response time? -**

There will be no change to basic police service or coverage. The underlying police beats and patrol sectors will remain as they presently are. The only change will be the responsibilities of the District Captain and their district teams.

**Why the Change?** - For the police department, this restructuring accomplishes two objectives, while enhancing its efforts in community policing.

1. By consolidating the District Teams, the Police Department is afforded greater flexibility in addressing community initiatives and enforcement issues. The realignment of staff will allow a more varied response to better meet the ever changing needs of the District. Unlike traditional time-of-day policing, District Teams work to address longer term community issues that may require a varied work schedule and maximum flexibility. The redistribution of staff will allow will allow this flexibility.

2. The addition of the Patrol Captain will allow the Police Department to dedicate one Captain to each of the three (3) Districts. District Captains will then be able to devote their time to the needs of their assigned Districts.

**When will this change take place?** - It is anticipated that these changes will go into effect within the next 90 days.

Arlington Police Deputy Chief of Operations M.J. (Jay) Farr will be presenting aspects and rationale of the revisions to the structure of Police Districts. There will be time for questions after his presentation.

Check the Arlington county Police Website for further information as it becomes available. Web site address is:

<http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/police>

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## Legislative Package –

### **Why Part I and Part II?**

*By Executive Committee*

Things Change! The Executive Committee, as well as the Legislation Committee has heard you! You have commented and complained about this program in the past few years. Based on recent attendance records, these meetings have had the lowest turnout of any during the year. We attempt to address your concerns and answer key questions

- **Why have a “special rule” full package “take it or leave it approach?”** – This was instituted to avoid very long meetings. In past years we debated specific items and went very late – even until the next day. *The “Special Rule” is gone this year!* With your help, strict total time and individual speaker limits, we can control the elapsed time.
- **Why are delegates and alternates precluded from introducing their own items?** - The “special Rule would have allowed you to do so, if it was defeated – but the rule always passed? *This year you can introduce your own items* (albeit in writing – but handwritten is OK)!

- **What was this total package and then “options”** – We used a consensus of the Legislation Committee members to determine items for the “up and down vote” and majority for optional items. *This year you vote, via a written ballot, on the items that will go into the Legislative Package!* To be included in the final Package, the item must receive a majority of the votes cast (Because, according to our Bylaws, an organization can cast only four (4) votes, ballots will be issued only to the first four (4) arriving Delegates OR Alternate Delegates from an organization).
- **What is this Part I and Part II stuff?** – As the “Civic Voice” of Arlington, we organize, discuss and present local issues to County Officials, State Senators and Delegates, and the US Congress. Consistent with Federation rules, items introduced at the October meeting will be voted on at the November meeting. Because time is now available, both the October and the November meeting will have expanded agenda.

The procedures are detailed in the section, *Legislative Package – Procedures*, found below – but your help is needed to make it work. First, participate in the organizing and discussing of items to be placed in the Legislative Package. Second, be supportive of time limits: be clear and concise when you are speaking.

The Executive Committee thanks the Legislation Committee for its strong receptivity to the altered approach. Attend and help make this the best program ever!

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## Legislative Package – Procedures

*By Legislation Committee*

This year, there will be three significant changes to how the legislative program is conducted. First, portions of the 2008 legislative package will be developed at both the October and November meetings, in what amounts to a “two-stage” process. The second change is that delegates may offer their own items of proposed legislation. Third, there will be no “up or down” voting on a “total” package as used in previous years (no “Special Rule”).

In October, delegates will debate the package presented by the Legislation Committee. Near the end of the program, delegates may present legislative items of their own. Such items **must be in writing**, and must be presented to the Legislation Committee chairman by the opening of the legislative program. Delegates will be permitted two minutes to explain the “additional” legislative item(s). Ballots will be cast, and counted, for individual items in the package presented by the Legislation Committee. Program elements (currently about fifteen (15) are expected) will only be included if accepted by a majority vote for the November package.

Results of the balloting will be available on the Federation’s website within 48 hours. They will also appear in the November newsletter.

In November, delegates will debate the legislative items presented by delegates. After debate is completed, delegates will cast ballots for both the items presented by Legislation Committee (as accepted via a majority vote from the October meeting) and by delegates. Again, results will be available on the Federation’s website within 48 hours.

Delegates wishing more information about the new procedure can contact Tim Wise, Legislative Committee chairman at either [tim@civfed.org](mailto:tim@civfed.org) or (703) 243-8345, or contacting the Civic Federation president.

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## Help “Still” Wanted – By-Laws

Remember the Civic Federation is primarily active through its various committees. Strongly consider becoming active by joining a Committee or two.

We continue to need a new By-laws Committee Chair. Would you volunteer yourself? This is not a particularly time consuming position. Having a law degree is not a prerequisite! You only have to have some mastery of language to avoid “double” meanings – and there are plenty of attorney’s around that will give you both needed and unwanted advice. If you have an interest in this position Email or call Larry Mayer (*see last page*).

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## Banquet – Reserve the Date

Please reserve Friday, March 28, 2007 for the 2008 Civic Federation Banquet. Standby, we will let you know the location and featured speaker after they are determined. Options are being evaluated as this goes to press. Early notice for you all!

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## Scholarship Committees Appeal

The Civic Association supports Scholarship areas through two committees. First the 9/11 Scholarship fund for children of uniformed public safety personnel or dispatchers (see insert)

Second, consider the Scholarship Fund for Teachers which makes awards to students from public high schools who have shown a genuine interest in education and plan a career in that field. The ACCF was a founding member of this fund in 1955. Please contact Frances Finta (see last page) for further information and/or to make a contribution.

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## Housing Forum

*By Housing Committee*

The Alliance for Housing Solutions presents its Fifth Annual Thomas P Leckey Forum on Saturday, October 27, 2007 at the George Mason University Law School (Arlington Campus). This year’s forum focuses on what affordable housing can mean for neighborhoods - the residents and the homes they live in, the individual character of each area, and the strategies for producing affordable housing in and with neighborhoods.

The forum will run from 8:30 until 12:30. It is free and open to all who wish to learn and share ideas. We ask that you let us know if you will attend by contacting us through our website at [www.allianceforhousingolutions.org](http://www.allianceforhousingolutions.org) or calling 703-536-7694.

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## Website and Calendar

Remember; please look on the ACCF calendar Web page for latest postings of committee meetings and other events!

Thanks to Sharon Rogers and Randy Swart – our Webmasters. Support them and provide information.