January 1997

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 7, 7:30 p.m.
(Note: All Federation meetings now begin at 7:30 p.m.)
Place: John T. Hazel Conference Center, Arlington Hospital
(1701 N. George Mason Dr.)
Program: Arlington County Board

Arlington County Board Report
Members of the County Board will make their traditional first-of-the-year report to Federation delegates at our January 7 meeting.

Bring your questions for the Board. After brief presentations by each of the five Board members, the floor will be open for an extended question/answer period. So that all delegates who wish to ask questions will have an opportunity to do so, we request that questions be in the form of a question and be as brief as possible. (Subtle reminder: The Gettysburg Address can be delivered with feeling in less than a minute.)

Those delegates who comply with this request for brevity will be rewarded. In keeping with our Standing Rules that limit a delegate to speaking no more than "three minutes consecutively," the Executive Committee agreed at its December meeting that a delegate may ask a follow-up question if desired, as long as the total time for both the original and the follow-up question does not exceed the three-minute allowance.

Two hours have been allotted for this County Board program.

Happy New Year!
School Board Speaks to Delegates (continued)

An array of interesting topics were discussed during the evening including the ongoing challenges and opportunities of the English as a Second Language program in the schools. Currently, for 6,700 students in the Arlington system (out of a total student population of 17,500), English is not their first language. Because of the diversity of this population, an array of approaches is required, delegates were told.

Another challenge currently facing the Arlington schools is preparing for Virginia's new "Standards of Learning" which are requiring extensive curriculum revisions and additional changes throughout the system in order to meet new student testing and state assessment requirements.

Additional topics covered by School Board members included the Capital Improvement Program; current use of school buildings; increased role of technology in the education of students; and ways that civic groups can assist.

Delegates Hear About Crime Trends

Also at the December meeting, Daniel Boring, Deputy Chief of Police, and members of the County's Crime Analysis Unit gave an informative presentation on criminal activity in Arlington.

The Police officers provided a helpful handout to delegates that listed the County's 10 "beats" and the names and telephone numbers of each of the Corporal Liaisons assigned to those beats.

Delegates were told that there are currently six known gangs in Arlington -- 4 Hispanic, 1 Black; and 1 Asian. So far, the gangs have proven to be more of a threat to each other than to the community at large. Graffiti, often gang-related, is a community problem, however, and residents are requested to call the Graffiti Hotline (358-4264) when they spot graffiti. Cleanup on public property is done as quickly as possible.

In Memoriam

With great sadness, we note the death in early December of Vernon Davis, long-time faithful and dedicated delegate to the Federation from Yorktown (formerly Northwest Arlington). Mr. Davis served two terms as Treasurer of the Federation in the early 1980s. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Mr. Davis's family. We shall miss him.

New Multi-Cultural Program Under Way

Delegates are reminded that names of volunteers from their organizations are needed for the County's new cross-cultural exchange program, which will provide opportunities for people of diverse cultural backgrounds to meet and get acquainted. Called "The Dialogue Project," the program is designed to help bring the community together. Additional information will be provided at the January meeting, and a sign-up sheet will be available.

Weather Alert

In case of inclement weather on the day of a scheduled Federation meeting, please contact Frances Finta (528-2882) or Tommye Morton (522-1506) after 1:00 p.m. for information concerning cancellation.

Next meeting: February 4, 1997