

## Minutes

### Arlington County Civic Federation

John T. Hazel Auditorium, Arlington Hospital

June 4, 1996

The meeting was **called to order** at 7:40 p.m. by Vice President Bill Nolden. (President McGeary was out of town on a business trip.)

1. **Agenda** was approved as presented.

2. **Minutes** of the May 7, 1996, meeting were approved as presented.

3. **Treasurer's Report** (by Treasurer John Nicholas): Current balance is \$1,428.93, with outstanding bill of \$258.94 handed in this evening, bringing total to \$1,169.99.

4. **Executive Committee Report** (by Exec. Comm. Chairman Frances Finta): At the Committee's May 16 meeting, County Manager Gardner attended as guest and addressed specific issues asked of him by Committee members. Other business included discussion of: the Banquet, final plans for the June meeting, and repairs to the Journal Cup. Next meeting of the Executive Committee, with both outgoing and new members in attendance, is scheduled June 25, 8:00 p.m. (Full report attached to Secretary's files.)

5. **Banquet Committee Report** (by Chairman Jennie Davis): A total of \$5,415 in checks, including \$1,000 being handed in to Treasurer Nicholas at this meeting, had been received. Chairman Davis announced that the Banquet had made a profit of \$279.80.

#### 6. **Announcements**

- ♦ Vice President Nolden announced the following recipients of **Federation Awards** presented at the Annual Banquet: **Order of Distinguished Meritorious Service - Roye Lowry, Scott McGeary; Journal Cup - Ernest Ragland; Certificates of Appreciation - Rebecca Gray, David Jones, John Nicholas.**
- ♦ Rebecca Gray (Arlington Ridge) announced the formation by the Arlington Ridge and Aurora Hills associations of a joint coalition against the baseball stadium and invited signatures for their petition opposing the 14th Street Bridge site.
- ♦ Jacqueline Mow (Bellevue Forest) announced that the Olympic Torch would be carried through parts of Arlington on June 20. (Handout provided)

#### 7. **Special Order: Election of the Officers and Executive Committee for 1996-1997.**

David Foster, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented the following slate, selected by the Committee at its May 18 meeting-- For Officers: President, Bill Nolden; Vice President, Larry Zaragoza; Secretary, Tommye Morton; Treasurer, Ed McWethy. For Executive Committee: Frances Finta, Rebecca Gray, Bob Nester, Rohan Samaraweera, Timothy Wise.

The following nomination was made from the floor: For Executive Committee: Jennie Davis. Delegates chose to divide the vote, with Officers to be chosen by voice vote; Executive Committee by paper ballot. (Robert Atkins served as Officer of the Election.)

\*\*\***Officers Elected by Acclamation** (voice vote): **President, Bill Nolden; Vice President Larry Zaragoza; Secretary Tommye Morton; Treasurer Ed McWethy.**

\*\*\***Executive Committee Members Elected by Ballot: Frances Finta, Rebecca Gray, Bob Nester, Rohan Samaraweera, Timothy Wise.**

9. Program: **Public Safety in Arlington**

Guests Police Chief **William Stover**, Sheriff **Thomas Faust**, Commonwealth Attorney **Richard Trodden**, and Circuit Court Judge **William Newman** addressed a number of issues relating to public safety in the County, providing a unique "insider's view" from each of their positions in the system.

- ♦ Chief Stover discussed the strengthened program against graffiti and the nature and location of "gangs" in the community and the County's ongoing efforts to alleviate the problem.
- ♦ Sheriff Faust discussed his department's duties including ongoing operation of the jail, security of courtrooms, issuing summons, transporting prisoners and conducting court-ordered property seizures. He noted that the County jail is nationally accredited (only five jails in Virginia share that status). Street signs are being produced by inmates and a binding operation is in place through the Jail Industries Program.
- ♦ Commonwealth Attorney Trodden noted that his office serves as prosecutor for cases ranging from traffic to murder. A yearly count of indictments in the County are: felonies, 2,100 ; misdemeanors, 9,000; traffic violations, 56,000. He said he was encouraged by some of the recent state laws passed in the criminal justice area, i.e., not allowing bond for violent criminals and the new juvenile law bringing about a better balance between public safety and juvenile welfare. He noted that Virginia is a jury sentencing state and expressed some dissatisfaction with the current sentencing guidelines commission composed of unelected individuals. He alerted delegates that the November ballot will contain an item on the Commonwealth's Right of Appeal, and urged delegates to support the item.
- ♦ Judge Newman noted some of the changes that are under way in sentencing. Parole as we knew it has been abolished and "Truth in Sentencing" has been instituted. After conviction, a minimum of 85% of the time sentenced must be served. Judges are expected to follow the sentencing guidelines 80 percent of the time. The General Assembly is being asked for better and clearer "gradations" of offenses.
- ♦ Subjects brought up in the **question/answer** period included: parental responsibility and personal accountability; response time of police; citizens' role in public safety; increased auto thefts; community-oriented police work; beefing up of police presence in Crystal City parking garages; aggressive panhandling; predicted police requirements should the baseball stadium become a reality; jury selection procedures; and enforcement of animal laws.

10. The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

  
Tommye Morton, Secretary

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_