

## Proposed Amendment to Arlington County Civic Federation (ACCF) By-laws

The ACCF Executive Committee is proposing to amend Article III, Section 7 of the Federation By-laws on the annual dues for member organizations. The current provision states:

Annual dues. The dues for each member organization shall be fifty (\$50.00) dollars, due July 1. Organizations whose dues are more than six (6) months in arrears shall be dropped from membership in the Federation thirty (30) days after written notification. Any organization forfeiting membership by reason of unpaid annual dues for one year or more may renew membership in the Federation by the membership application procedures. Organizations joining the Federation after January 1 shall pay half the annual dues the annual dues.

The Executive Committee's proposed amendment, which the Committee approved at its April 10, 2015 meeting, states:

*The Executive Committee shall set annual dues for member organizations by June 1 each year or the current dues shall remain in effect for the next year. Dues shall be payable by July 1. The Treasurer shall notify organizations whose dues are at least 6 months in arrears that they will be dropped from Federation membership if they do not pay their dues within 30 days. Organizations dropped from Federation membership may reapply for membership in accordance with this article. New organizations that join the Federation after January 1 shall pay one-half of the annual dues.*

The proposed amendment revises the existing provision as follows:

Annual dues. **The Executive Committee shall set annual dues for member organizations by June 1 each year or the current dues shall remain in effect for the next year. Dues shall be payable by** ~~The dues for each member organization shall be fifty (\$50.00) dollars, due July 1.~~ **The Treasurer shall notify** ~~Organizations~~ whose dues are **at least** ~~more than~~ six (6) months in arrears **that they will** ~~shall be~~ dropped from membership in the Federation **if they do not pay their dues within** thirty (30) days ~~after written notification.~~ ~~Any~~ ~~Organizations~~ **dropped from Federation** ~~forfeiting~~ membership ~~by reason of unpaid annual dues for one year or more~~ may **reapply** ~~new for~~ membership in **accordance with this article** ~~the Federation by the membership application procedures.~~ ~~New~~ ~~Organizations~~ **that** joining the Federation after January 1 shall pay **one** half the annual dues.

The proposed amendment would give the Executive Committee authority to set the annual member dues each year, thereby replacing the \$50 annual dues the ACCF By-laws requires. The proposed amendment would require that the Executive Committee set the annual dues by June 1 each year (since dues are to be paid by July 1). If, however, the Executive Committee does not take action by that date, the proposed amendment stipulates that the current annual dues shall carry over automatically to the next year.

The purpose of the proposed amendment is to give the Executive Committee flexibility to change member dues if circumstances warrant. The primary benefit of the proposed amendment is that it

eliminates the need to amend the by-laws whenever the Federation needs to change the annual dues. The process of amending the by-laws takes several months because the By-laws require prior notice at an ACCF meeting before the Federation can vote to amend them at the next Civic Federation meeting (Article IX).

The Executive Committee believes that giving them authority to set member dues is appropriate and consistent with the By-laws. The By-laws specify that the Executive Committee “has General supervision of the financial and business affairs of the Federation” (Article VI, Section 6). The Committee said they review the Treasurer’s report every month; therefore, they are in the best position to know what dues are necessary to enable the Federation to carry out its agenda and cover expenses during each fiscal year.