



THE Civic Voice

ARLINGTON COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION

Newsletter of the Arlington County Civic Federation

Volume 101, Issue 9 May 2017

May Meeting: As part of efforts for civic organization support, a panel will cover options for umbrella and other liability insurance. In spring 2016, a local business owner [sued](#) civic activists, however the lawsuit was later [dropped](#).

The Revenues & Expenditures Committee reports on the retirement funding resolution, which was introduced earlier in March 2017 newsletter. See full report and tweaked language on page 4.

2017 Banquet: Over 140 people came out for our celebration of 101 years and amazing people. See a full listing of award recipients on page 3. As part of the County Board meeting on April 22, an increase of \$7.4m of our general fund revenues will directly support metro. Refer to the [Federal City Council](#) for more information on the proposals and other information provided by Mr. Emeke Moneme. Wish Robert Thompson an enjoyable retirement, including more than a few trips to the beach, most likely using suggestions from his many fans and readers over the years. His senior metro pass should bring many more fantastic people and places, SmartTrack willing...He will be missed from the pages of the [Washington Post](#).

Nominating Committee: Please consider serving as one of our officers, Executive Committee members, or committee chairs for the 2017-2018 term. Our treasurer, president, and two executive committee members will step down as of July 1, 2017. Our committees provide key infrastructure for option and continued relevancy of our organization. ACCF elections occur at the June 2017 meeting.

April Resolutions: The Real Estate Tax Rate Resolution passed by a vote of 30 yeas, 9 nays, and 5 abstentions. The resolution recommended no increase in real estate taxes. Fortunately, the County Board did not approve the full 2 cents recommended by the County Manager. Unfortunately, 1.5 cents was adopted on Saturday, April 22 County Board meeting.

Video Recording of Federation Meetings: Thank you to our Arlington County Career Center students Christian Porter and Rudy Henriquez, their Career Center instructor Tom O'Day, for making a video recording of the April Federation meeting. Video link is pending.

GENERAL MEETING NOTICE

Tuesday, May 2, 2017

7:00 p.m.

Hazel Auditorium
Virginia Hospital Center
1701 N George Mason Drive
Arlington VA 22205

Agenda

- 7:00 Meeting called to order
- 7:05 President's Award
- 7:10 Complete Streets
- 7:25 Liability Insurance Panel
- 8:25 Yard Waste (tentative)
- 8:40 R&E Report and Vote on Retirement Funding Resolution
- 8:50 New Business
- 9:00 Adjourn

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Grant Hall Historic Tour: Saturday, May 6

Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall announces its next quarterly Public Open House of Grant Hall's historic third-floor courtroom, located on the Fort McNair side of the Joint Base in southwest Washington D.C., from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 6. The courtroom is the site of the military tribunal, held from May through June 1865, of those thought responsible for the plot to assassinate President Abraham Lincoln.

During a 2009-2012 renovation of Grant Hall, which was originally part of Washington's Federal Penitentiary from 1829 to 1868, the third floor of the building was restored to depict the courtroom as it appeared during the 1865 trial. Courtroom features were recreated based on artistic renderings and written descriptions of court proceedings. Some furnishings and artifacts on display are on loan from the production company of a 2011 historical film about the trial, and other artifacts and documentation are from the National Defense University Library. The third floor courtroom is only accessible by walking up two flights of stairs. Due to the historical nature of the structure, the building has no elevator.

Please access the [link online to complete your registration](#) or go to the [Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Facebook Events Page](#) and then click on the "find tickets" tab to access the reservation site.

Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall has implemented increased access control measures at all its gates. Fill out paperwork prior to the event to help save time.

The next Grant Hall Public Open Houses this year are August 5 and November 4. Open House hours are 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

For additional information, call Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Public Affairs at 703-696-3283 during normal business hours.

ARLINGTON COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION

PO Box 42091
Arlington, VA 22204
www.civfed.org

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<http://www.civfed.org/pay-dues/>

Executive Committee

Jesse Boeding

The Executive Committee met on Sunday, April 9, 2017 to plan the agenda for May 2, 2017 general meeting and discuss future meetings. The group approved 2 more people for the Nominating Committee: Mileva Hartman and Martha Moore.

The Executive Committee will meet on Sunday, May 7 2017, at 6:30 p.m. at 4805 Wilson Blvd, Arlington VA 22203 (Fire Station 2).

The deadline for newsletter articles is Thursday, May 25, 2016 due to the meeting date of Tuesday, June 6. Newsletters are published approximately 1 week before the meeting.

Volunteer Arlington Awards Deadline Monday, May 15

The Arlingtonians CARE Awards will be held July 25. Nomination deadline rapidly approaching on Monday, May 15.

Nominate someone in the following categories:

Volunteer Arlington Lifetime Service Award
Distinguished County Award
Distinguished Corporate Service Award
Youth Volunteer Service Award
Family Volunteer Service Award
RSVP Award

Volunteer Service Awards

[Form required for submission](#), including written or video testimony from someone other than the nominator.

Banquet is a Success!

On **April 7, 2017** the Arlington County Civic Federation (ACCF) celebrated its 101 Anniversary with its Annual Banquet. Mr. Robert Thomson, recently retired Transportation Editor of the Washington Post (also known as Dr. Gridlock) and Mr. Emeka Moneme, Deputy Executive Director of the Federal City Council, covered many interesting views and considerations of metro and transit.

Full awards and photos will be posted on our website soon.

Recipients of the Certifications of Appreciation for 2017:

Adam Henderson

Dennis Gerrity

Lois Koontz

Tom O'Day

Friends of Aurora Highlands Parks

Jay Fissette

Stefanie Pryor received the Sun Gazette Cup.

She presented President's Awards to:

Jesse Boeding

Duke Banks

Suzanne Sundburg

Jim Pebley received the Distinguished Meritorious Service Award for his nearly 3 decades of volunteerism and advocacy.

- He was president of the Waycroft-Woodlawn Civic Association from 1997-1999.
- He was president of the Civic Federation from 1999 to 2001 and was awarded the Journal-Sun Cup in 2002.
- Jim served on the County Board's Fiscal Affairs Advisory Commission for five years where, every year, he advocated for increased emergency personnel.
- Jim chaired the Committee of 100.
- He served five years on the Planning Commission and was chair of the Zoning Ordinance Committee.

- Jim chaired the County Manager's Public Emergency Communications Task Group in 2003; co-drafted the charter for the Emergency Preparedness Advisory Commission (EPAC); and just stepped down as EPAC Vice Chair.
- Jim, Frank O'Leary, and Kevin Reardon led the USS ARLINGTON Commissioning Committee that raised \$450,000 to fund commissioning costs.
- Jim advocated the creation of the County Manager's Military and Veteran's Affairs Committee and is its interim recording secretary.
- Jim has served as chairman of the Civic Federation's 911 scholarship committee and raised \$320,000 that has funded 75 scholarships for the college bound children of Arlington's fire, police, emergency dispatcher and Sheriff's personnel.

Police, Fire, EMS, Defense, National Security, Veterans, Emergency Preparedness, and Community—these are the themes of the significant contributions that Jim has made that have earned him the Distinguished Meritorious Service Award. We will miss him deeply when he moves out of the area.

CivFed May Meeting: Non-Profit Organization and General Liability Insurance Panel

Duke Banks

Reminder to all Presidents and Treasures of member organizations of the Arlington Civic Association.

All are encouraged to come to the May meeting to hear and participate in a panel discussion concerning liability insurance issues that confront civic associations and other non-profit entities. The panel will explore non-profit organization scenarios to minimize liability exposure, plus the ins and outs concerning General Liability Insurance.

The panel features attorney Timothy R. Hughes, of Bean, Kinny & Korman, Attorneys, and Richard V. Mercado, Vice President Huntington T. Block Insurance Agency, Inc.

Resolution by the Arlington County Civic Federation concerning Umbrella General Liability Insurance

Whereas, one of the pillars of citizen participation in Arlington, embodied in the “Arlington Way” is encouraging citizens to participate in their civic associations, and other civic minded groups;

Whereas, The Arlington County Civic Association, throughout its 101 years, through its 80+ member organizations, has embodied the essence of citizen participation in Arlington County;

Whereas the vast majority of these organizations are small non-profit organizations manned by volunteers, with limited organizational structure and/or financial resources;

Whereas Arlington County has considered modifying some county processes, such as the Neighborhood Conservation Program, to require that some functions, such as carrying out surveys, maintaining records, be transferred to civic associations from County staff, thereby increasing liability exposure of civic associations and their officers;

Whereas in some instances, the County may require non-profits to obtain an umbrella General Liability Insurance policy for \$2.0 million dollars;

Whereas, the cost of insurance premiums for civic associations to obtain Directors and Officers Insurance, plus an umbrella General Liability Insurance policy of \$2.0 million far exceeds the financial ability of most civic associations;

Whereas, processes the county may consider could increase liability exposure of citizens could deter citizens to become officials in their civic associations if they perceive they will be exposed to general liability.

Therefore, be it resolved, Arlington County Civic Federation requests Arlington County staff and elected officials to:

1. Consider the unintended consequences of requiring General Liability Insurance Coverage

for civic associations, that could discourage citizen participation;

2. Consider factors that could increase exposure to civic association officers in designing processes that require civic associations to maintain records or other activities that could expose officers to liability issues; and

3. Study alternate methods of reducing risk to civic associations and their officers.

This resolution introduced as part of the May insurance and general liability panel at our Tuesday, May 2, 2017 meeting. Members of the general public are invited and encouraged to attend.

Retirement Plan Report

The Revenue and Expenditures Committee (R&E) is proposing a resolution that asks the County to add information on the retirement system to the yearly budget for informational purposes.

This addition will not add or delete any funding; however, it will add information to highlight the retirement system’s finances. Presently, the budget includes the cost of the retirement system within total compensation for employees. This resolution seeks to break out the numbers comprising total compensation and add some retirement system information that will enable the County Board to review the overall retirement system’s costs in the aggregate.

Detailed information is contained in the County’s Consolidated Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and the retirement system’s CAFR; however, it is felt that some information should be available in the budget to focus on the retirement system as a whole when budget deliberation are undertaken each year, as citizens are more likely to review the budget than the CAFRs.

For instance, the employees’ retirement system assumes a rate of return of 6.75%, commonly called the discount rate. (1) This is a reduction from 7.25% used in fiscal year 2015. (2) A reduction of the rate of return may lead

to more funds being required to fully fund the retirement system. A sensitivity analysis contained in the County's CAFR indicates a 1% hypothetical reduction in the rate of return might lead to a need for up to \$246 million more in additional funding to keep the system fully funded. (3)

It is hoped that the added information on the retirement system in the budget will instill some concern for the long-term viability of the retirement system.

R&E Committee members: Roger Morton (author), Burt Bostwick (committee point of contact), Jerry Auten, Duke Banks, Frank Emerson, Paul Holland, Terry Showman, Suzanne Sundburg, John Tuohy, Tim Wise

(1) FY2016, p. 2, Introductory Section of the Employees' Retirement System Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), https://arlingtonva.s3.dualstack.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/2014/03/4-Introductory-Section_2016_DRAFT3.pdf

(2) FY2016, p. 92, Arlington County CAFR, https://arlingtonva.s3.dualstack.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2016/11/CAFR-FY2016_Online-1.pdf

(3) FY2016, p. 93, Arlington County CAFR, https://arlingtonva.s3.dualstack.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2016/11/CAFR-FY2016_Online-1.pdf

Retirement Plan Information Resolution

Revenues & Expenditures Committee

Whereas, the yearly Arlington County budget does not contain adequate information on the employee retirement system;

Whereas, the gross investment return on approximately \$2 billion in retirement plan investments was approximately 0.3% in fiscal year 2016, leaving the taxpayer to pay approximately \$50 million in employer/county contributions (1);

Whereas, a shortfall of recent realized returns from assumed levels already has resulted in a sizable increase in annual contribution by the County, putting pressure on the budget;

Whereas, according to the FY2016 CAFR, the employer's (County's) contribution to the employee retirement plan grew to 21.9% from 10.5% in FY2007 (2);

Therefore be it resolved, that the Arlington County Civic Association (ACCF):

1. Requests that the Arlington County Board include in the annual budget a summary of important retirement plan information — including the funding required in the current year and projections for at least the next 10 years — so that Board deliberations on staffing and compensation levels can be considered with a more comprehensive understanding of the financial factors influencing the possible demands on taxpayers and constraints on County services.
2. Requests that the County perform additional actuarial analysis, as needed, to support the request in item 1 above.

Committee Vote (electronic)

Yea: Burt Bostwick, Gerry Auten, Duke Banks, Roger Morton, Suzanne Sundburg, John Tuohy, Tim Wise

Nay:

Abstain: Frank Emerson, Paul Holland, Terry Showman

(1) FY2016, p. 2, Introductory Section of the Employees' Retirement System Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), https://arlingtonva.s3.dualstack.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/2014/03/4-Introductory-Section_2016_DRAFT3.pdf and p. 89, Statistical Section of the Employees' Retirement System CAFR, https://arlingtonva.s3.dualstack.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/2014/03/8-Statistical-Section_2016_DRAFT3.pdf

(2) Arlington County FY2016 CAFR, web p. 94, book p. 96 (see 10-year figure in Note 16: Schedule of Changes in the Political Subdivision's Net Pension Liability (Asset and Related Ratios) https://arlingtonva.s3.dualstack.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2016/11/CAFR-FY2016_Online-1.pdf

Orme Street Corrected on ART

A hearty, non-gourmet thank you for correcting the pronunciation of Orme Street on Columbia Pike! The street sounds like "or" with a "m" on the end, not a French influence for or-me. Late president of Foxcroft Neighborhood and volunteer extraordinaire John Moran convinced WMATA to correct announcements, but ART took additional pushes from more of you.

Civic Federation Meetings Schedule and Programs for 2016 - 2017

Meeting are the 1st Tuesday of each month at the **NEW TIME** of 7 p.m.

May 2: (Tentative) Community Energy Plan, Complete Streets, Liability Insurance Panel, R&E Retirement Funding Resolution, Introduction of Resolution on Liability Insurance

June 6: ACCF Elections; Virginia Commonwealth Legislative Panel, Inspector General/Internal Auditor Panel, Vote on Liability Insurance Resolution

June 30/July 1: Fiscal Year Closeout and Officer transition

Arlington County Civic Federation Mission

The ACCF is dedicated to advocacy and community involvement. Its purpose continues to be promoting the general welfare of Arlington County and vicinity in a non-partisan, non-sectarian, non-sectional, and non-political manner.

Committees of the Civic Federation

The committees provide the basis for most actions of the Federation. We strongly encourage every delegate and alternate to serve on at least one committee. If you have an interest in any topic please contact the chair. If a chair is not listed, contact our President Stefanie Pryor at stefanie@civfed.org

Committee	Chair(s)	Email Address
Executive	Jesse Boeding	jesse@civfed.org
Awards	Elected at Dec 2016 Membership Mtg	Postponed to January
Audit	Jay Wind	Jay@civfed.org
Bylaws	Sarah Shortall	sarah@civfed.org
Community Relations	Duke Banks	duke.banks@gmail.com
Cultural Affairs	Chair(s) needed	TBD
Emergency	Jackie Snelling	jackie@civfed.org
Environmental Affairs	John Seymour	john@civfed.org
Housing	Chair(s) needed	TBD
Legislation	Ron Haddox	ron@civfed.org
Membership	Chair needed	membership@civfed.org
911 Scholarships	Chair needed	TBD
Nominating	Elected at April 2017 Membership Mtg	
Parks and Recreation	Michael Thomas	michaelthomas@civfed.org
Planning and Zoning	Martha Moore	martha@civfed.org
Public Services	Jackie Snelling	jackie@civfed.org
Revenues and Expenditures	Chair(s) needed	TBD
Schools	Michael Beer	michaelbeer@civfed.org
Special Events	Joe Pelton	joepelton@civfed.org
Transportation	Jerry Auten	jerry@civfed.org