

## **Minutes October 3, 2017**

### **ACCF General Meeting**

**Call to Order:** Federation President Banks noted the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM in the Hazel Auditorium at the Virginia Hospital Center. President Banks led the meeting in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting's agenda and the September 5, 2017 Membership Meeting Minutes were approved as submitted.

**October Executive Meeting:** President Banks announced that September Executive Committee Meeting would be held at 6:30 PM on October 8 at Fire Station 2, 4805 Wilson Blvd.

**November 2017 Membership Meeting:** President Banks announced that the November 14, 2017 Membership Meeting will be held in the Hazel Auditorium at the Virginia Hospital Center. The meeting will begin at 7:00 PM.

**Treasurer's Report:** President Banks announced on behalf of Treasurer Sarah Shortall that the Federation had balances of \$6,668.14 in its checking account and \$19,227.69 in its savings account as of September 30, 2017. There were no objections to the Treasurer's report, and it was filed subject to audit. President Banks reported that fifty of CivFed's member organizations had paid their 2017-2018 membership fee. Sarah Shortall informed the meeting that \$1,650 had been transferred from CivFed's savings account to its checking account to pay for legal services related to the incorporation of CivFed. Ms. Shortall encouraged member organizations to pay their ACCF dues with a check, not Paypal, because Paypal charges CivFed a \$1.75 fee to process each payment.

**New Delegates and Alternates:** President Banks welcomed new delegates John Beverly of the Civic Coalition for Minority Affairs, John Bloom of Boulevard Manor, Renee Greenwell of Nauck, Mark Haynes of Bluemont, and Diane Kelly of Waycroft-Woodlawn.

**Career Center Video recording of this Meeting:** President Banks thanked Career Center students Flor Cáceres and Jake Perez and their Career Center instructor Tom O'Day for making a video recording of this Federation meeting. President Banks announced that an unedited version of the Career Center recording of this meeting would be available within one or two days after this meeting, and an edited version would be ready before the end of October

**Candidates' Forum for Uncontested House of Delegates Elections:** Vice President Matt Wavro moderated the Candidates' Forum for uncontested House of Delegates elections. The candidates participating in the Forum were: Mark H. Levine (D), candidate for House of Delegates, 45th District, Patrick A. Hope (D), candidate for House of Delegates, 47th District; and R. C. "Rip" Sullivan, Jr. (D), candidate for House of Delegates, 48th District. In lieu of opening statements, the candidates answered the following question: What are your top three legislative priorities going into the 2018 legislative session? The candidates then answered questions on the following topics from delegates and alternates: gun control, state budget, health care, energy efficiency, net neutrality and multi-member districting as an alternative to redistricting.

**Panel Discussion of Reserves, Fund Balances and Close-out Funds:** President Banks introduced the panel's moderator, Frank Shafroth, Director of the Center for State and Local Leadership at George Mason University (GMU), and the Panel's members - John Tuohy and Suzanne Sundburg of the Civic Federation's Revenue & Expenditures and Stephen Agostini and Richard Stephenson of Arlington County's Department of Management and Finance. Members of the panel explained reserves, fund balances and close-out funds and discussed their differences. The panel then answered questions on the following topics from delegates and alternates: Why didn't the County use reserve funds to finance a sinking fund to pay for depreciation? What was the difference between committed and assigned reserve funds for affordable housing? Was the use of one-time funds to pay for step increases in salaries by APS a good practice? What criteria did Arlington County use to determine intended future uses of funds? How much of the \$191 million in reserves, fund balances and close-out funds could be used to acquire property? What portion of the County's budget should the average Arlingtonian focus on?

**Report to Membership on Modernizing ACCF Governance:** President Banks explained why CivFed needed to update its governance, what had been accomplished as of this meeting, and what remains to be done. He said that ExCom had retained Pantea Stevenson, a lawyer with Bean, Kinney, Korman, to help it draft Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws that conform with the Virginia Nonstock Corporation Act; D&O insurance had been purchased; and new by-laws were being prepared. Copies of draft Articles of Incorporation were distributed, and membership was informed that draft by-laws would be circulated in the near future. At a future meeting, President Bank said that delegates will be asked to approve incorporating CivFed and adopt new bylaws by a two-thirds majority vote. President Banks answered questions on the following topics from delegates and alternates: Would changing from unincorporated to incorporated status make CivFed subject to IRS rules and regulations? How would member organizations fare under modernized ACCF governance? When President Banks spoke of members, was he referring to member organizations or their CivFed delegates and alternates? Did every other non-profit in Arlington have the same liability problems as CivFed?

**CivFed's 2017-2018 Budget:** President Banks reviewed Civ-Fed's operating and banquet budgets. President Banks said a consolidated version of these budgets projected a \$2,634 deficit in 2018. He said insurance and increased communication expenses were the main drivers of this deficit. President Banks was asked if he expected deficits of this magnitude to continue in future years. President Banks said that if they did, options to reduce them included cutting back on some communication programs, higher membership fees, new member organizations, sponsorships and ads at banquets, and donations from those who support the Federation's mission.

**Committee Announcements:** Joe Pelton, Special Events Committee Chair, announced that a decision had finally been made on where to locate a commemorative plaque celebrating the Federation's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary near the main branch of the Arlington County Library.

Mr. Pelton also announced that anyone interested in the Airport Noise issue to read the article in the Newsletter, and contact him by e-mail.

### **New Business:**

**Committee Membership:** Martha Moore, Planning and Zoning Committee Chair, asked if a county employee who lived outside of the county could be a member of a CivFed committee. President Banks said he would refer Ms. Moore's question to the Executive Committee.

**Resolution on Arlington's Community Energy Plan:** John Bloom, a delegate from the Boulevard Manor Civic Association, introduced a resolution which states in relevant part that:

1. *The Arlington County Civic Federation supports the transition to 100% renewable electricity Arlington by 2035; and*
2. *Encourages the Arlington County Board to adopt this important goal and to develop appropriate plans and programs to achieve it.*
3. *That the Arlington County Board pursue appropriate state and federal laws and policies supportive of the transition to renewable electricity.*

President Banks said he would consult with ExCom before referring Mr Bloom's resolution to other committees.

**Resolution on Fair Redistricting:** Takis Karantonis, a member of the Legislative Committee, introduced a resolution which states in relevant part that the Arlington County Civic Federation: *urges the General Assembly to pass legislation to amend the state constitution to transfer the redistricting process from the General Assembly to an impartial independent commission. The Commission will use objective, nonpartisan criteria, invite public participation, and be fully transparent. This change will strengthen the integrity of the election process by removing the ability of politicians to draw boundaries to their own benefit.*

President Banks said he would consult with ExCom before referring Mr Karantonis's resolution to other committees. Jackie Snelling, a delegate from Lyon Village, recommended that the Legislative Committee include consideration of who was appointed to serve on the Redistricting Commission in its resolution.

## **Announcements**

**FY2019 Budget Roundtables:** Join your neighbors for community roundtable discussions about FY2019 budget priorities and challenges. There are five other Budget Roundtables scheduled at various locations in October. Go to the [FY2019 Budget Information website](#) to learn more.

**1st Annual Celebration of the Arts in Arlington:** AIM and the citizens' group Embracing Arlington Arts are co-hosting an exciting launch event in October -- the 1st Annual Celebration of the Arts in Arlington. This fun evening will feature live music, performances from local arts groups, food from area restaurants, beer and wine, and more. Mark your calendar now for this not-to-be-missed event! Dress is casual creative. But in support of the arts, we encourage you to come dressed as your favorite artist, or as inspired by their work!

Proceeds from the event will be donated to AIM. These funds will help promote Arlington arts groups and events through production of a new radio program, Embracing Arlington Arts, premiering in September on WERA 96.7 FM. To find out more about Embracing Arlington Arts, connect on [Facebook](#). Thursday, 7:00 - 10:00pm on October 5 at 4301 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, VA.

**2017 Elections:** The League of Women Voters election information web site, [VOTE411.ORG](#) is now live with data for the November 7th Election.

**PAC:** The Pedestrian Advisory Committee will meet from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm on October 11 in the Cherry/Dogwood Rooms in 2100 Clarendon Blvd. For more information about this meeting go to the [PAC website](#).

**Opioids Town Hall:** Join the Office of the Commonwealth Attorney, the Arlington County Police Department, the Department of Human Services, Arlington Public Schools and community resource groups for a town hall discussion of opioids moderated by NBC Washington's Jim Handly, at 7 pm on Thursday, October 12, 2017, in the Central Library Auditorium at 1015 N. Quincy St.

**NCAC:** The Neighborhood Conservation Advisory will meet from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm on October 14 in the Navy League Building at 2300 Wilson Blvd. For information about this meeting here is a link to the [NCAC website](#).

**2017 Latino American Festival:** Join us at the 2017 Latino American Festival as we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with live music, authentic Latino food, artistic presentations, games for kids and much more! On 15, 2-6 pm Sunday, October. at Kenmore Middle School, 200 S Carlin Springs Rd.

**JFAC:** The Joint Facilities Advisory Commission will from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm on October 18 in the Navy League Building at 2300 Wilson Blvd. For information about this meeting here is a link to the [JFAC website](#).

**Arlington County Board:** The County Board's October meetings will be held on Saturday, October 21st, starting 8:30 a.m. Click here for this meeting's [agenda](#) a few days before October 21. The Board Recessed meeting will be held starting at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 24. Both meetings will be held in the County Board Room at 2100 Clarendon Blvd.

**Airport Noise:** The Reagan National Community Noise Working Group will meet from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM on October 26, 2017 at Reagan National Airport, Terminal A - Historic Lobby Conference Center. Here is a [link](#) for more information.

**October Executive Committee** will be held at 6:30 PM on Sunday, September 10, 2017, at the fire station at 4805 Wilson Blvd.

**November Newsletter:** The deadline for November newsletter articles is Thursday, November 2. Newsletters are published approximately 1 week before the meeting.

**November General Meeting** will be held at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, November 14, 2017 in the Hazel Auditorium at the Virginia Hospital Center. The tentative agenda for this meeting is: Community Energy Plan and a follow-up on updating ACCF governance.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Dennis Gerrity, Secretary

**Agenda**  
**ACCF General Meeting**  
**October 3, 2017**

7:00 Call to order and announcements  
7:10 Candidates' Forum, Uncontested Elections  
7:35 Panel Discussion of Reserves, Fund Balances and Close-out Funds.  
8:25 Report to Membership on Modernizing ACCF Governance  
9:00 New Business  
9:20 Adjourn

**ACCF Treasurer's Report**  
**September 1 -30, 2017**

**Checking**

Beginning Balance 9/1/17	\$ 7,041.89
Deposits -Dues	\$ 691.25
Checks	\$ 450.00
PayPal	\$ 241.25*
Transfer from savings account	\$ 1,650.00
Expenses/Payments	\$ 1,715.00
Domain name	\$65.00
Legal services	\$1,650.00
End Balance 9/30/17	\$ 7,668.14

**Savings**

Beginning Balance 9/1/17	\$ 20,876.65
Deposits	.00
Interest	1.04
Expenses/Payments	.00
Transfer to checking account	\$ 1,650.00
End Balance 9/30/17	\$ 19,227.69

\* - PayPal charges a fee of \$1.75 for every \$50 electronic dues payment

**RESOLUTION IN FAVOR OF ARLINGTON'S COMMUNITY ENERGY PLAN &  
TRANSITION TO RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY BY 2035**

**Draft for Review by Legislative Committee on September 26, 2017**

Whereas the Arlington Civic Federation supports the Arlington County Community Energy Plan's goal to sharply reduce greenhouse gas emissions from all sectors by more than 75% by 2050.<sup>1</sup>

Whereas meeting Arlington's Community Energy Plan goal will require a substantial transition to renewable energy in all sectors of the County;

Whereas electricity accounts for approximately two-thirds of energy use in Arlington; <sup>2</sup>

Whereas renewable electricity costs in Arlington have fallen sharply, and are now competitive in cost with fossil fuel-based electricity for many homeowners, businesses, and County government facilities;<sup>3</sup>

Whereas renewable electricity costs are expected to continue to fall for the foreseeable future,<sup>4</sup> while the cost of fossil fuel-based electricity is expected to rise, making it cost-effective for Arlington to transition to renewable electricity;

Whereas 44 cities and counties have committed to achieve 100% renewable electricity by 2035 or sooner, including large metropolitan areas such as Atlanta, Orlando, Salt Lake City and San Diego, and including 5 cities that already have reached 100%;<sup>5</sup> Now, therefore,

be it *resolved* that:

1. The Arlington Civic Federation supports the transition to 100% renewable electricity in Arlington by 2035; and
2. Encourages the Arlington County Board to adopt this important goal and to develop appropriate plans and programs to achieve it.
3. That the Arlington County Board pursue appropriate state and federal laws and policies supportive of the transition to renewable electricity.

---

<sup>1</sup> Arlington County Community Energy Plan, <https://environment.arlingtonva.us/energy/community-energy-plan-cep/>

<sup>2</sup> Arlington County Community Energy Plan, *supra*, p. 6.

<sup>3</sup> Deutsche Bank Securities, Inc., *Solar Grid Parity in a Low Oil Price Era*, February 2015, available online at <https://db.com/cr/en/docs/solar-report-full-length.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> Bloomberg News, "Wind and Solar are Crushing Fossil Fuels," April 6, 2016, available online at <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-04-06/wind-and-solar-are-crushing-fossil-fuels>. <sup>5</sup> "Is Your City Ready for 100?" A list of cities committed to 100% clean energy. Available online at: <http://www.sierraclub.org/ready-for-100/cities-ready-for-100>.

## ACCF Resolution on Fair Redistricting

### Draft for Review by Legislative Committee on September 26, 2017

**Whereas** the Virginia state constitution currently vests the authority to apportion the Commonwealth into electoral districts for U.S. House and the Virginia House of Delegates and Virginia Senate solely in the General Assembly;<sup>1</sup>

**Whereas** a substantial majority of Virginians, across regions and political parties, feel that an independent panel should handle redistricting, not the state legislature;<sup>2</sup>

**Whereas** the U.S. constitution mandates House districts with substantially similar numbers of people ("one person, one vote") and the Virginia state constitution calls for electoral districts to be "composed of contiguous and compact territory" and to "give, as nearly as is practicable, representation in proportion to the population of the district"; (FN1)

**Whereas** Virginia's congressional districts have been gauged as among the least compact in the U.S. by multiple measures;<sup>3</sup>

**Whereas** states that have implemented an independent redistricting commission or other non-partisan process have established significantly more compact districts than those established by state legislatures or legislative commissions;<sup>4</sup> and

**Whereas** the next decennial reapportionment, using 2020 U.S. Census data, is due in 2021 and any constitutional change in the apportionment process to affect the 2021 redistricting takes 2-3 years and multiple approvals<sup>5</sup> --

- A. By the General Assembly in 2018 or 2019
- B. By the General Assembly a second time in 2020, and
- C. By Virginia voters in November 2020

**Be it resolved** that the Arlington County Civic Federation urges the General Assembly to pass legislation to amend the state constitution to transfer the redistricting process from the General Assembly to an impartial, independent commission. The commission would use objective, nonpartisan criteria, invite public participation, and be fully transparent. This change will strengthen the integrity of the election process by removing the ability of politicians to draw boundaries to their own benefit.

---

<sup>1</sup> *Virginia Constitution*, Article II, Section 6 - Apportionment

<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/constitution/article2/section6/>

<sup>2</sup> "With Overwhelming Support for Nonpartisan Redistricting, Virginians Are Studying Ways to Make That Happen", *The Virginia Newsletter*, June 2014

[https://ceps.coopercenter.org/sites/default/files/Virginia\\_News\\_Letter\\_2014\\_Vol.\\_90\\_No\\_4\\_0.pdf](https://ceps.coopercenter.org/sites/default/files/Virginia_News_Letter_2014_Vol._90_No_4_0.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Azavea, "Redrawing the Map on Redistricting 2012"

[https://s3.amazonaws.com/s3.azavea.com/com.redistrictingthenation/pdfs/Redistricting\\_The\\_Nation\\_Addendum.pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/s3.azavea.com/com.redistrictingthenation/pdfs/Redistricting_The_Nation_Addendum.pdf), p. 7

<sup>4</sup> Azavea, "Redrawing the Map on Redistricting 2012"

[https://s3.amazonaws.com/s3.azavea.com/com.redistrictingthenation/pdfs/Redistricting\\_The\\_Nation\\_Addendum.pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/s3.azavea.com/com.redistrictingthenation/pdfs/Redistricting_The_Nation_Addendum.pdf), p. 10

<sup>5</sup> *Virginia Constitution*, Article XII, Section 1 - Amendments

<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/constitution/article12/section1/>



## **Background on the proposed Resolution on Fair Redistricting.**

The US Constitution mandates that electoral districts need to be adjusted periodically to reflect demographic changes as they are recorded by the decennial US Census. Virginia allows state legislators to redraw district lines for all levels of the legislature. Thus, whoever happens to be the majority party is effectively empowered to draw boundaries in a way that serves partizan interests; a practice widely known as *gerrymandering*.

Gerrymandering not only erodes our democracy by allowing our elected officials to choose their voters, it is also often considered to be at the root of the extreme polarization and partisan intransigence that characterizes our current political culture.

The proposed resolution calls for stopping gerrymandering by establishing an independent, non-partisan redistricting commission. Modern, powerful and precise voter-mapping tools can indeed influence the outcome of elections. Entrusting redistricting to an independent and fully accountable commission is critical for the defense of our democratic institutions.

Please consider supporting the Resolution for Fair Redistricting !