

Approved Minutes March 5, 2019
ACCF Membership Meeting

Call to Order: Federation President Banks noted the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. President Banks led the meeting in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting's agenda was approved as submitted and the minutes for the February 5, 2019 Membership Meeting were approved as submitted. The February Treasurer's report was filed subject to audit.

Member Organizations All-Stars: President Banks announced that the following member organizations had two or more delegates and/or alternates present at the February 5, 2019 Membership Meeting: Alcovia Heights Citizens Association; American Association of University Women; Arlington East Falls Church Civic Association; Arlington Tree Action Group; Bluemont Civic Association; Columbia Heights Civic Association; League of Women Voters; Lyon Village Citizens Association; Waverly Hills Civic Association; Woman's Club of Arlington.

Career Center Video Recording of this Meeting: President Banks thanked Career Center students Seb Duall, Campbell Hamilton-Howard and Emilio Tonelli; Duane Loomis a sound technician with the Career Center TV production program; and Career Center instructor Tom O'Day for making a video recording of this Federation meeting.

2019 ACCF Banquet and Awards Ceremony: President Banks reminded those attending the meeting that the 103rd Civic Federation Annual Banquet and Awards Ceremony would be held from 6 PM to 10 PM on Friday, April 5, in the Koran Room at Patton Hall, the former Officer's Club of Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall. It will feature Col. Kimberly Peeples, post commander, as the program speaker. Meals would be priced at \$45 until March 10th and \$65 thereafter. Those registered by March 10th will receive a pass that will give them access to the post as guests of the commandant. President Banks thanked Sandy Newton for her efforts as chair of the Banquet Committee.

2019-2020 Nominations Committee: President Banks reported that Michael Beer, Eric Berkey, Dennis Gerrity, Lois Koontz and Sarah Shortall agreed to serve on the 2019-2020 Nominations Committee. A motion to approve these five individuals as members of the 2019-2020 Nominations Committee was made, seconded and approved without exception.

2018-2019 Board Secretary: President Banks reported that the Board of Directors had nominated Dennis Gerrity, an Alternate Delegate for NoVa Norml, to serve as Board secretary for the balance of the 2018-2019 fiscal year. President Banks asked if there were any nominations for the Secretary's position the floor. There were none. A motion to approve Dennis Gerrity as Board Secretary until June 30, 2019 was made, seconded and approved without exception.

Old Glebe Boundary Change: President Banks reviewed Old Glebe's application to expand its boundaries. He said there were no objections from individuals and civic associations that could be affected by this boundary changes. Sarah Shortall advised President Banks that a motion to approve a boundary change must pass by a two-thirds majority vote. A motion to approve this boundary change request was made, seconded and approved by a two-thirds margin given that there was only one vote in opposition.

A Conversation on WMATA: President Banks introduced Christian Dorsey, Arlington County Board Chair and a member of the Metro Board, and Maura Brophy, Federal City Council Associate Director for Transportation and Infrastructure, who discussed the challenges facing the Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority (WMATA) and Metro including the issues of governance and how to re-establish public trust to increase ridership. Chairman Dorsey and Ms. Brophy answered these and other questions from

delegates and alternates: cleanliness of Metro cars; maintaining reliability of service during major maintenance programs; coordinating Metro, the ART bus system and new “mobility” options; getting the private sector to provide subsidies to encourage their employees to use Metro; Silver Line ridership; Metro on Columbia Pike; Metro bus ridership; expectations for the Purple line; maintenance efforts and Metro service levels; revising the Metro Compact; increasing ridership in the era of Uber, Lift, electric scooters and electric bicycles; weekend reliability; increasing service levels during off-peak hours and on weekends.

Listening Session on Amazon: Christian Dorsey, Arlington County Board Chair, and Erik Gutshall, Arlington County Board Member, gave brief presentations on Arlington County’s agreement with Amazon and then listened to the following comments and answered questions from delegates and alternatives on this agreement: Has Amazon committed to working with established small businesses and banks in Arlington? Has Amazon discussed partnerships with the Arlington Public School System? Will the County guarantee transparency in its discussions with Amazon on the use of revenue from the hotel occupancy tax? How will the county guarantee that Amazon will be a sustainable energy user? How will Amazon fit in the Community Energy Plan? Will Amazon offset increased emissions created by their employees commuting to work? Will Amazon be entitled to Tech Zone incentives? Has the County asked Amazon what will the mean salary paid to its employees in Arlington? What percentage of Amazon’s employees will be executives and what percentage be will administrative and support staff? What steps can be taken to make the impact of Amazon on housing costs be equitable on Arlington’s residents? Why aren’t small businesses getting benefits similar to those Amazon will receive from the County? Does Amazon really need \$26 million in benefits to locate in Arlington? Are the County’s estimates of the future growth in the Transit Occupancy Tax realistic?

Legislation Committee Resolution on Motor Vehicle Tax Relief for Disabled Veterans: John O’Hara, a delegate representing the Arlington East Falls Church Civic Association and a member of the Legislation Committee, gave a report on a resolution recommending motor vehicle tax relief for disabled veterans prepared by the Legislation Committee. This resolution states in relevant part that the *Arlington County Civic Federation recommends the Arlington County Board approve motor vehicle personal property tax relief on one motor vehicle owned by Arlington veterans who have a 100 percent service-connected permanent and total disability rating as determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs by amending Arlington County Code §27-11-1; and further that the Arlington County Civic Federation recommends the Arlington County Board adopt a reduced motor vehicle personal property tax rate of \$.01 per \$100 assessed vehicle value on one motor vehicle owned by a disabled veteran with a 100 percent service-connected permanent and total disability rating, which is like the motor vehicle personal property tax rate Fairfax and Loudoun Counties have approved for disabled veterans.*

Questions from delegates and alternates included: How many people be affected by this resolution? Did veterans request this relief from the personal property tax? What other categories of people are exempt from the personal property tax?

Debate on resolution: A delegate spoke in favor giving veterans who have a 100 percent service-connected permanent and total disability personal property tax relief as described in this resolution. Another delegate argued that it would be better to give personal property tax relief to all citizens in Arlington with a 100% permanent and total disability rather than a small group of individuals so afflicted. He said he was concerned about awarding more and more exemptions from the County’s personal property tax.

Sarah Shortall moved that the Legislative Committee’s Resolution on Motor Vehicle Tax Relief for Disabled Veterans resolution be approved as amended. Lois Koontz seconded this motion, and it was approved by a vote of 27 ayes, 3 nay, and 1 abstention.

New Business

ACCF Cultural Affairs Committee: Tina Worden, chair of the ACCF Cultural Affairs Committee, gave a brief summary of issues her committee will be dealing this year, in particular, cuts affecting the arts in the FY2020 budget. She invited interested delegates and alternates to participate in her committee's meetings.

Revenues & Expenditures Committee Real Estate Tax-Rate Resolution for FY2020 John Tuohy , a delegate representing the Waverly Hills Civic Association and a member of the Revenue and Expenditures Committee introduced a resolution recommending in relevant *part that the Arlington County Civic Federation, with reservations, supports a tax rate not to exceed the County Manager's recommendation for a rate of \$1.021 per \$100 of assessment and,*

Be it further resolved that, the Civic Federation encourages the County Board, the County Manager and County staff to continue their efforts to prioritize core needs and identify savings ideas, as stated in the Federation's resolution of June 2018.

Questions and comments from delegates and alternates included: A delegate pointed out that the resolution did not contain any source material and asked that this be corrected; and further, there were two whereas clauses that were opinions that should be sourced or struck from the resolution.

President Banks said he would refer this resolution to the Legislative Committee and the Revenues and Expenditures Committee. President Banks said other committees were welcome to review this resolution with R&E at meetings which can be found in the March newsletter.

March Board of Directors Meeting: President Banks announced that the March Board of Directors Meeting would be held at 6:30 PM on March 10 at Fire Station 2, 4805 Wilson Blvd.

April 2019 Membership Meeting: President Banks announced that the April 2, 2019 Membership Meeting will be held in the Hazel Auditorium at the Virginia Hospital Center. The meeting will begin at 7:00 PM. The meeting will focus on the County and School FY2020 budgets and a vote on the final version of R&E's FY2020 Tax Rate resolution.

April Newsletter Deadline: President Banks reminded the meeting that March 21 was the deadline for submitting material for the April newsletter.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Dennis Gerrity

