



Newsletter of the Arlington County Civic Federation  
September 2022 | Volume 107 | Number 01

## September Candidates' Forum & General Membership Meeting Sept 6, 2022 @ 7:00PM

HYBRID: via Zoom, **and in-person** at Hazel Auditorium, Virginia Hospital Center.

Delegates, Alternate Delegates, others associated with member organizations, and the public are invited to attend this meeting.

No registration is needed to attend in-person, please arrive early for check-in as the meeting will begin promptly at 7:00 p.m.

Please register in advance by noon on Sept 6 if you intend to join by Zoom:  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYpc-CtrTguHNB1VGNj2TSMpopDAmsKzdp>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

*\*\*The secretary@civfed.org must be notified of voting member substitutions by 12 PM Monday, September 5, 2022.*

*\*\*The annual certification request has been sent out and needs to be completed in order to ensure we have the correct delegates identified. If you have not already, please update your organizations certification at: [ACCF FY23 Certification Form](#).*

### Meeting Agenda

- 7:00 - Welcome and Pledge
- 7:05 - Candidates' Forum
- 8:35 - Approve [June Minutes](#)
- 8:40 - Approve Arlington Rotary Club Membership Application
- 8:50 - Presentation of Approved Budget
- 8:55 - Annual Certification and Dues
- 9:00 - Adjournment

*\*\*We are seeking volunteers to assist in delegate, alternate, and guest check-in at the Hazel auditorium. Please contact secretary@civfed.org if you can support.*

### President's Message

On behalf of your new Civic Federation officers and board of directors, I'd like to extend a warm welcome to everyone affiliated with ACCF. We look forward to exploring and improving our life together in Arlington County over the next year. I'd like to begin by introducing our new officers and board chair.

Your Vice-President is Ron Haddox. Ron is a long-term officer and community activist in the Columbia Heights Civic Association. A veteran ACCF delegate, he chairs the Civic Federation's Legislative Committee, which is responsible for

writing and passing resolutions on legislative issues for the Virginia legislature. Ron is a software engineer for the US Postal Service through KG Systems. He is also project manager and web systems developer for On the Pike Networks in Arlington.

Your Treasurer is Jim Todd, who has served for the past seven years as president of the Cherrydale Civic Association. Jim is also active in the Langston Boulevard Alliance and Plan Langston Boulevard. He is co-leader of his CA's neighborhood conservation efforts. He is an attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice.



Your Secretary is David Smith, who also presently serves as treasurer of the Bluemont Civic Association. David leads the ACCF stormwater coalition for the Lubber Run watershed, which includes nine different CAs. David is a program manager with Raytheon Technologies.

The new chair of your ACCF board is Jackie Snelling, whose distinguished civic career spans nearly four decades in Arlington. She is on the executive board of the Lyon Village Civic Association. Jackie also [chairs the Spout Run watershed CA work group \(nine CAs\)](#) leads the mental health subcommittee of the ACCF and serves on numerous county commissions. Jackie will introduce the board to you later in this newsletter.

As for me, I'm John Ford, and I currently serve as president of the Tara-Leeway Heights Civic Association. I'm also chair of the ACCF public services committee, and coordinator of the Civ Fed's efforts to engage the county on stormwater flooding issues and solutions throughout the county. 25 different CAs have joined our effort.

Together, we are facing an issue as fractious and divisive as we have confronted in Arlington in several years. We will examine the county's Missing Middle initiative on September 6 at our annual Candidates' Forum, and subsequently at our October membership meeting.

The Civ Fed is about discussing and organizing around ideas and initiatives. A recent example is the formation of the TIGER (Task Force in Governance and Election Reform) committee, which is committed to offering alternatives to the current process of county leadership selection and governance, and whose diverse members were drawn from many different areas of Arlington life. Another is the ATAG (Arlington Tree Action Group) which has been effectively advocating for tree preservation in our rapidly gentrifying county.

Our board members committees, addressing areas ranging from schools to natural resources to housing to personal privacy, serve as incubators for Civ Fed action and resolutions to the county and state governments to improve their efficiency and responsiveness. The initial questions for your Candidates' Forum were all provided by members of our committees.

Your Civ Fed leadership team looks forward to our productive and positive year ahead. As we do so, we heartily encourage your participation, via committee membership (or formation!), attendance at our monthly membership meetings, and especially in sharing with us and each other your thoughts and ideas about how to improve and enhance our lives in Arlington County.

With best wishes,

John Ford  
President

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## **Introduction to the 2022-2023 Board**

Today I'm pleased to give you a brief introduction to the new board members and of my vision as chair.

Our new board brings broad experience in civic leadership as well as diverse backgrounds, skills, and perspectives. In our next issue, we'll introduce our committee chairs, the leaders of the committees, and our committees that are the critical backbone of ACCF membership work.



I am excited to begin this year with all of you as a member of this great team and with a vision of how we can each bring our own experience, perspectives, and principles and contribute to civic conversations that focus on common issues, respect and expand our diverse perspectives, and help to identify what we can do together to advocate and implement principles and actions that strengthen our community.

Today our community faces several controversial topics where passions and commitment to principles are high, but diverse. I believe that we can build on past ACCF goals to promote inclusion and diversity of backgrounds and perspectives and help create a civic atmosphere that promotes discussion of these controversial topics to forge new understanding and respect, and to collaborate on areas of agreement. Board member Nadia Conyers has agreed to co-chair this work with me. We will need everyone's help.

My intent is to help focus on member communication and services, to directly engage members in the issues that are important to them. We are an unusual federation of civic associations, multi-unit residences, advocacy groups, and social service groups. We also have some important gaps and will be working to encourage the whole community join us.

Our leadership team brings experience as past and current CA presidents, leaders in civic advocacy organizations, past ACCF presidents and board members, current and past ACCF committee chairs, and active leadership on numerous school and county advisory committees.

Below are highlights of the civic experience of your board of directors, both officers and at large members.

- **Allen Gajadhar** - At large board member, Cherrydale CA, ACCF TiGER chair (Task Force in Governance and Election Reform), past ACCF president
- **David Schutz** - At large board member, Ashton Heights CA, ACCF County Fair, ACCF TiGER. Former CA President, former Parks Commission chair
- **Jacqueline Snelling** – Board chair, Lyon Village CA, ACCF Stormwater Spout Run, ACCF Mental Health co-chair, past ACCF committee chair, past county Emergency Preparedness chair
- **Mary Glass** - At large board member, ATAG-Arlington Tree Action Group, ACCF Environmental Affairs Committee chair,
- **Michael McMenamin** - At large board member, Maywood CA, ACCF Public Safety, past ACCF president, past CA president
- **Nadia Conyers** - At large board member, NAACP, CoChair for ACCF Civic Conversations, Green Valley CA, PTA president
- **Scott Miles** - At large board member, Aurora Highlands CA, past CA president
- **Suzanne Sundburg** - At large board member, ATAG, Bluemont CA, ACCF Revenues and Expenditures acting chair, numerous ACCF committees
- **Todd Truitt** –At large board member, Waverly Hills CA, ACCF Schools Committee chair, several Arlington Public Schools advisory committees
- **John Ford** – President ACCF, Tara-Leeway Heights, ACCF Public Services Committee chair, CA president
- **Ron Haddox** – Vice President ACCF, Columbia Heights CA, ACCF Legislative Committee Chair, CA President
- **David Smith** – Secretary ACCF, Bluemont CA, ACCF Stormwater Lubber Run, CA treasurer
- **Jim Todd** – Treasurer ACCF, Cherrydale CA, CA president, Langston Boulevard Alliance and Plan Langston Boulevard advisory group

Jackie Snelling  
Board Chair

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## Candidates' Forum

We are pleased to host our annual Candidate Forum on Tuesday, September 6, 2022. As in past years, we have invited candidates who will be on the ballot in Arlington. Unlike in the past several years, our meeting this year will be a hybrid session, with accommodations at the Virginia Hospital Center's Hazel auditorium for those attending in person and via Zoom for those who are more comfortable participating remotely.

This year we have planned for three panels to include candidates for: US House of Representatives District 8; Arlington County Board and Arlington School Board. All three seats are contested.

We have already heard from all candidates that they plan to attend in person. ACCF President John Ford will moderate the forum at the September zoom meeting at 7:00 p.m. Please remember to sign into the meeting using your full name beginning at 6:30 p.m. There will be a social period in the lobby outside the auditorium beginning at 6:30 for those attending in person, with water, cookies and pretzels available. Please be respectful of social distancing considerations to the extent you are able to do so. We are happy to resume in-person meetings, but remember that COVID and its various mutations remain a potent public health risk.

Inside the auditorium, please allow for at least one empty seat on either side of your place unless you are with trusted friends and acquaintances.

The moderator has solicited questions for the candidates in advance from Civic Federation committees. He will then pose the questions to the candidates. Delegates attending the meeting will be recognized to pose additional questions as time permits. We recommend that you contact committee chairs and discuss your questions in advance if possible. You will find a list of committee chairs in this newsletter.

Please join us and get to know your candidates as the Fall campaign season gets into full swing. This forum is a terrific opportunity to introduce candidates and to refresh and update yourself on the policies and positions of incumbents.

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### **Proposed New Member - Arlington Rotary Club**

The Arlington Rotary Club is a non-religious apolitical civic organization. Our Club was founded July 4, 1929. Our club is one of approximately 30,000 clubs in more than 200 countries and territories, with 1.2 million members of Rotary International dedicated to the simple motto, "Service Above Self." Arlington Rotary is a group of approximately 40 dedicated leaders in our community from a variety of different professions who want to apply their combined talents and resources toward making a difference in the world while also enhancing the exchange of ideas across professional boundaries.

Our service projects range from the very local (e.g. picking up litter along Glebe Road), to the global (e.g. our participation in Rotary International's campaign to eradicate polio in the world). They may involve providing our own people-power in a good cause (packaging food at Arlington Food Assistance Center), or monetary donations to support worthy local causes (recent examples are cash donations to Arlington Thrive and Doorways for Women & Families). Many of our efforts involve education, ranging from our own in-house college scholarships that put \$18,000 annually in the hands of graduating Arlington seniors, our support for enrichment programs in local middle schools, or grants of scholarships through RI for study and exchange programs at a variety of levels.

Our participation in communal efforts helps us to form bonds of fellowship among members and also within the community more broadly. Opportunities are further enhanced by weekly meetings, occasional social events, and in other ways. Rotary's focus has long been on education and health: it has put a special effort into the eradication of polio worldwide. Rotary's 2014 \$255 million international effort, coupled with matching support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, has brought that goal within reach.

## [Arlington Rotary Club Membership Resolution](#)

*\*\*The general membership will vote at the September 6th meeting to approve the Arlington Rotary Club's membership request. The application must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Members present at a meeting of the Members where quorum is established.*

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### **Arlington County Fair**

The Arlington County Fair was a success. Special thanks to Ron Haddox for organizing and Dave Schutz who staffed the booth on all days! We engaged the community through our 'find and mark your home on the civic association map' and we took informal polls on Missing Middle Housing, Multi-Seat Rank Choice Voting, and Size of School Board. The County did a great job organizing this year and we appreciated having a booth located near County organizations.



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### **Banquet**

We are seeking volunteers to join a banquet working group to help with planning for a possible June banquet. Please reach out to [Todd Truitt](#) for more information.

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### **Environmental Affairs Committee Announces Important Public Engagement on Trees Through 10/3**

A draft of the Arlington County Forestry and Natural Resources Plan (FNRP) is open for public comment until October 3<sup>rd</sup>. It is important for you to review the document and use your knowledge of your neighborhood's needs to evaluate and enhance this plan. ACCF's

Tree Preservation Collaboratives over the last two years have produced many recommendations from diverse stakeholders. Here are some reports on that work:

1. The summary of the recommendations from the May 7, 2022 ACCF Collaborative meeting. <https://www.civfed.org/newContent/2022-08/2022-08%20ACCF%20EnvAff%20TreeCanopy%20Phase%203%20Priorities.pdf>
2. The more detailed report and list of all the earlier Phase 2 recommendations including a summary table can be found at <https://www.civfed.org/newContent/2021-11/2021-11%20EnvAff%20Collaboratives%20Preserving%20Tree%20Canopy%20Phase%20II%20REPORT.pdf>

From Arlington County:

1. The full text of the County draft plan is available at <https://www.arlingtonva.us/files/sharedassets/public/forestry/arlington-county-forestry-and-natural-resources-plan.pdf>.
2. The overview page for the County for the FNRP project is <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Projects/FNRP/FNRP-Documents-Materials>

The opportunities for your input through October 3<sup>rd</sup> include:

1. [Share Your Thoughts about the Forestry and Natural Resources Plan](#) – A carefully curated online response form.
2. Send a short email to the project -[fnrp@arlingtonva.us](mailto:fnrp@arlingtonva.us),
3. Virtual Community Engagement, TBD, go to the plan website

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## 2022-2023 ACCF Budget

The budget for Fiscal Year 2023 reflects our effort to restore the ACCF to sound financial footing while maintaining our annual dues at our current level of \$65.00 per member. To do that we took a hard look our expenses and made a number of tough choices to cut back on our outlays while maintaining our current member outreach efforts, including our plan to continue offering membership meeting participation by zoom as well as a resumption of in-person meetings. We also decided to take two additional steps to increase our revenues: we are trying to collect past dues from members who did not pay last year but who want to maintain their membership in the ACCF, and we are launching a member donation campaign in which we are asking member organizations that can afford to contribute a bit more to do so, allowing us to maintain dues at current levels. Finally, we are trying to make it a bit easier to pay dues by increasing dues payment options.

### [FY2022-2023 Budget](#)

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## 2022-2023 ACCF Dues Information

**Membership Dues for 2022 – 2023 are \$65 per member organization.**

Please visit our dues webpage: [Pay Member Dues - Arlington County Civic Federation \(civfed.org\)](#)

If you have questions, please email [treasurer@civfed.org](mailto:treasurer@civfed.org) for payment information and [secretary@civfed.org](mailto:secretary@civfed.org) for any other questions. Thank you!

Donations are encouraged and can be accepted at our donation link on our dues [page](#).

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## 2022-2023 Board of Directors

### Officers

President, [John Ford](#)

Vice President, [Ron Haddox](#)

Secretary, [David Smith](#)

Treasurer, [Jim Todd](#)

## **Board of Directors**

Board Chair, [Jackie Snelling](#)

Member at Large, [Nadia Conyers](#)

Member at Large, [Allan Gajadhar](#)

Member at Large, [Mary Glass](#)

Member at Large, [Dave Schutz](#)

Member at Large, [Michael McMenamin](#)

Member at Large, [Scott Miles](#)

Member at Large, [Suzanne Sundburg](#)

Member at Large, [Todd Truitt](#)

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## **ACCF PUBLIC INTEREST COMMITTEES**

Cultural Affairs – Chair Tina Worden

Diversity Committee – Chair Alistair Watson

Environmental Affairs – Chair Mary Glass

Housing – Chair John Vihstadt

Legislation – Chair Ron Haddox

Parks and Recreation – Chair TBD - if interested contact [president@civfed.org](mailto:president@civfed.org)

Planning and Zoning – Chair TBD - if interested contact [president@civfed.org](mailto:president@civfed.org)

Public Services – Chair John Ford

Revenues and Expenditures – Suzanne Sundburg

Schools – Chair Todd Truitt

Transportation – Chair TBD - if interested contact [president@civfed.org](mailto:president@civfed.org)

Any Delegate, Alternate Delegate, or member of a Member Organization may participate on any Public Interest or Support Committee. Please contact the applicable Committee chair, point-of-contact, or President John Ford if you are interested in participating on ACCF Committees.

### **[Link to Committee Website](#)**

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## **Interested in being an Arlington County Civic Federation Delegate?**

The Arlington County Civic Federation was founded in 1916. Today, it has 80+ member organizations dedicated to advocacy and community involvement. The Federation membership reflects the broad array of interests and talents found in the County and is open and welcoming to all groups within Arlington, firmly believing that a broader range of groups creates better problem-solving outcomes for Arlington and its residents. Our purpose continues to be promoting the general welfare of Arlington County and its vicinity in a non-partisan, non-sectarian, non-sectional, and non-political manner.

Arlington County Civic Federation Delegates enjoy the full benefits of participation, voting, and serving in Civic Federation leadership positions. If your organization is a member of the Civic Federation, ask if it has open slots for delegates. If it is not a member organization of the Civic Federation, encourage it to join. Here is a [link](#) to our website for more details.

### **[The Civic Federation's Website](#)**

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## **ACCF Calendar FY2023**

Tuesday, September 6, 2022 General Membership Meeting

Sunday, September 11, 2022 Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 11, 2022 General Membership Meeting

Sunday, October 16, 2022 Board Meeting

Tuesday, November 15, 2022 General Membership Meeting

Sunday, November 20, 2022 Board Meeting

Tuesday, December 13, 2022 General Membership Meeting  
Sunday, December 18, 2022 Board Meeting

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