



Newsletter of the Arlington County Civic Federation
December 2022 | Volume 107 | Number 04

November General Membership Meeting December 13, 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.

If you plan to attend by Zoom, please [register in advance](#) by noon on **Dec 12** to ensure we enable enough participants slots for the meeting. Registration after this date will be authorized only if enough slots are available.

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 on the day of the meeting.*

Meeting Agenda

- 7:00 - Welcome and Pledge
- 7:05 - Approve November [Minutes](#)
- 7:10 - Discussion with County Manager, Mark Schwartz
- 8:45 - Old Business
- 9:00 - Adjournment

President's Message

Warm holiday greetings to everyone in the Arlington Civic Federation family!

We are pleased to welcome back Arlington County Manager Mark Schwartz, who returns to our December 13 membership meeting in person at Virginia Hospital Center's Hazel Auditorium after a COVID-forced three-year absence. We are also pleased that Mark asked to come to speak with us before the end of the year. After New Year's, as we all recognize, county staff become immersed in budgetary matters and the time for broad reflection dwindles. He wants to hear our ideas before that happens.

Our December meeting, which will begin at the traditional 7:00 p.m. starting time, will be a hybrid session as have been our other meetings so far this fall. While we have been attracting increased numbers of in-person members and attendees, a majority of those in attendance do so via Zoom, while some observe through Facebook livestreaming. We are continuing to work on logistics so the experience can be comparably satisfactory for both in-person and virtual groups.

Our session with the Manager will be in a "Town Hall" format. Mark and I will be seated on the stage, and we will begin immediately with questions and answers. I have advised Mark that one follow-up will be permitted for each question, if desired by the questioner or indeed by the manager. We will give initial priority to a few advanced questions and

then open the session more broadly to delegates and alternates who have not already had the opportunity to pose a question.

As with our previous sessions, we plan for the main event, our Q & A with the manager, to take up much of the meeting time. After this discussion, aside from more routine administrative matters, I will provide an update on the draft Resolution to Restore the Public's Confidence in Arlington County Governance.

If the hallmark of a vibrant organization is the degree to which its members can passionately yet civilly disagree on important issues, this resolution should provide reassurance to any members questioning the ACCF's vitality. Since its introduction at the September membership meeting, this resolution, together with its whereas clauses and bibliographically documented appendix, has fired up many of us, both in support and in objection. It has been briefly discussed at the October meeting, and Stef Pryor provided an additional overview presentation in November. The resolution has been the subject of stories in the local press, and county leaders are certainly aware of it. I have heard from quite a few members on both sides of this subject, and I believe it has the potential to divide us unnecessarily.

I have proposed, and the Executive Board has concurred, that Civ Fed give this resolution the complete airing it deserves by reserving the entire February 21 membership meeting for such consideration. My reasoning is that the core issues raised in the resolution demand our full attention, and that the resolution should include actionable requests to the County Board and the County Manager. Furthermore, questions have been raised concerning both the length and content of the appendix, and the tone of the resolution. The full resolution and appendix are available on the [ACCF website](#). If you have questions or comments that you would like to make on the resolution, please send them to me at president@civfed.org and I will send them to the resolution authors and maintain them in the comment file.

I want to recognize the dedication and skill of the resolution's several authors and researchers. They have devoted many hours to the compilation of this document. It is precisely because of its inherent importance that I am supporting a full discussion of this resolution when we have the time to do so, in February.

With best holiday wishes,

John Ford
President

Farewell to Burton "Burt" Bostwick (1941–2022)

By Suzanne Sundburg, Revenues & Expenditures Committee POC

It's with great sadness that we report the passing of long-time civic volunteer Burton "Burt" Bostwick. Many of you may know Burt, as he served most recently as the Arlington County Civic Federation's (ACCF's) treasurer from 2019–2021.

Burt was a long-time member of and an ACCF delegate for Old Glebe Civic Association, most recently serving as Old Glebe's Vice President in 2021. Always a gentleman with a ready smile and a quick wit, for over 20 years Burt was generous with his time — always offering to lend a hand when help was needed. He served the ACCF faithfully until illness forced him to step down.

Below is a list of a few of Burt's accomplishments:

- ACCF Executive Committee (now the Board of Directors) Chair, 2004–2005, member 2009–10, Vice-Chair 2011–2012
- ACCF Secretary, 2006–2007
- ACCF Revenues & Expenditures Committee Chair, 2005–2008, subsequently serving as the committee's point of contact for many years
- 2007 recipient of ACCF's Certificate of Appreciation for his substantial contributions

as a volunteer

- 2008 recipient of the President's Citation from then-President Larry Mayer.

Closest to Burt's heart, however, was his volunteer work for the [Friends of Gulf Branch Nature Center](#), which he helped to co-found and where he served as both president and treasurer in recent years.

We will miss Burt and express our sincere condolences to his family.

A funeral mass will be held at [Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church](#) 2700 19th St S in Green Valley from noon, Saturday 14 January 2023. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Friends of Gulf Branch Nature Center.

To make a donation in Burt's memory, please mail a check to:
Friends of Gulf Branch Nature Center
3608 North Military Rd.
Arlington, VA 22207

Donation checks should be made payable to: "Friends of Gulf Branch Nature Center"

Please indicate on the memo line of the check that it is a donation in memory of Burt Bostwick.

If you need a receipt for IRS purposes, please enclose a note with your name and address so that a receipt can be mailed to you.

Questions can be directed to Duke Banks, President of FOGBNC:
friendsofgbnc@gmail.com



2016 ACCF 100th Anniversary Gala (left to right): Joni and Marx Sterne, Mary and Burt Bostwick, and Elvira Banks

**Task Force in Governance and Election Reform (TiGER) -
Outbrief**

The November 15 General Membership meeting featured a panel discussion, led by Allan Gajadhar (former ACCF President), to discuss the TiGER resolution which offers change to Arlington's governing bodies and electoral system. The discussion included:

- The size of the County Board and the School Board
- Alternatives to at-large elections and first-past-the-post voting systems, including:
 - District representation (utilizing either single or multi-member districts)
 - Proportional representation (via multi-member, synchronous elections)
- Remuneration of County Board and School Board members
- Length of Board terms (including the term of Board Chair) and frequency of elections
- The role of primaries and caucuses
- The role and design of community engagement mechanisms

Following the panel discussion, Civ Fed voted to approve the resolution, and it passed 53 yes, 18 no, 6 abstain.

We'd like to thank the members of the TiGER committee:

- Nancy Tate
 - John Vihstadt
 - Michael Beer
 - Dave Schutz
 - Chanda Choun
 - Sangita Sigdyal
 - Beth Grossman
- Kris Brown
 - Kevin Appel
 - Whytni Kernodle
 - Tannia Talento
 - Duke Banks
 - Chris Wimbush, Chair
 - Allan Gajadhar, prior ACCF President



TiGER Panelists (from left to right): Michael Beer, Whytni Kernodle, Dave Schutz, Allan Gajadhar

For additional information and the TiGER resolution, please see the [ACCF TiGER webpage](#). You may also contact Allan Gajadhar at bod.member1@civfed.org.

Work Underway on New Funding Resources to Ensure ACCF's Financial Future

The Funding Resource Development Committee (FRD) met on 11/29/22 for initial discussion on funding options to augment the current membership dues. The Committee will explore a wide range of short-term and longer term options as they are identified. These could include membership dues, donations, grants, etc. with the hope of identifying a plan to provide sustainable, supplemental resources.

Civ Fed wishes to continue to be able to carry out current and anticipated activities that make the organization effective in service to the membership and implementing its policies. We currently face the possibility of an operating deficit in FY22-23 and future years. Participation on the committee by Voting and Alternate Delegates is welcomed, and other sources of information will be mined. If you have an idea or resource you would like to suggest, please contact Jim Todd (secretary@civfed.org) or Mary Glass (mglassmail1@gmail.com).

How Does Voting Work for Civic Federation Membership Meetings?

By Adam R Henderson, ACCF Bylaws and Rules Committee Chair

Eligible voters for the Arlington County Civic Federation (ACCF or “Civ Fed”) are delegates or alternates that are certified by a current member organization. The bylaws and adopted procedures paraphrased below are the basis for determining member organizations and voting members from those organizations.

- **“Voting Members”**. Each Member Organization may designate: (a) Up to four (4) delegates to serve as “Voting Members” of the Federation; and (b) Up to four (4) alternate delegates to serve as “Alternate Members.”¹
- **Member organization certification and designation of voting members**. Each member organization shall provide annual certification (due by October 31) that includes designation of delegates and alternates. Designation is required before any such “Voting Members” or Alternate Voting Members may vote at a membership meeting.² The Secretary requests notification by a member organization of the intent for an alternate to be a voting member at a general membership meeting by noon the day of the meeting so that the eligible Voting Members list and ballots are updated for that meeting.³
- **Voting**. Each Voting Member, or Alternate Member in the place of a Voting Member, will have one (1) vote. Proxy votes are not allowed.⁴
- **Majority vote**. All issues to be voted on will be decided by simple majority of the Members present and voting at a meeting of the Members at which a quorum is present (defined below), unless otherwise required by the Act, the Articles or these Bylaws.⁵ For any vote the total possible vote, consisting of Ayes, Nays and Abstentions, shall be recorded in the meeting minutes. **For determining the results of the vote...only the Ayes and Nays will be counted**.⁶
- **Quorum**. The presence of at least one-tenth (1/10) of the current Voting Members entitled to vote at any annual, regular or special meeting of the Members will constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. If an Alternate Member is present and participating in place of a Voting Member, such Alternate Member will count towards quorum in place of such Voting Member.⁷

All current civic federation members who may designate voting members are listed on the Civ Fed website at <https://www.civfed.org/about-us/member-organizations>. If you don't see your organization on the list, please contact secretary@civfed.org.

CITATIONS

¹ ACCF Bylaws, §2.02(a).

² ACCF Bylaws, §2.03(a).

³ ACCF Bylaws, §2.02(b).

⁴ ACCF Bylaws, §2.04(a).

⁵ ACCF Bylaws, §2.04(b).

⁶ ACCF Board Procedural Resolution BR-2020-21-2, “ACCF Parliamentary Procedures”,

WEB DOCUMENTS

Bylaws: <https://www.civfed.org/documents/bylaws/>

Procedures: <https://www.civfed.org/documents/procedures/>

Civ Fed Celebration Picnic - Volunteers Needed

As noted in our previous newsletter, we are planning a Civ Fed Celebration Picnic for June 25, 2023. If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to Todd Truitt at bod.member8@civfed.org. Volunteers needed:

- Co-Chairs - Todd Truitt, Nadia Conyers
 - Head of Facilities - Dave Schutz
 - Awards - John Ford
 - Potluck Food Website Coordinator – Ron Haddox
 - Head of Alcohol - *Volunteer Needed*
 - Raffles Coordinator - *Volunteer Needed*
 - Entertainment - *Volunteer Needed* (one idea is to have Animal Welfare League of Arlington bring out rescue dogs)
-

Prepare Now for Emergencies to Help You, Your Family, and Your Neighbors Stay Safe



Sign up for free, real-time emergency alerts via text, email, and voice mail.

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Emergency/Arlington-Alert>

- Get Information about major emergencies, weather, severe traffic disruptions, and more.
 - Delivery methods include Text, Push notifications, Home Phone, Email, and Pager.
 - Choose the types of alerts, and set “quiet times” when you won’t receive messages.
 - Sign up for multiple jurisdictions at capitalert.gov
-

Free Trees!

We can all agree that except when we're raking leaves, trees are beautiful, and they help with the air we breathe. Our tree canopy is very important to our community. An opportunity for us all to do something to help maintain that tree canopy is just around the corner.

We encourage you to check out the Tree Canopy Fund link on the Arlington County website: [Tree Canopy Fund Program](#).

Also, we'd like to highlight that our member, NAACP, is co-sponsoring a 'Drop in Info Session' on December 8th from 7 to 8 p.m. ([meeting link](#)) to provide information on how individuals and organizations can receive free trees to support the tree canopy.

Bylaws Committee Seeks Additional Members

By Adam Henderson, Chair, ACCF Bylaws and Rules Committee

The ACCF Bylaws and Rules Committee is in need of new members as a few of our long-standing participants have moved from the area. The Bylaws Committee recommends

updates to our bylaws and Procedures and acts as an advisory panel to both the Board and the General Membership for questions regarding our Bylaws, procedures, and general good governance.

The Bylaws Committee generally meets every 2-5 weeks for ninety minutes on Sunday evenings from 6.30pm. We are a collegial yet serious and purposeful group. If this opportunity sounds like something that would interest you, or if you would like to recommend that we reach out to someone as a potential member, please email Adam at bylaws@civfed.org.

Is Arlington a Safe Community? Mark your calendars! March 14, 2023, Civic Federation Meeting

With increased public attention to crime in the community, come and hear from and discuss questions with our panel guests, Arlington County Police Chief Charles “Andy” Penn, Commonwealth’s Attorney for Arlington County and the City of Falls Church, Parisa Dehghani-Tati, and Deputy Director, Community Services Board Executive Director, Deputy Director Department of Human Services, Deborah Warren. This program is being sponsored by the ACCF Public Services Public Safety Committee, chair Mike McMenamain. Please send topics and incidents you may want to discuss, e.g., petty and property crimes, robberies, violent crimes pre-meeting for planning to Mike McMenamain public.safety.sc.chair@civfed.org and copy Jackie Snelling jts@mtnzephyr.com.

The ACCF Public Safety Committee will hold a virtual meeting on **Jan 10th at 7:30** to finalize the program format and questions. If you are interested in attending or supporting the planning in other ways, please contact Jackie Snelling jts@mtnzephyr.com, who is coordinating the zoom meeting.

The ACCF Legislative Committee is working with the Public Safety Committee for this program. A meeting of the Legislative Committee will be held **on December 10th** to develop questions and other input from the Legislative Committee to the Public Safety Committee. If you are interested in attending the Dec 10th Legislative Committee meeting, please reach out to Ron Haddox at vicepresident@civfed.org.

2022-2023 ACCF Certification and Dues Information

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

Please visit our dues webpage: [Pay Member Dues - Arlington County Civic Federation \(civfed.org\)](#). Dues are requested by Dec 31.

If you have questions, please email treasurer@civfed.org for payment information.

Annual Certification

Our annual recertification ([ACCF FY23 Certification Form](#)) is now complete. We have updated our website with our membership. Please confirm your organization is listed on our website: [Member Organizations](#).

Please contact the secretary@civfed.org with questions.

Please Donate to the Arlington County Civic Federation

We need your financial support, in any amount your organization can afford.

In the last two years, the Arlington County Civic Federation has, at considerable expense, taken a number of steps to expand access to its member meetings in order to allow you and

your organization to continue to safely participate.

We have decided to continue all meetings in hybrid in-person and online format to continue to allow flexibility for all delegates in how they want to participate. While we have raised dues in the past, we have done our best to hold off on further increases in dues, at least for now.

But part of our decision to keep our dues at the same amount is based on our ability to raise additional funds from our new donation campaign. Please, if your organization can afford it, consider donating today. *Your donations help us to keep our dues the same as last year and to limit the burden on smaller organizations that might not be able to afford higher dues.*

Visit civfed.org and click on the [donate](#) button. Any amount is greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

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](#)

ACCF PUBLIC INTEREST COMMITTEES

-Cultural Affairs – Chair Tina Worden

-Diversity Committee – Chair TBD - if interested contact president@civfed.org

-Environmental Affairs – Chair Mary Glass

-Housing – Chair John Vihstadt

-Legislation – Chair Ron Haddox

-Parks and Recreation – Chair TBD - if interested contact president@civfed.org

-Planning and Zoning – Chair TBD - if interested contact 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

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](#)

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](#)

ACCF Calendar FY2023

December

- Tuesday, 12/13: General Membership Meeting - County Manager Mark Schwartz
- Sunday, 12/18: Board Meeting

January

- Tuesday, 1/3: General Membership Meeting - Annual Conversation with the Arlington County Board
- Sunday, 1/8: Board Meeting

February

- Tuesday, 2/21: General Membership Meeting - Resolution to Restore the Public's Confidence in Arlington County Governance
- Sunday, 2/26: Board Meeting

March

- Tuesday, 3/14: General Membership Meeting - Arlington Crime
- Sunday, 3/19: Board Meeting

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