



Newsletter of the Arlington County Civic Federation
January 2023 | Volume 107 | Number 05

January General Membership Meeting with the Arlington County Board

Location: Arlington County Board, [2100 Clarendon Blvd. Room 307](#)

Date: January 3, 2023 @ 7:00 PM (see arrival notes below)

Format: In-Person and Zoom. ACCF will also stream to the [ArlCivFed Facebook page](#).

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

In-Person Registration: No registration is needed to attend in-person.

Zoom Registration: If you plan to attend by Zoom, please [register in advance](#) by noon on January 2nd 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

- **6:00 - 7:00 County Board Organizational Meeting**
- **7:00 - 7:15 Break** (may start sooner)
- **7:15 - 8:30 Joint Meeting - CivFed and Arlington County Board** - This will be a Q&A format moderated by John Ford.
- **8:30 - 8:45 Approve [December Minutes](#) & New Business**

Additional Details

Please review County Board meeting logistics at: [Arlington County Board Home Page \(granicus.com\)](#), which include additional details about viewing via the County's YouTube channel or broadcast on Arlington County's cable channel.

The Arlington County Board will be holding their yearly Organizational meeting which begins at 6 p.m. This meeting is open to the public. At the conclusion of the Organization Meeting, there will be a short break before the joint CivFed/County Board meeting begins. It is highly recommended that you arrive prior to 7 p.m. to ensure you can find adequate seating. There will be several benches reserved for CivFed members.

President's Message

Our next Civic Federation membership meeting is the traditional joint meeting with the Arlington County Board, upcoming soon on Tuesday, January 3. Because that meeting is earlier in the month than is customary for our membership meetings, we're releasing the January newsletter in December. And this early release gives me an opportunity to wish every Civ Fed delegate, alternate and member a Happy New Year and to express the hope that you all enjoyed your holiday season despite the record cold weather we endured.

The County Board will hold its annual organizational meeting in its board room on the third floor of the county building at 2100 Clarendon Blvd. starting at 6:00 p.m. You are all welcome to join your Executive Board and committee chairs in attending in person or via Zoom – or for this meeting, on the county public access TV stations. Board clerk Kendra Jacobs has reserved the first three rows of seats for ACCF members for this meeting.

At its 6:00 meeting, the Board will conduct annual meeting business. Each member will also outline their priorities for the coming year. As our Secretary David Smith reports in this newsletter, our Civ Fed meeting should begin between 7:00 and 7:15, and will conclude around 8:30 p.m.

Many of you have submitted questions for the board, and I'll start off by asking a few of those myself. But the floor will then be open as usual for delegates and alternates to ask their own questions. Our session with County Manager Mark Schwartz earlier this month was rigorous but collegial, and we expect the same with the Board on January 3.

Looking ahead to February, we plan to devote the February 21 meeting to consideration of a "Resolution to Restore the Public's Confidence in Arlington Governance." Many of you have by now heard about this proposal sponsored by five former ACCF presidents. It remains on our Civ Fed website.

The sponsors of the proposed resolution are anxious to hear your thoughts so they may have time to consider and perhaps respond before the February meeting. The sponsors have requested that "contributions or suggestions be made before Wednesday, **January 18**. Recommendations should be specific and in writing and sent to president@civfed.org. Those submitting contributions should identify their member organization and if they are a delegate or alternate."

We're working on programs we believe will be topical and thought-provoking for the remainder of this cycle, and I'm excited to share more details with you in the coming months. In March, we're going to look at the issue of crime in Arlington. More on this can be found below in a note by Mike McMenamin, Public Safety chair.

And as you know, we're now in the county budget season and we will be working with you on our budget priorities in the coming months. Also, we will be watching with you for potential Board actions on the Missing Middle housing, zoning proposals and next steps.

Meantime, I'll see you on January 3 and February 21. (The February date is later than usual to avoid any conflict with Valentine's Day.)

With my best wishes,

John Ford

Discussion with County Manager, Mark Schwartz - Outbrief

The December 13th meeting featured a question-and-answer session with County Manager [Mark Schwartz](#).

The Q&A session was guided by John Ford who raised pre-prepared questions submitted by CivFed committee chairs and board members. Throughout the session John also called on member delegates (Zoom and in-person) to ask their own questions.

The consensus after the meeting was that a comprehensive slate of questions was asked by our members. Questions covered: budget forecast, remote work impact on commercial office space, information access, County notification process, tax burden, factors impacting budget plan, community engagement, Missing Middle, commercial property taxation, representative engagement, information requests, light pollution, integration of the Arts, transportation planning, development bonus density, and many other topics. Mark provided candid and often comprehensive answers to all of the questions raised.

Arlington County Civic Federation would like to thank Mark and other supporting staff for their time, and we hope to schedule this community exchange for the next year at this time.

Hear Mark's responses in the recorded videos on [Vimeo](#) or our [Facebook](#) page.



From left to right: County Manager Mark Schwartz, Arlington County Civic Federation President John Ford

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, Department of Human Services and Executive Director of the Community Services Board, Deborah Warren. The ACCF Public Services Public Safety Committee is sponsoring this program. Please send topics and incidents you may want to discuss pre-meeting for planning to Mike McMenamin at public.safety.sc.chair@civfed.org and copy Jackie Snelling at jts@mtnzephyr.com. Examples of topics include the strategies, roles, and outcomes for law enforcement, the justice system, and mental and behavioral health support services related to various crimes, e.g., petty and property crimes, robberies, and violent crimes.

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

ACCF Committees are encouraged to work with the Public Safety Committee for this program, and committee members are invited to attend the January 10 Public Safety

FY2022 Arlington County Annual Comprehensive Financial Report

Section 15.2-2511 of the Code of Virginia requires that all general-purpose local governments publish within six months of the close of each fiscal year a complete set of financial statements presented in conformity with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).

The financial statements must be audited in accordance with Generally Accepted Auditing Standards (GAAS) by a firm of licensed certified public accountants. On December 16, 2022, Arlington County published its Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR, formerly the CAFR) for FY2022 online:

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/files/sharedassets/public/budget/documents/accounting-reporting-and-control/final-fy22-acfr-12-15-2022-online-version.pdf>

Though the financial statements in the front are audited by an external auditor (Cherry Bekaert), there also is a wealth of unaudited statistical information (covering the last 10 fiscal years) found at the end of the report. Everything from the county's borrowing to expenditures by category to tax revenues by source to the number of county employees by department (and more) is available in one place.

Submitted by Suzanne Sundburg, Chair, ACCF Revenue and Expenditures Committee, contact at rev.expend.chair@civfed.org.

Pickleball!

Pickleball is growing in popularity within Arlington County and is driving discussions surrounding the use of public facilities at various community centers. A member association is holding a Pickleball-related discussion on January 18th. If you are interested in supporting this discussion, please contact Ron Haddox at ronhaddox@hushmail.com.

If your member organization is taking positions on Pickleball-related concerns, we'd like to hear from you! Please contact John Ford at president@civfed.org with information we can forward to our Parks and Recreation committee.

CivFed Celebration Picnic - Volunteers Needed

Our Civ Fed Celebration Picnic is scheduled for June 25, 2023 and we are seeking more volunteers to make sure this first year for the picnic is a great success. If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to Todd Truitt at bod.member8@civfed.org. Volunteers thus far:

- **Co-Chairs** – Todd Truitt, Nadia Conyers
 - **Head of Facilities** – Dave Schutz
 - **Awards** – John Ford
 - **Potluck Food Website Coordinator** – Ron Haddox
 - **Fundraising Coordinator** – Mary Glass
 - **Entertainment** – Nicole Merlene
 - **Head of Alcohol** – *Volunteer Needed*
 - **Free Agent Volunteers** – Dixie Duncan, *More Volunteers Needed*
-

ACCF Communications Committee – Seeking Members

We are working to plan and develop improvements for Civic Federation's communications, particularly communications with and for members. We're recruiting members with interest and experience with websites, newsletters, and social media and other tools related to our membership and communication services. If you are interested in working with us, or have suggestions, please contact John Ford at president@civfed.org.

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.

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
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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 \(civfed.org\)](http://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, [Michael McMenamin](#)

Member at Large, [Scott Miles](#)

Member at Large, [Dave Schutz](#)

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

January

- Tuesday, 1/3: General Membership Meeting - Annual Conversation with the Arlington County Board
- Sunday, 1/22: Board Meeting

February

- Monday, 2/6: Deadline for February newsletter input
- Tuesday, 2/21: General Membership Meeting - Resolution to Restore the Public's Confidence in Arlington County Governance
- Sunday, 2/26: Board Meeting

March

- Monday, 2/27: Deadline for March newsletter input
- Tuesday, 3/14: General Membership Meeting - Arlington Crime
- Sunday, 3/19: Board Meeting

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