



Newsletter of the Arlington County Civic Federation
April 2023 | Volume 107 | Number 08

April 2023 General Membership Meeting

Location: Hazel Auditorium, Virginia Hospital Center

Date: April 11, 2023 @ 7:00 PM

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.

REVISED PROCESS REMINDER

To help expedite vote validation during the meeting we are requiring Zoom registration to be completed by Monday April 10th at 12 noon. If you have not registered for Zoom by this time you will be requested to attend in person if you are eligible for voting or you can view the meeting through the Facebook live feed.

Delegates: All requests for delegate swaps with alternates must be submitted to the secretary@civfed.org by Sunday April 9 at 12 noon. No exceptions.

In-Person Attendance: No registration is needed to attend in-person or to watch the meeting via the Facebook live stream.

Zoom Registration: The Zoom registration cutoff is Monday April 10 at 12 noon. No exceptions. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Meeting Agenda

- 7:00 Pledge of Allegiance and Approval of March meeting [minutes](#)
- 7:05 County Board Candidates Forum
- 8:25 School Board Candidates Forum
- 8:50 Old/New Business (includes updates to Nominating Committee and a reading on a proposed modification to dues and certification dates, see article below) and Adjourn

President's Message

Every CivFed member knows by now that we have a highly unusual situation this year in Arlington. There are two County Board positions to be contested in the November election, and neither one of them has an incumbent seeking reelection. This doesn't happen very often in our county. There is also one School Board position up for election – also without an incumbent seeking re-election.

Once it became clear that neither Christian Dorsey nor Katie Cristol would seek another term, your CivFed began planning for a special Candidates Forum meeting at our April membership meeting. We agreed to invite every candidate who had declared by April 7, regardless of party.

The June 20th primary election will use the rank choice voting method to decide who the

Democratic Party County Board candidates will be. The Civic Federation is partnering with the League of Women Voters to clarify for voters how this will work. There is more information on this below.

Seven County Board candidates have accepted our invitation to join us at our April 11 membership meeting. The lineup includes Independent Audrey Clement and Democrats Maureen Coffee, Susan Cunningham, Jonathan Dromgoole, Natalie Roy, JD Spain and Tony Weaver.

The County Board Candidates Forum will begin at 7:05 and, after introductory remarks by each, will feature 45 minutes of questions from the in-person and Zoom audience. Concluding remarks by candidates will end at 8:25.

Democratic School Board candidates Angelo Cocchiaro and Miranda Turner will follow a similar agenda, including 15 minutes of Q & A and concluding by 8:50.

With so many candidates and so little time, we will especially appreciate (and enforce) brevity by questioners. Our meeting will be important for each candidate as they seek to establish an individual position and distinguish themselves from their opponents, so it will be important for us and them to offer the opportunity to do so. That necessitates short questions and answers.

The Arlington County Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Francisco Durán, will join us for our May 9 membership meeting. The second half of this program will feature candidates for the contested positions of Arlington and Falls Church Commonwealth Attorney and Arlington County Sheriff. And please remember that the School Board will be with us for our June 13 meeting.

Warm April holiday wishes to everyone!

With best regards,

John Ford

March Meeting Outbrief

1) Arlington Crime Panel

The March General Membership meeting started with an informative panel discussion with:

- Arlington County Police Chief Charles “Andy” Penn [[Presentation, 4,4 MiB](#)]
- Commonwealth’s Attorney for Arlington County and the City of Falls Church, Parisa Dehghani-Tati, and
- Deputy Director of the Department of Human Services and the Executive Director of the Arlington Community Services Board, Deborah Warren. [[Presentation, 2,6 MiB](#)]

Video of the panel can be reviewed at the following links:

- Video Recording: <https://vimeo.com/user118812626>
- Facebook: [\(20+\) Arlington County Civic Federation | Facebook](#)



From Left to Right: Andy Penn, Deborah Warren, Parisa Dehghani-Tafti

2) Resolution to Restore the Public's Confidence

John Ford introduced presentations on the "commonalities, differences, and why" regarding the revised Public's Confidence in Arlington County Governance Resolution versus the proposed revised amendment. Presentations were led by:

- Stefanie Pryor, representing the Public's Confidence resolution sponsored by four CivFed past presidents (Stefanie Pryor, Duke Banks, Mike McMnamin, and Sandy Newton) [[Presentation Link](#)]
- Bryan Coleman, representing the amendment to the resolution offered by the NAACP [[Presentation Link](#)]

Following the presentations, the CivFed delegates approved a suspension of the parliamentary rules which allowed for a side-by-side vote of the resolution as revised and posted versus the proposed amendment as revised and posted. The [original resolution](#) ultimately passed with 70% of the votes.

3) Nominating Committee

A Nominating Committee for the FY24 CivFed year was approved:

- Adam Henderson (Chair, Pike Presidents' Group; ACCF Bylaws Committee Chair)
- David Smith (ACCF Secretary, Bluemont CA Treasurer)
- Jim Todd (ACCF Treasurer, Cherrydale CA President)
- Kathleen Trainor (Highland Park-Overlee Knolls CA President)
- Ron Haddox (ACCF Vice-President)
- Anne Bodine (ACCF Housing Committee Co-Chair, Delegate from Arlington Tree Action Group)

Please note that our procedures stipulate that no more than one officer can serve on the Nominating Committee. We will therefore propose at the April meeting to replace Jim Todd and Ron Haddox with Fairlington CA president Edie Wilson.

4) Awards Committee

An Awards Committee for the FY24 CivFed year was approved:

- Dave Schutz (ACCF Parks & Recreation Committee Chair)
 - Diane Kelly (Waycroft-Woodlawn CA former president)
 - John Ford (ACCF President, Tara-Leeway Heights CA President)
 - Lois Koontz (past chair, ACCF Executive Board)
 - Todd Truitt (ACCF Schools Committee Chair)
-

Task Force in Governance and Election Reform (TiGER)

Meeting Notice - April 4

We're excited to see Arlington County gearing up to use Rank Choice Voting for the primary this year and pleased to be partnering with the League of Women Voters for public education on how it will work here. See the article in this newsletter below and sign up for the virtual presentation, Monday, April 17 from 7-8pm.

We're also looking forward to meeting on April 4 to discuss the upcoming education session on Rank Choice voting, and new information about some interesting potential for legislation that could enable Arlington to consider and take additional follow up next steps for implementing [TiGER](#).

We look forward to getting back together to work on next steps. Contact the TiGER chair, Allan Gajadhar at tiger@civfed.org for any questions.

Ranked Choice Voting: Preparing for the June 20 Primary



The June 20 primary for the Arlington County Board will use Ranked Choice Voting (RCV).

On Monday April 17 from 7:00pm – 8:00pm, join the League of Women Voters of Arlington and Alexandria City, and the Arlington County Civic Federation for a virtual presentation on how RCV operates and how your ballot will look.

Our presenters will be Gretchen Reinemeyer, General Registrar and Director of Elections for Arlington County and Liz White, Executive Director of Upvote Virginia.

RSVP to get the zoom link. You will have the chance to ask questions in chat at the event and you may also submit your questions in advance when you RSVP.
<https://rcvtraining.eventbrite.com/>



Successful Public Meeting Reveals New Tree Canopy Loss - Only 33% Tree Cover, not 41% Advertised by County

by Mary Glass, Environmental Affairs Committee Chair

Over 50 citizens concerned about the rapid loss of Arlington's urban forest heard the discouraging details of the new Arlington urban tree canopy study prepared by the Green Infrastructure Center (GIC). The experts provided participants with access to large maps showing the distribution of trees and the ecosystem services by neighborhood. Some neighborhoods had 17% less tree cover in 2021 than in 2016 due to overcounting trees in the earlier study and actual tree loss over the five years. The study went further to determine that, given the limited availability of planting space, the canopy cannot reach 41% and immediate action is needed to preserve the remaining 33%.

The new study employed the most current available 2021 aerial photography and 2018 LiDAR data (showing height) to create an improved set of information that was used to identify and analyze the urban forest and the many public services that it provides. In addition, neighborhood by neighborhood information on existing tree canopy, potential planting areas, canopy percentages for all parks, heat impacts, watersheds, etc. was provided.

During an extensive discussion and comment session, participants' observations and recommendations for future activity were recorded. Common themes were the need to enforce existing regulations/ordinances protecting trees, increased public funding for planting and tree maintenance, incentives for preservation of mature trees on private land, and increased investment in trees in public rights-of-way. There was consensus for a recommendation that these more current findings should be incorporated into the draft Forestry and Natural Resources Plan currently under development.

Plans to form a collaborative to continue efforts to preserve and enhance Arlington's trees were announced at the meeting. Tentatively named the Arlington Consortium for Tree Sustainability (ACTS), nearly two dozen participants expressed interest in continuing discussions. The Consortium would connect existing organizations and citizens to accelerate efforts to preserve and expand the urban forest. The full final report will be available in June and further developments can be followed at www.arltreeconsort.net.

In addition to your Arlington County Civic Federation, the meeting was sponsored by the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust and EcoAction Arlington and attended by the Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions, the Arlington/Alexandria Tree Stewards, and the Arlington Tree Action Group. This meeting was organized by the Environmental Affairs Committee which welcomes your questions and/or support. Please contact the Committee Chair Mary Glass, bod.member3@civfed.org.

Background information:

[Tree Benefits: Growing Arlington's Urban Forest](#) presented by GIC to the ACCF membership meeting on March 16, 2021

The presentation and recording of the February webinar available at <https://www.arlingtontreeactiongroup.org/take-action-today/new-tree-canopy-results-from-civic-federation-webinar>.

Tree Planning and Planting Campaigns – A Guide for Reforesting Cities and Towns, prepared for the US Forest Service by the Green Infrastructure Center. http://www.gicinc.org/tree_planning_campaigns.htm

Housing Committee Meeting Notice - April 20

The Housing Committee met March 16 for its first organizational meeting with new co-chairs Matt Hall and Anne Bodine. We also hosted an [info brief by Brian Harner](#), local architect, who presented his [alternative Missing Middle plan for Arlington](#), produced with his partner Leo Sarli and former Planning Commissioner Jane Siegel, who introduced Brian. The video, the plan, and the [slides](#) all offer interesting perspective on the plan passed by the county on March 22, as well as other creative ideas we should be incorporating in our long-term planning efforts. The committee next meets April 20 at 6:30 pm, register for the zoom [here](#).

We are hoping to present a case study by an affordable housing provider in Arlington, and to follow up on our agenda for the remainder of the year with our committee members. We are looking for new members, email us at housing.chair@civfed.org if interested.

Parks and Recreation Committee Revived

There's a new issue which is ruffling lots of feathers now. It's pickleball. Arlington pickleball players have for several years asked the County to provide more and better pickleball court facilities. After a public engagement process that both the neighbors and organized pickleball players now believe fell short in both engagement and transparency, the County allotted \$2 million in the most recent Parks bonds to provide a number of courts at Walter Reed Community Center in South Arlington.

It's now clear that no one, even Parks planners or neighbors, could know what was coming, here as well as nationwide as the concentration of players in this new sport has met with rising neighborhood resistance. Now, after over 18 months, both neighbors and players truly understand the impact of noise, parking, and congestion at WRCC associated with the county's current and future plans.

Neighbors are especially impacted. They have been pushing back both on current temporary court provision and on the plan to spend substantial resources on making them permanent. Organized players, meanwhile, are insistent that any change of plans not result in any reduction of the currently planned playing space.

Arlington has been in the national news because of our growing Pickleball controversy. In response, Chairman Dorsey said at the last County Board meeting that the Board wants to hear from staff about this situation at its April meeting. Notably absent from the letter sent by Parks to the WRCC neighbors, however, was any invitation for input from stakeholders about the options and priorities to be discussed in that staff report.

Our meeting, March 29, discussed options for engaging the County during the upcoming weeks in order that CivFed representatives can engage with county staff to review and provide feedback on their report prior to its delivery to County Board members. Interested in participating? Our next meeting (via Zoom) is planned for May 3rd at 7 p.m. Please email parks.rec.chair@civfed.org.

Arlington Neighborhoods Advisory Committee (ArNAC)

Arlington County and the Arlington Neighborhoods Advisory Committee (ArNAC) are currently gathering ideas to help develop a vision for what potential projects and programming, offered through the Arlington Neighborhoods Program, could best serve our communities. We hope you'll share ideas and encourage others to share their ideas too.

[Arlington Neighborhoods Program](#) (ANP) has been in existence since 1964. Volunteer neighborhood Representatives selected from their Civic Association serve on the [Arlington Neighborhoods Advisory Committee](#) (ArNAC), which is comprised of 48 active representatives from Arlington's 57 civic associations. Together, they lead the development of neighborhood plans and recommend neighborhood-initiated capital improvements for funding by the County Board.

The program underwent a comprehensive review in 2019, resulting in the Neighborhood Conservation Program Review (NCPR) final report. The report included a recommendation to streamline and optimize programming. ANP is currently exploring potential changes and improvements to the core components of the program, which include Neighborhood Plans, ANP Projects, and ArNAC.

New ideas would be in addition to, not in place of, the traditional projects offered by the program. Today, the program provides funding for a variety of improvements including the installation of sidewalks, curbs and gutters, streetlights, signs, park improvements, neighborhood art, and beautification.

For your convenience, below is the link to the feedback form and attached is a graphic that we hope neighborhoods will use in newsletters and on social media.

[Arlington Neighborhoods Program New Projects Brainstorm](#)

The feedback form will close on Wednesday, April 5.

For anyone interested in submitting ideas that missed the survey, please have them reach out to their civic association representative in ArNAC. Ultimately, idea generation is for projects proposed by civic associations through their representative as part of their membership in ArNAC.

For questions about the program (ANP), contact:

- Laura Simpson
- Acting Section Supervisor
- Arlington Neighborhoods Program
- Department of Community Planning, Housing and Development
- Email: lsimpson@arlingtonva.us
- Phone: 703.228.3813

For questions about the advisory committee (ArNAC), people can contact:

- Kathy Reeder
- ArNAC Chair
- Email: kathleenreeder@comcast.net



Arlington Neighborhoods Program

ARLINGTON VIRGINIA

What projects and programming would you like the Arlington Neighborhoods Program to offer?



We want to hear from you! Share your ideas by April 5.

Created in 1964 to empower residents by having them come together to discuss and share ideas for improving their neighborhoods, the Arlington Neighborhoods Program today provides funding for a variety of capital improvement projects, including sidewalks, curbs and gutters, streetlights, signs, park improvements, neighborhood art, and beautification.

CivFed Celebration Picnic Committee -- Volunteers Still Needed

Our CivFed Celebration Picnic is scheduled for Sunday, June 25, 2023 at Lyon Park Community Center 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
 - **Head of Facilities** – Dave Schutz
 - **Awards** – John Ford
 - **Potluck Food Website Coordinator** – Ron Haddox
 - **Fundraising Coordinator** – Mary Glass
 - **Entertainment** – Nicole Merlene
 - **Free Agent Volunteers** – Dixie Duncan, *More Volunteers Needed*
-

Revised General Membership Meeting Process

by David R Smith, ACCF Secretary

We revised our registration process for last month's General Membership meeting. The process update requires delegate/alternate swaps to be completed by the Sunday before the meeting and we lock down Zoom registration the day prior to the meeting. This process change was met with a little pre-meeting resistance (4 of 81 members), but the vast majority of members appeared to adjust to the new process without issue or concern. The change ultimately had a dramatic improvement on our ability to rapidly count online votes during the March meeting and also expedited post-meeting vote validation.

As such, we intend to continue with this revised process change.

We greatly appreciate everyone's willingness to help ensure that only authorized delegates are voting.

For comments or concerns, please contact David R Smith at secretary@civfed.org.

Arlington Community Emergency Response Team

by CivFed Public Services Committee

Award Winning CERT Offered starting April 12 – [sign up for the April 12 Arlington CERT Basic Training](#)

Arlington professional responders provide Arlington's award-winning [Arlington Community Emergency Response Team](#) (Arlington CERT) training to volunteers for neighborhood-based teams to recognize, respond to, and recover from major emergencies or disasters. acts of violence. This free, 8-session training, which begins on April 12, covers essential emergency preparedness and response topics and will teach skills like fire suppression, medical triage, and search and rescue. By preparing attendees to become Arlington CERT volunteers, we are helping them grow skills to become local heroes! If you want to help Arlingtonians prepare for and respond to disasters, sign up now and encourage your loved ones and your respective community members and network to do the same. [Learn more about Arlington CERT](#).

If you want to learn more and to share the information to promote the CERT training with your community members, the links below include a promotional flyer and language you can use in your social media and newsletters. Please contact Bianca Sanchez <bdsanchez@arlingtonva.us> if you have any questions regarding the materials or need them in another format.

- [Arlington CERT Basic Training Flyer](#)
- [Arlington CERT Basic Training Promotional Language](#)



HELP YOUR COMMUNITY IN EMERGENCIES!



FREE COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT)
BASIC TRAINING BEGINS APRIL 12

ARLINGTONCERT.COM

Call for Volunteers - Banner Ups!

We are in need of a volunteer or two interested in helping us develop a new set of CivFed Banner Ups (pictured below to the left and right of the photo) for the Arlington County Fair and a new CivFed flyer. If you have a little bit of artistic talent and a few spare hours, or flyer design skills, we would love to hear from you! Please contact secretary@civfed.org if interested.



RESOLUTION TO MODIFY THE BYLAWS

by Adam Henderson, chair Bylaws and Rules Committee

At the April 2023 General Meeting, the Bylaws and Rules Committee will present a

proposed amendment to the Bylaws to align the dates for annual recertification and dues payments for Member organizations.

Prior to incorporation, there was no requirement for Member organizations to recertify their qualifications. There was also no written deadline for annual dues payments, rather a general understanding that dues should be paid by the close of the calendar year. The 2018 Incorporation Bylaws formalized a 31 December dues deadline and set a 31 October deadline for completion of the annual recertification process.

In the five years since the adoption of the 2018 Bylaws, experience has shown that the existence of two separate deadline dates has been confusing for Member organizations and burdensome for the ACCF Secretary and Treasurer who administer compliance and payment. The ACCF Board referred the matter to the Bylaws and Rules Committee with a request to review the deadline dates and determine whether a single deadline date might be advisable.

The Bylaws and Rules Committee concurs and advises a 20 November cutoff for both Member recertification and dues payment. The committee chose this particular date to (a) provide a single date to Member organizations, (b) allow a roughly three-month window for dues collection after the publication ACCF's annual budget, which generally occurs in mid-August, (c) be timed for a date immediately after a General Meeting, and (d) occur in advance of the busy and distracting year-end holiday season commencing with Thanksgiving.

The draft resolution was presented to the ACCF Board on 26 Febr 2023. The Board voted unanimously to send the Resolution to the General Membership for consideration.

The text of the draft resolution is available [here](#).

Call for Student Volunteers

CivFed is seeking student volunteers who are looking for some school volunteering credit. Here are some of the current opportunities:

- **General Membership meeting set up and check-in** - we are looking for 1-2 students interested in setting up tables and chairs in the auditorium and then staffing the check-in booth. This is 1-2 hours of volunteer credit per meeting.
- **Zoom/Audio** - as many of you have noticed, we have some type of audio issue at each meeting. We are using a loosely coupled integration of Zoom and the Auditorium sound system via John's personal laptop/microphone. We are looking for one tech savvy student who knows Zoom and sound systems. The ideal candidate would support investigation of our setup, make recommendations, and then support the technology during the meetings. This could be 3-6 hours of credit for the investigation and then 2 hours of credit per general membership meeting period.

Please contact David R. Smith at secretary@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 were due by Dec 31, 2022.

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.

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, [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, [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 – Co-Chairs Anne Bodine and Matt Hall
- Legislation – Chair Ron Haddox
- Parks and Recreation – David Schutz
- 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.

ACCF Calendar FY2023

April

- Monday, 3/27: Deadline for April newsletter input
- Tuesday, 4/11 - 7p.m.: General Membership Meeting - Candidates Debate (County Board, School Board)
- Sunday, 4/16: Board Meeting, Zoom and Arlington Mill Community Center, room 527B - free parking up to 4 hours, take elevator to the 5th floor. Contact bod.chair@civfed.org to get a Zoom invitation.

May

- Monday, 4/24: Deadline for May newsletter input
- Tuesday, 5/9 - 7 p.m.: General Membership Meeting - APS Superintendent and Commonwealth's Attorney and Arlington County Sheriff forums
- Sunday, 5/21: Board Meeting

June

- Monday, 5/29: Deadline for June newsletter input
- Tuesday, 6/13 - 7 p.m.: General Membership Meeting, School Board
- Sunday, 6/25: Board Meeting

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