



Newsletter of the Arlington County Civic Federation
May 2023 | Volume 107 | Number 09

May General Membership Meeting

Location: Hazel Auditorium, Virginia Hospital Center

Date: May 9, 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 May 8th 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 May 7th 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 May 8th at 12 noon](#). No exceptions. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Meeting Agenda

- 7:00 - 7:10: Opening pledge of allegiance and brief administrative approvals - includes first reading of bylaws change (see article below)
 - 7:10 - 8:00: Annual visit by Arlington County Schools Superintendent Dr, Duran, with Q & A
 - 8:00 - 8:30: Candidates Forum for Arlington County Sheriff
 - 8:30 - 9:00: Candidates Forum for Commonwealth's Attorney
-

President's Message

Our upcoming Civic Federation meeting at 7:00 p.m. on May 9 is loaded. We have our annual session with the Arlington County Superintendent of Schools; a primary election candidates' forum for the three announced candidates for County Sheriff, and another forum featuring the two announced candidates for Commonwealth's Attorney. Here's how this all came together:

A visit to an ACCF membership meeting by our county schools' chief is a welcome and traditional addition to our annual lineup of guests. Arlington County Public Schools spend around 47% of the overall county budget. Our public schools are the envy of many and are

a demonstrated draw that attracts newcomers to us. And our members are vitally interested in and engaged with their schools.

Due to scheduling conflicts, our CivFed Schools Committee has been trying to schedule Dr. Duran's session ever since last summer. We get our chance to interact with him next Tuesday, and we couldn't pass up this opportunity. The Superintendent will lead off for us around 7:10 p.m., and will offer his assessment of this school year and forecast for the future. He will take questions until 8:00 p.m.

In this connection, I want to highlight for you a notice below from APS soliciting community interest in serving on a steering committee that will work collaboratively with staff during the 2023-24 school year to develop a proposed six-year strategic plan for APS. This is an opportunity to have real impact into policy development of vital interest to all of us. The deadline for application is **this Thursday, May 4.**

Meanwhile, during the winter it became clear that we would have vigorous contests for constitutional offices in addition to filling vacant positions on the county and school boards. We felt we should offer fora for these candidates in advance of the June 20 primary election.

Accordingly, at 8:00 p.m., sheriff candidates James Herring, Jose Quiroz and Wanda Younger will take the stage in person at the Virginia Hospital Center's Hazel auditorium. The format will include brief introductory statements by each candidate including their principal goal once in office; around 24 minutes of Q & A from our in-person and Zoom audience, and concluding statements from each that are intended to distinguish candidates' positions from each other.

Commonwealth's Attorney candidates Parisa Dehghani-Tafti and Josh Katcher will then offer opening and closing statements along similar lines to the sheriff candidates, and will also be available for Q & A.

You will see below a notice announcing a public meeting on Thursday **May 18** at Central Library. CivFed is the proud sponsor of this event, which includes U.S. Congressman Don Beyer, Arlington County Delegate Patrick Hope, and Arlington County General Registrar/Director of Elections Gretchen Reinemeyer. Among the offerings is a reprise of a well-received county briefing on the practical details of ranked choice voting, a priority goal of our TiGER committee that has been adopted for use at the upcoming June 20 primary election. Please don't forget to register.

Finally, please look over the Bylaws Committee recommendation that ACCF amend our bylaws to align the dates for annual recertification and dues payments for member organizations. This recommendation responds to concerns many of you have raised. This will be a first reading of the proposed change; we will vote on it in June.

Speaking of which, don't forget that we will welcome the Arlington County School Board for their annual visit to our June 13 meeting.

And please keep June 25 marked on your calendars for the annual CivFed celebration, taking the form this year of a family-friendly picnic at Lyon Community Park.

April Meeting Outbrief

1) County Board Candidates Forum

A forum was held for 80 minutes. Each candidate gave a 3-minute opening which was then followed by prepared questions submitted by members and questions from the delegates attending the meeting. Each candidate provided a 2-minute closing. Candidates included:

- Audrey Clement (Independent)
- Maureen Coffee (Democrat)
- Susan Cunningham (Democrat)
- Jonathan Dromgoole (Democrat)

- Natalie Roy (Democrat)
- JD Spain (Democrat)
- Tony Weaver (Democrat)

Questions to the panelists included the following topics:

- Commercial property vacancy rate
- Steps to heal divisions between county residents
- Missing Middle (too broad?, too narrow?, just right?)
- Public's Confidence resolution (what did you disagree with?)

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: Tony Weaver, JD Spain, Natalie Roy, Jonathan Dromgoole, Susan Cunningham, Maureen Coffee, Audrey Clement

2) Arlington Public School Board Candidates Forum

A forum was held for 30 minutes. Each candidate gave a 3-minute opening which was then followed by prepared questions submitted by members and questions from the delegates attending the meeting. Each candidate provided a 2-minute closing. Candidates included:

- Angelo Cocchiaro
- Miranda Turner

Questions to the panelists included the following topics:

- Boundary changes (approach and differences from current board)
- Toxic culture teachers are exposed to, mental health, resources for students
- Passing rate on placement exams (appear to be falling)
- Budgeting for field trips



May General Membership Meeting - Questions Needed!

Please provide advanced questions for the May 9th General Membership Meeting. Questions may be submitted for the following three panels:

- Arlington Public Schools Superintendent
- Commonwealth's Attorney candidates forum
- Sheriff candidates forum

Please provide your inputs to John Ford (hcc19@aol.com) by May 5, 2023.

Report from Task Force in Governance and Election Reform (TiGER)

by Dave Schutz, TiGER Committee

To some extent we are basking in our success. The County Board has put Ranked Choice voting into place for the June Democratic Party Primary. We are trying to be helpful to voters in understanding the process.

We held a successful and jointly sponsored Zoom session from Civic Federation and the Arlington-Alexandria League of Women Voters on April 17. Liz White from UpVote Virginia (successor organization to the redistricting reform group OneVirginia2021) and Gretchen Reinemeyer, Arlington's Registrar of voters, discussed the mechanics of our upcoming election. Ms Reinemeyer was very helpful on the nuts and bolts of procedure, and there were many clarifying questions from the audience. She pointed to the registrar web site as a useful source to learn about this from home:

<https://vote.arlingtonva.gov/Ranked-Choice-Voting>.

May 18: upcoming! 6:30 to 7:50 p.m. at Central Library. CivFed will sponsor this public and in-person presentation relating to Arlington governance issues at three levels of government including state determination of Arlington Board powers compared to other jurisdictions and ranked choice voting at the local and national level.

- **Delegate Patrick Hope** will discuss a thorough comparison of Arlington County Board's powers with those of all other jurisdictions in Virginia. He will present on the various differences and distinctions and offer potential updates to enable similar powers to Arlington and other jurisdictions. This review started in part because the TiGER recommendations require the State to "give" the County Board the authority, as an example, to have candidates run in the same year and to change the size of the board.
- **Gretchen Reinemeyer** will reprise much of the information she provided on April 17 on how Arlington rank choice voting will work for the June 20 Arlington Democratic primary for selecting County Board candidates.
- Our **Congressman, Don Beyer**, will join us to talk about his proposed national legislation related to rank choice voting. For several years, he has proposed sweeping national legislation which would lead to multi-member Congressional districts, elected by ranked choice voting – he's expressed the expectation that this would lead to a less polarized Congress, with representatives more responsive to the center of their constituencies, and more ability for minorities to put their champions into the Congress.

No registration is required to attend in person at Central Library. Registration is required for virtual Zoom participation: [Click here for Zoom Link](#)

Contact the TiGER chair, Allan Gajadhar at tiger@civfed.org for any questions.

Housing Committee - May 18th

by Anne Bodine and Matthew Hall, Co-Chairs

On May 18 at 6:30 pm, the Housing Committee will host "Columbia Pike - Neighborhood Form-Based Code, Ten Years On." The [Neighborhood FBC](#) was adopted by the County Board in 2013 as an alternative zoning district that applies to multi-family residential areas along Columbia Pike.

Learn about community engagement that shaped the new zoning overlay, the various developments since 2013 and their impacts along the Pike, and any updates/modifications since enactment. Housing Committee member, Pike resident, and local activist John Snyder -- who helped secure provisions in the new zoning overlay to preserve affordable housing options -- will give a zoom presentation and take questions. Don't forget to register! [Click here to register for Zoom](#)

The Housing Committee meets virtually through Zoom on the Third Thursday of the month starting at 6:30. The May Meeting is Thursday, May 18; the June Meeting is Thursday, June 15; the July meeting is Thursday, July 20. Registration links for future meetings will be in the newsletters. Information on upcoming meetings and videos of past presentations will be available on our CivFed Housing Committee web page at: <https://www.civfed.org/about-us/committees/housing/>.

Parks and Recreation Committee Report

by David Schutz, Parks and Recreation Committee Chair

Parks and Recreation Committee has met once, and in that meeting mostly discussed pickleball courts planned for the Walter Reed Community Center. We formed a consensus that the County should look harder for alternate sites. At the April 25 recessed session of the County Board, Manager Mark Schwartz and staff presented their plan for addressing this issue. The presentation is available at: [#Staff Presentation-Pickleball Restriping Project & Walter Reed Community Center](#).

Please email parks.rec.chair@civfed.org for more information.

Planning and Zoning – Arlington County Website Information

by Jackie Snelling, CivFed Board Chair

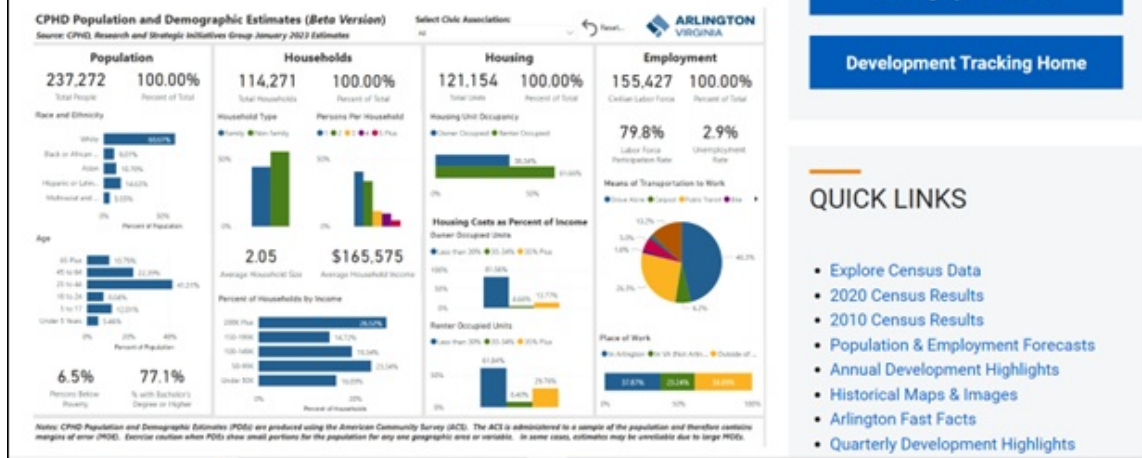
Following are links and information that provide a snapshot of data related to current Arlington County planning, zoning, and development. As part of re-invigorating the CivFed Planning and Zoning Committee, we are working to identify potential member services to include peer-to-peer collaboration for improving community engagement in this area and we are compiling links that might be useful for members who are tracking development, as per examples shown below.

If you have suggestions or would like to work with others on developing Civic Association level member services for planning and zoning, please contact Jackie Snelling bod.chair@civfed.org.

1) County's CPHD Demographic and Population Estimates (Beta version)

All Civic Associations: <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Projects/Data-Research/Demographics/Population-and-Demographic-Estimates>. This site has newly updated County planning data. It has information at the Community Association level that may be useful in considering the objectives and impacts of site plans and zoning changes.

CPHD Population and Demographic Estimates (Beta Version)



2) Land Use Plans and Studies - Site Plans by Status

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Projects/Plans-Studies/Land-Use>. Below is a DRAFT map prepared by CivFed using data from the County table on the status of site maps (data from the above link). This is not a County map but it is a first attempt to provide a visual “big picture” perspective of where the recent, current and contemplated site plans are concentrated and the workload of the impacted CAs. This also identifies at a glance the CA’s with expertise and perspective gained from participating in site plan reviews.



3) Development Tracking - Annual Highlights for 2022

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Projects/Data-Research/Development/Annual-Highlights>. Following is an excerpt from the County’s 2022 “Annual Highlights” report on development. It reports on the considerable rapid increase in the development rate and increase in residential units, office space, retail, and hotel rooms

- The County Board approved 6 special exception development projects. 83% of the total residential units approved were in the Rosslyn-Ballston Corridor. Additionally, over 3 million square feet of office space, three times the 10-year average, was approved at PenPlace. (*Editor's note: the PenPlace project is now on hold*)
- 10 projects were completed, adding 1,122 residential units, 40,519 SF of retail space, and 364,862 SF of other space to the County. Other space completed was nearly

double the 10-year average, with classroom space completed at Washington-Liberty High School and community space completed at the APAH/American Legion Site. For the second year in a row, no office space was completed.

- Construction started on 17 projects. These projects are expected to add 195,281 SF of office space, 199,496 SF of retail, 192,398 SF of other space, 3,399 residential units, and 375 hotel rooms to the County. 3,206 residential units commenced above grade in the planning corridors, which is over twice as many units that started construction between 2012 and 2021.
- There were 10 major demolitions, including the demolition of Red Top Office where Clarendon West (West Block) is currently under construction, two church structures for the future construction of 84 residential units at 11th and Vermont, Crystal Plaza Office Building 1 was demolished and the site is approved for 22,059 SF of retail and 758 residential units, and Hall's Hill Fire Station No. 8 where the new fire station is currently under construction.

CivFed Celebration Picnic Committee

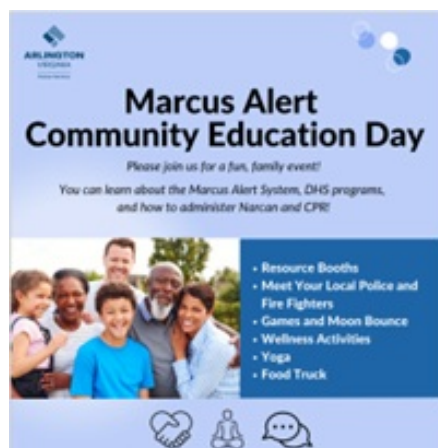
Our CivFed Celebration Picnic is scheduled for Sunday, June 25, 2023 at Lyon Park Community Center and we are seeking more volunteers to make sure this first year for the picnic is a great success.

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*

Marcus Alert - Community Education Day

by CivFed Public Services Mental Health Subcommittee



Come enjoy fun family activities and learn about Arlington's behavioral health resources and response system.

- Learn how to do CPR and administer NARCAN
- Get information at Resource Booths
- Meet Your Local Police and Fire Fighters
- Games and Moon Bounce
- Wellness Activities
- Yoga
- Food Truck

Day: Saturday, June 24

Time: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Location: Walter Reed Community Center, 2909 16th St S, Arlington, VA 22204

Register by scanning the QR code below:



Register at <https://forms.office.com/r/GcwNm5hbmF> or use the QR code.

For more information about Marcus alert:

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Departments/DHS/Marcus-Alert>

For questions contact: marcusalert@arlingtonva.us or mental.health.sc.chair@civfed.org

Call for Volunteers - Flyers and Banner Ups!

We are in need of a volunteer or two interested in helping us develop a new CivFed flyer, and a set of CivFed Banner Ups (pictured below to the left and right of the photo) for the Arlington County Fair. 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 May 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](#).

Arlington Public Schools Seeks Volunteers to Serve on Strategic Plan Steering Committee

Arlington Public Schools (APS) is seeking parents, community members, students, teachers, administrators and staff to serve on a Steering Committee that will work collaboratively with staff and community during the 2023-24 school year to develop a proposed six-year Strategic Plan for APS.

The Steering Committee will meet regularly (1-2 times/month) beginning in June 2023 through June 2024 to:

- Review APS performance data and external data
- Work together in developing a recommendation on proposed revisions to the Mission, Vision, Core Values, and Goals that is supported by community expectations and aspirations
- Share feedback on APS Staff's proposed Strategic Plan Implementation & Monitoring Elements (Strategies, Desired Outcomes, Measures, Performance Objectives and Key Performance Indicators)
- Gather and analyze community input and feedback throughout the process

Anyone who is interested in serving on the Steering Committee should complete an application that is available via this direct link: bit.ly/APSsteeringcommitteeapp2023 or through the following APS website: www.apsva.us/engage/2024-30-strategic-plan/

Application Window: April 14 - May 4, 2023

Date Applicants will be Notified of Selection: May 15-19

Date of Official Appointment & Public Announcement of Steering Committee: May 25, 2023

For additional information about the Steering Committee and process to develop the 2024-30 APS Strategic Plan visit: www.apsva.us/engage/2024-30-strategic-plan/

Any questions or inquiries can be sent to engage@apsva.us.

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 \(civfed.org\)](https://www.civfed.org/Pay-Member-Dues-Arlington-County-Civic-Federation). 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.

[The Civic Federation's Website](#)

ACCF Calendar FY2023

May

- 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, Arlington County School Board
- Sunday, 6/25: Board Meeting

July

- No General Membership Meeting, No Newsletter
- Sunday, 7/9: Board Meeting

August

- No General Membership Meeting, No Newsletter
- Sunday, 8/27 (TBR): Board Meeting

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