



Arlington County Civic Federation
FY2023 Nominating Committee
Adam R Henderson, Chair
Anne Bodine · Kathleen Trainor · David Smith · Edie Wilson

Fri 9 Jun 2023

FY2024 NOMINEE STATEMENTS

NAME: JOHN FORD
CANDIDATE FOR: PRESIDENT [INCUMBENT]
MEMBER ORG: TARA-LEEWAY HEIGHTS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

ACCF EXPERIENCE

John has served as the President of ACCF for this year 2022-2023. As chair of the Public Services Committee during past years, John led the development of an effective campaign to identify and address critical countywide flood mitigation and stormwater management. Through his work, the committee has drafted and passed 4 resolutions with guidance for the county in the approach to flooding and stormwater and he has been successfully leading coordination with the county staff to implement the recommendations. He has initiated and is coordinating a strategy to organize civic associations by watershed to develop and promote civic association collaborative plans and to identify priorities for the CIP. In his role as Chair of Public Services, John has also provided support for subcommittee leads on Public Safety, Community Mental Health, and individual members addressing public services issues ad hoc. Both subcommittees and ad hoc groups have developed and provided presentations to the ACCF membership on a wide range of range of topics including review of the Police Practices Group findings, the Marcus Alert mental health initiative, the consideration of a broadband authority for Arlington, and privacy issues with the Clarendon Innovation and Public Safety Zone.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

President, Tara-Leeway Heights Civic Association (2019 - current); Vice-President, Highland Park-Overlee Knolls CA 1983-86; Vice-President, Tara-Leeway Heights CA, 2017-19; President, Overlee Community Association 1984-86; Acting Ambassador in Belarus and The Bahamas during 33-year diplomatic career.

CURRENT ACCF POSITIONS

President; Member, Board of Directors; Committee Chair.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

John is highly skilled in leadership through an inclusive team management style that recognizes, welcomes, includes, and supports individual contributions through collaboration. As a career diplomat with the state department serving in management and at the top levels of embassies, John has lived in many cultures and demonstrated the highest skills in promoting collaboration among diverse cultures and perspectives.

PERSONAL STATEMENT

During the past year I have been privileged to lead the ACCF as President. This has been a challenging year in Arlington and for your Civic Federation. I believe that your board and officers have provided a packed agenda throughout the year with opportunities to listen and understand each other and opportunities to take actions to advocate for our critical issues. In September we held the traditional candidates' night but, this year, we have also already held lively panels with the announced candidates for the primaries and the general election of County and School Board members, Commonwealth's Attorney, and Sheriff. In October, we held a "civil conversation" on missing middle that was informative and represented multiple perspectives. In November, the TiGER briefed us and we took action to support changes in Arlington governance. In December we talked with the Manager and in January we met with the County Board and discussed our critical topics including missing middle, and the need for changes in civic engagement.

In February and March, we were all engaged on discussions about the County's public engagement and the need for improvement and, in March, we passed a significant resolution entitled "Restore the Public's Confidence in Arlington County Governance." I have been working with your board and officers and the County Board and Manager's office to identify and develop positive proposals to improve how our elected leaders plan policy and how staff plan, interact with, and respond to the community. In the currently fraught overall environment in the county, this process will require diligence. I am committed to continue the focus on this work in a collaborative effort with County leadership, and I will keep you advised and engaged.

This experience has not only reinforced my faith in ACCF as the county's leading civic voice, and in its enormous positive potential to improve our lives and our county. It has also granted me an opportunity to work with an extraordinarily talented and dedicated group of colleagues who I would be proud and honored to lead as we and the county continue to face these and other challenges.



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NAME: RON HADDOX
CANDIDATE FOR: VICE-PRESIDENT [INCUMBENT]
MEMBER ORG: COLUMBIA HEIGHTS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

ACCF EXPERIENCE

Ron has served the ACCF this year as the vice President and a member of the board of Directors. In this capacity Ron has frequently provided reliable experienced support for a wide range of activities for the board and the president. He is willing and able to step in as needed to support the president, the board, and committees. Ron has also served as the chair of the Legislative Committee for several years with a focus on social justice equity, and on cyber security and privacy education and protection for Arlington residents. He has worked collaboratively with the Public Safety subcommittee to provide input for presentations and areas of focus.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Ron is the long-time president of the Columbia Heights Civic Association and active participant with other Civic Association presidents on issues impacting the neighborhoods along Columbia Pike. Among other issues, Ron has been instrumental in bringing together both neighbors of the Walter Reed Community Center and groups representing the Pickleball players to share their interests and concerns and to collaborate on potential solutions. Ron has been an active member of the Arlington NAACP and served on their social justice committee and helped bring NAACP perspectives to the work of the ACCF Legislation committee he chairs. Ron has served on the Bicycle Advisory Committee and the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee.

CURRENT ACCF POSITIONS

Vice-President; Member, Board of Directors; Committee Chair.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

Ron has a record of outreach and bringing people together in a collaborative manner. He has been a strong advocate for diversity and inclusion of ACCF membership and has assisted with outreach.

PERSONAL STATEMENT

None provided.



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NAME: DAVID SMITH
CANDIDATE FOR: SECRETARY [INCUMBENT]
MEMBER ORG: BLUEMONT CIVIC ASSOCIATION

ACCF EXPERIENCE

David has served ACCF for the past year as Secretary and as a member of the Public Services - Stormwater Committee. David organized and established a structure for CivFed documentation (e.g. insurance, incorporation docs, member data, CivFed property, accounts/access) and re-built the member and delegate database giving ACCF the capacity to reach delegates through communications and to verify delegate votes conducted at general meetings. He has provided the primary tech support for managing the hybrid meetings for both the general meeting and the board meetings and he has produced minutes for these meetings on a quick turnaround and tracking of required follow-up to actions taken. David has been responsible for the regular member newsletter and meeting reminders and has edited and produced articles including regular committee reports, topics of interest to the members and meetings, and articles on special events sponsored by ACCF. As secretary, he has fielded numerous member questions as well as questions about potential new members. In addition to these regular activities, David has been a highly valued member of the officers and board in providing sound advice on a wide range of topics.

David was asked two years ago to take the lead in organizing the seven Civic Associations in the Lubber Run watershed to collaborate to protect residents and businesses against what have become frequent, damaging stormwater flooding events. Working with strong and independent-minded CA leaders, he has won them over by his careful attention to detail and to their particular interests. His written records of the group's meetings are timely models of brevity and completeness. He has earned their respect with his collaborative leadership style and willingness to compromise. He has forged a unified, highly successful group in representing his watershed to the county.

David's skills in attention to detail, and in writing and circulating timely operational records have contributed to the smooth functioning of the work group and helped facilitate the group formulation of strategies and statements for implementation. These skills have also been extremely valuable assets to the Civic Federation through his service as Secretary.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

David is currently the Bluemont Civic Association Treasurer and their delegate to the Civic Federation. David is an accomplished engineering and program manager with extensive leadership experience managing large teams, complex requirements, and cross-organizational solutions with both internal and customer teams. David currently leads the coordination of the Lubber Run Watershed multi-civic association work group.

CURRENT ACCF POSITIONS

Secretary; Member, Board of Directors; Committee Chair.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

David is known professionally for his adaptive/inclusive leadership style and has demonstrated the effectiveness of this style in including and engaging civic associations leaders with diverse backgrounds and perspectives. He will continue to bring this inclusive leadership style to the work of the Civic Federation.

PERSONAL STATEMENT

As secretary in FY23 I believe I made considerable progress organizing CivFed data, property, and member databases but there is more work to be done to set CivFed on a sound path for the future and I need another year to get that job done! As a new secretary for FY23 I was fortunate to get exposure to some very significant resolutions (TiGER, Public's Confidence), and in FY24 I aim to draw on that exposure and help shape and pass new resolutions that drive community benefit. As always, I aim to support my member offices, the board, the members and the broader mission of CivFed.



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NAME: JIM TODD
CANDIDATE FOR: TREASURER [INCUMBENT]
MEMBER ORG: CHERRYDALE CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

ACCF EXPERIENCE

Jim has served as the Treasurer for ACCF for this past year. In this capacity, in collaboration with the Secretary, he restored the CivFed ability to effectively collect dues from members, including past dues, He established, managed, and maintained a balanced budget reversing the trend to use savings to fund the annual budget. He also established a method for collecting donations and, working with a Board committee, began planning for a donation campaign, His work has put ACCF on the path to establishing a budget and revenue that will provide improved support for member services.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

In Jim’s professional career, he is a lead attorney at the Department of Justice for several long running class action suits with billions of dollars on the line. He has worked closely with forensic accountants and statisticians and has experience with preparing and reviewing financial statements and audits. Jim was appointed by the County Board as a member of the Lee Highway Renaming Commission, and he is an active member of the Langston Boulevard Alliance. Jim is a long-time president of the Cherrydale Civic Association where he has focused on engagement and community building through a wide variety of issues and events. He is a delegate to ACCF.

CURRENT ACCF POSITIONS

Treasurer; Member, Board of Directors; Committee Chair.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

Jim has demonstrated his commitment to fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment and to increasing diverse engagement through his community building activities and his skill in working with people with diverse backgrounds and perspectives.

PERSONAL STATEMENT

I am pleased to have established a balanced budget for the Civic Federation this year and would like the opportunity to work with others to increase revenue through a donation campaign so that ACCF will have more funds to support member services.

I have dedicated my entire adult life to public service, both as a government employee and as neighborhood volunteer. I relish any opportunity to take on issues from the small and mundane to the far-reaching and strategic. I love working with my fellow Arlingtonians both one-on-one and in groups large and small. I have become a bit of an amateur urban planner and transportation advocate.



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NAME: MARY GLASS
CANDIDATE FOR: BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AT-LARGE [INCUMBENT]
MEMBER ORG: ARLINGTON TREE ACTION GROUP (ATAG)

ACCF EXPERIENCE

Board of Directors; Chair, Environmental Affairs Committee.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

ATAG, Arlington Consortium for Tree Sustainability, Civic association officer.

CURRENT ACCF POSITIONS

Board of Directors, at-large; Chair, Environmental Affairs Committee.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

I am experienced with working with and leading diverse groups of people in my professional and volunteer career. I endeavor to lead by example and strive for consensus and buy-in on decisions.

PERSONAL STATEMENT

I will strive to improve the communications within CivFed by updating and expanding the use of the latest technologies and increased frequency of contacts. I would seek improved communications with the residents of the County and more actively advocate for positions taken by the CivFed membership.



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NAME: BENJAMIN WATTS
CANDIDATE FOR: TREASURER
MEMBER ORG: AURORA HIGHLANDS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

ACCF EXPERIENCE

Delegate for Aurora Highlands Civic Association.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

I have been the AHCA treasurer for the past couple years and have used my accounting skills and experience as a CPA to capture all the association's finances and membership payments on a integrated Excel workbook. This will help transition the position to future candidates. I have been in Arlington County for over 20 years and have worked on various community initiatives like getting dog parks created and speed enforcement initiatives for problem spots such as the large hill on 23rd Street South. Generally, I am very well known in the Aurora Highlands neighborhood from walking my dog(s) over the years.

CURRENT ACCF POSITIONS

None.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

I will continue to recognize and respect and treat equally people of all colors, creeds, and sexual orientation.

PERSONAL STATEMENT

As a long-time resident of Arlington, I really enjoy giving back to the community by using my professional skills from years of accounting and financial management jobs. I am a Certified Public Accountant in good standing registered in Virginia. My Microsoft Excel skills and knowledge of finance and cost accounting principles allow me to work as both a fiduciary and manager of the funds for Aurora Highlands Civic Association as the treasurer. Additionally, my financial analysis experience has allowed me to assist the Aurora Highlands association to make informed decisions about spending funds and affordability of financial initiatives. I will use those same skills and qualities to assist the ACCF.



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NAME: SCOTT MILES
CANDIDATE FOR: BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AT-LARGE [INCUMBENT]
MEMBER ORG: AURORA HIGHLANDS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

ACCF EXPERIENCE

Delegate for Aurora Highlands Civic Association since 2016. Alternate delegate for Friends of Aurora Highlands Parks since 2018. Served on ACCF board for 2022-2023.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Aurora Highlands Civic Association, President 2019-2021, Vice President 2016-2018; Friends of Aurora Highlands Parks, Volunteer 2015-Present. Center for Urban Education, Volunteer. Other misc neighborhood, tutoring, and animal welfare.

CURRENT ACCF POSITIONS

Board of Directors, at-large.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

As a middle aged white cis male, my identity doesn't contribute to DEI, but I am fully accepting of anyone's identity and feel it's a responsibility of anyone in a leadership position to respect, solicit, encourage, and welcome everyone in our local civic affairs.

PERSONAL STATEMENT

As president and vice president of the Aurora Highlands Civic Association for 6 years during both the lull and historic boom of activity in Pentagon City, I've had first-hand experience with neighborhood civics from organizing neighborhood events and publishing newsletters to negotiating with business, county, and state leaders. I believe the Civic Federation is a critical component to empower individual residents and civic organizations and to hold our County government accountable. I will support efforts for greater transparency, accountability, and inclusion, both with the County and within the Civic Federation.



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NAME: RICHARD R MCNAMARA
CANDIDATE FOR: BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AT-LARGE
MEMBER ORG: WOODMONT CIVIC ASSOCIATION

ACCF EXPERIENCE

None.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Former President of Woodmont, Woodmont Transportation coordinator, Boys Soccer and Basketball Recreation League coach.

CURRENT ACCF POSITIONS

None.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

I believe in diversity of perspectives and thoughts from all sources and work hard to seek to understand them. Often outreach is needed to gain acceptance and participation by those most affected. I practiced this throughout my professional career for the Federal Government.

PERSONAL STATEMENT

I am an engineer who spent a civil service career working for the Department of the Navy. Since retiring, I have continued to work to promote small businesses and teach them how to deal with the Federal Government. Likewise, I attempt to show residents of Arlington how to deal with the County officials and staff on issues dear to the residents - particularly in Woodmont where I have lived since 1978 and am a resident of Arlington since 1974. At times i have been President of both Parkway (before it became Woodmont) and Woodmont Associations and currently am delegate to ACCF. I tend to like fact-based decision making and I think the County has lost its way. I fully supported the recent ACCF "Restore Public Confidence" Resolution regarding county leadership.



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NAME: DAVE SCHUTZ
CANDIDATE FOR: BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AT-LARGE [INCUMBENT]
MEMBER ORG: ASHTON HEIGHTS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

ACCF EXPERIENCE

Current member, Board of Directors. Member TiGER task force on Arlington Form of Government. Current Chair, ACCF Parks and Recreation Committee.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Former President, Ashton Heights Civic Assn; former Chair, Arlington Park and Recreation Commission; former member, Site Plan Review Subcommittee.

CURRENT ACCF POSITIONS

Board of Directors, at-large.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

I intend to continue working to have all voices heard..

PERSONAL STATEMENT

I'm sort of an institutional loyalist for CivFed - think its historic role as an incubator of ideas for moving Arlington forward remains good and valuable to the community.



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NAME: MIKE MCMENAMIN
CANDIDATE FOR: BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AT-LARGE [INCUMBENT]
MEMBER ORG: MAYWOOD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

ACCF EXPERIENCE

Mike has a long history of service to ACCF including serving as a board member this past year and from 2018-2021. He also served as the President of ACCF from 2013-2015. As a member of the board, Mike helped promote a civil and respectful discussion of sensitive topics. He is known as a thoughtful leader and is particularly valued for his excellent judgement. As chair of Public Safety Group, Mike has coordinated the development of presentations to inform the members this year on Crime in Arlington and in prior years on topics including the findings of the Police Practices Group committees, a presentation on the pros and cons of potential Community Broadband, and a presentation on the public safety and privacy issues of the Clarendon Safety and Innovation Zone technology project.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

President of ACCF; President of Maywood Community Association; Member of the Arlington Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee; Former Arlington youth sports coach.

CURRENT ACCF POSITIONS

Board of Directors, at-large.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

Mike is committed to promoting engagement and to expanding the diversity of our Civic Federation. He will continue to make a significant contribution to an atmosphere that is welcoming and inclusive.

PERSONAL STATEMENT

None provided.



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NAME: NICHOLAS GIACOBBE
CANDIDATE FOR: BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AT-LARGE
MEMBER ORG: AURORA HIGHLANDS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

ACCF EXPERIENCE

I returned to Arlington last fall after a decade abroad with the State Department. Since then I have served as a delegate representing the Aurora Highlands Civic Association. Before going abroad I served as a delegate to ACCF representing our neighborhood.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

I also serve as the Recording Secretary of the Aurora Highlands Civic Association and am active on their leadership team. Professionally, I served as a senior Foreign Service Officer, most recently as the Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Pristina, Kosovo.

CURRENT ACCF POSITIONS

None.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

Arlington's biggest strength has always been its diversity and the ACCF can help foster diversity by serving as a safe venue for difficult conversations. I will encourage discussions that include a broad cross-section of our community and work to ensure that all voices are heard.

PERSONAL STATEMENT

None provided.



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NAME: ADAM HENDERSON
CANDIDATE FOR: BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AT-LARGE
MEMBER ORG: DOUGLAS PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION

ACCF EXPERIENCE

Chair of Bylaws Committee. Adam has used his organizational skills to focus on establishing structure and procedures to ensure continuity of operations as the ACCF conducts business and as it transitions leadership annually and continues to evolve in its mission and membership.

Communications support and webmaster. Adam has ensured continuity of management by maintaining access and updating accounts for the website and communication tools including Zoom, Constant Contact, a Google Drive, and Vimeo for several past ACCF administrations. As part of this critical responsibility, he has onboarded the current (and past) officers on their access and supported their use of these communication tools.

Parliamentarian. This year, the membership General Meetings have included topics and actions that have required support and education of members on how best parliamentary practices, including the adopted ACCF procedures, for maintaining civil productive conversation and action on controversial topics. Adam made a considerable contribution to the president and the members by providing parliamentary advice to guide discussions.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Chair of the Pike Presidents' Group (PPG) 2015-present. The PPG coordinates advocacy of the ten Pike Civic association presidents on issues such as transportation, development and flood mitigation. The PPG serves as the voice of residents along the Pike and has a close relationship with the Columbia Pike Partnership (CPP, formerly CPRO) which focuses on the business environment of the Pike corridor. Former President of the Douglas Park Civic Association (DPCA; 2013-2021) where he led neighborhood engagement on significantly controversial issues including school boundaries, Columbia Pike transportation improvements, and development. Member of the Executive Committee of DPCA 2009-present. ACCF delegate for DPCA 2013-present.

CURRENT ACCF POSITIONS

Bylaws and Rules Committee Chair. Nominating Committee Chair.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

In my opinion, developing a diverse organization begins with recognizing that every individual brings a unique contribution and perspective to the table because each of us has a unique life experience; an experience molded by our race, culture, sex, socio-economic status and many other factors. The job of a leader is to provide a welcoming environment where everyone can be comfortable in expressing those perspectives and where the audience is truly open to hearing those perspectives. Encouraging this openness and candor allows us as an organization to develop stronger solutions that better reflect the broad interests of the community that is Arlington..

PERSONAL STATEMENT

As a homeowner and resident of Arlington County for 25 years, I have been witness to enormous changes in the demographics and development of the county. I believe my leadership experience, from the executive suite to leading volunteer orgs can be useful to ACCF in re-invigorating its voice, influence, and relevance, by continuing to work to broaden the range of groups involved in the Federation. In addition, my track record of facilitating civil conversations on controversial topics amongst those with diverse viewpoints would strengthen the board..



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NAME: JACQUELINE SNELLING
CANDIDATE FOR: BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AT-LARGE (INCUMBENT)
MEMBER ORG: LYON VILLAGE CIVIC ASSOCIATION

ACCF EXPERIENCE

Jackie is currently an ACCF board member and Chairman of the Board. As a board member, Jackie has focused on assisting the president and officers to re-build the membership lists and dues payments, and to re-build the membership committees to engage members in building the ACCF capacity to address issues critical to members. She has helped re-start the Housing Committee and the Parks and Rec Committee and has taken initial steps to rebuild communications through initiating a scoping study done for the board by the former Communications Chair. The planning and engagement of both members and others in the conversation on Missing Middle served as a base for re-starting the Housing Committee and, with further outreach and engagement focused on a planning and zoning presentation, will provide the base for re-storing the Planning and Zoning committee. Jackie has also worked on outreach to increase membership of new and diverse organizations.

During the previous 3 years she served on the Public Services Committee where she worked on flood resilience, the Public Safety subcommittee, and co-chaired the Mental Health subcommittee. As part of work on flood mitigation, Jackie founded the Spout Run Watershed Planning Group of 10 residential and civic associations that has actively provided advocacy to DES, the manager and county board, and regarding Plan Langston Blvd. She supported presentations to members on Mental Health, law Enforcement and Mental Health, Broadband, and Covid Public Health.

Jackie has been active in ACCF since 2000. She served on and chaired the Public Services Committee for many years. She served on the board and as board chair in 2006 and 2007 and served as vice president in 2007.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Jackie served APS actively for 18 years. Activities included APS advisory committees including ACI, CCPTAs (newsletter editor), Facilities, Budget, English (chair), Early Childhood (chair), and After School committees. She jointly developed and led a team that resolved a significant boundary change for capacity and diversity. She developed a revised capacity study methodology that was adopted. She authored a comprehensive analysis of inequities in school achievement identified with race and culture and used the study to gain overlay funding for minority schools. In the 1990s, Jackie co-chaired the successful campaign and a referendum to restore Arlington's ability to elect their school board. School board elections resumed in 1994 after a forty-year absence. Jackie founded the Preparedness Advisory Committee for post 9/11 recovery and preparedness. Jackie initially chaired the committee advisory to the county manager and then served on the successor Preparedness Advisory Commission.

CURRENT ACCF POSITIONS

Member and Chair, Board of Directors.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

I am committed to the mission of CivFed to bring people together from different backgrounds and points of view to listen to each other, improve their understanding of different backgrounds and perspectives on civic issues and to work together to identify common objectives. I worked to provide a CivFed civil dialogue of differing points of view on the sometimes acrimonious topic of missing middle. I have been actively recruiting organizations of people with diverse backgrounds and individuals representing different points of view..

PERSONAL STATEMENT

I believe that ACCF has a critically important role in Arlington, particularly in times of significant change. In order to have the substantive recommendations and the voice for effective advocacy, we need ACCF to be inclusive and to have robust member committees to listen and learn from different perspectives and to engage our members in thoughtful recommendations for policies and actions.

I have been working this year on initial steps to build on the previous diversity initiatives to seek new members and to re-build member outreach services to ensure a strong and diverse membership base. I have also been working systematically to rebuild an active committee structure starting with 2 key committees. I worked with an open ad hoc planning group to develop the Missing Middle civil conversation presentation to membership. I have been building a similar open group to help our membership discuss the future vision and an improved planning process for the County and to restart the ACCF P&Z committee to develop specific recommendations.



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This process is challenging and time consuming, but we are rebuilding interest and engagement in ACCF and I'm excited by what we can accomplish. My goals for the upcoming year include summer work groups to plan a delegates' orientation session and peer-to-peer services, a P&Z work group and a new P&Z committee and restarting the communications committee to increase member communications and outreach capacity. I would be honored to continue to serve ACCF with a continued dedication to these goals.