



# Arlington County Civic Federation

## The Civic Voice

The Newsletter of the Arlington County Civic Federation  
July 2023 | Volume 107 | Number 11

### President's Message

A July CivFed newsletter is not an annual event. But your ACCF Board of Directors felt that we had enough to warrant this report to you.

First, I want to give our members an update on our interaction with the County Board and County Manager on engagement, pursuant to the March resolution passed by ACCF. Manager Mark Schwartz invited our Board to meet with him June 26 at the county offices. Almost every Board member attended in person. Among the issues we agreed upon were a hard look at county practices and procedures on FOIA requests, and a collaborative examination of the county website. We also agreed to work together on accessibility for the public to data sets and references to data sources used to support county policy recommendations and decisions.

There were several other subjects discussed, including a resumption of roundtable meetings involving civic associations, CivFed leadership and the manager. We will report on these as they develop more fully.

In addition to meeting with the Manager, other members of your Board and I have met with members of the County Board to identify and begin work on other matters of broad interest that were also key elements of the March resolution. One of these issues concerns County Board commissions – their composition, recruitment, meeting access practices and other issues of concern. Another involves how the County Board could improve its availability to receive and hear citizens' concerns.

Annual CivFed awards ceremonies were always a key element of our annual banquet, now suspended for the past several years due to COVID-19. The actual ceremonial presentation of awards, and respect and applause accorded to the recipients, has correspondingly been diminished. Accordingly, we published in the minutes of our June membership meeting the full text of the awards nominations for our many worthy recipients, and I commend those to you. You will find a link below.

The Arlington County Fair is upcoming August 16-20. This annual event warrants and has traditionally featured a robust CivFed presence, and we aim to provide that next month. But we need more of you to help us staff our booth at the fair and help to get our message out into the community. Please consider joining us at the fair if your plans have you in town in mid-August.

You'll also find below important reports from the Environmental Affairs and Housing Committees, and an appeal for more of you to join one of our many active committees as we continue to rebuild and restore those vital groups in the aftermath of COVID.

We'd like to engage all of you more in setting our agenda and in working with each other to share your expertise on activities to build capacity in your organizations and CivFed.

Look for a survey later in the summer and take a few minutes to give us your feedback.

We'll have more information on our September meeting in the August CivFed newsletter. Meantime, stay cool!

Best, John

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## June Meeting Outbrief

### 1) Annual CivFed Election Results

The annual election was held for FY24 positions. All positions were uncontested. See full report [here](#).

#### **Vote to elect officers for FY2024 (1 Jul 2023-30 June 2024)**

- President John Ford, 31 approve (82%), 7 no, 6 abstain
- Vice-President Ron Haddox, 40 approve (95%), 2 no, 3 abstain
- Secretary David Smith, 40 approve (95%), 2 no, 3 abstain
- Treasurer Benjamin Watts, 42 approve (98%), 1 no, 2 abstain

**John Ford, Ron Haddox, David Smith, and Benjamin Watts were elected as ACCF officers for FY2024.**

#### **Vote to elect board members at-large for FY2024 (1 Jul 2023-30 June 2024)**

- Nicholas Giacobbe, 43 approve (100%), 0 no, 2 abstain
- Mary Glass, 39 approve (93%), 3 no, 3 abstain
- Adam Henderson, 43 approve (100%), 0 no, 2 abstain
- Michael McMenamin, 39 approve (91%), 4 no, 2 abstain
- Richard McNamara, 41 approve (98%), 1 no, 3 abstain
- Scott Miles, 43 approve (98%), 1 no, 1 abstain
- David Schutz, 41 approve (93%), 0 no, 4 abstain
- Jacqueline Snelling, 32 approve (80%), 8 no, 5 abstain
- Jim Todd, 29 approve (81%), 7 no, 6 abstain

**The Bylaws provide for a board at-large of five to nine seats. All 9 candidates above were elected to the board at-large**

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### 2) Annual Visit by The Arlington County School Board

CivFed was pleased to have the Arlington County School Board, attend our membership meeting. Todd Truitt (CivFed Schools Committee Chair), led the discussion with Reid Goldstein (Chair) and David Priddy. Reid walked through a comprehensive chart deck which can be found [here](#), and then the board members supported Q&A questions, including these topics:

- % of students don't live in Arlington
- Advisory committee importance/role
- Priority of student literacy
- Administrative positions vs teaching positions
- Impacts on increased enrollment driven by development (i.e. Langston Boulevard)
- Interaction between Deans and students
- Legislation related to school board reforms (pay, size, etc)
- Career center



*From Left to Right: David Priddy, Reid Goldstein*

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### 3) Awards

CivFed's annual awards were handed out traditionally at the organization's celebratory banquet. But not for the past three years, as there has been no banquet, the awards were instead announced at our annual meeting June 13. The full awards write-ups can be found in the June [meeting minutes](#).

- **2023 Gazette Leader (formerly Sun-Gazette) Cup** – Adam Henderson (Douglas Park CA)
- **President's Award** – David Smith (Bluemont CA)
- **Certificates of Appreciation Group Award (Westover)** - Mark Greenwood (Highland Park – Overlee Knolls), Lilith Christensen (Westover Village), John Ford (Tara-Leeway Heights), Kathleen Trainor (HPOK), Mike Weinstein (Leeway-Overlee), Bob Ortung (WV), Rob Swennes (LO), Ed Cole (HPOK), Alyssa Cowden (TLH), Jim Little (HPOK)
- **Certificates of Appreciation Group Award (Missing Middle)** - Esther Bowring (Arlington Forest), Julie Lee (Glencarlyn) and Howard Solodky (Old Glebe)
- **Certificate of Appreciation Individual Award – Neighborhood Advocacy to Improve Hospital Project** – Michael Bruce (Waycroft-Woodlawn CA)

Video of the general membership meeting can be reviewed at the following links:

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

Full meeting minutes can be found here:

- [Meeting Minutes](#)

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## **Proposed New Member - African American Leadership Council of Arlington (AALCA)**

The AALCA has applied for membership in the Arlington County Civic Federation. At the June 25th meeting, the ACCF Board voted to recommend that the General Membership approve the AALCA's membership application. A vote will take place at the September General Membership meeting.

The African American Leadership Council of Arlington (AALCA) was founded in 2007 as

an African American grass root organization consisting of Civic Association Leaders, the Black Pastors of Arlington, Community Activists, Black Business Leaders, Black Elected Officials and others. The group held its first meeting at Macedonia Baptist Church, Arlington, VA, on March 7, 2007.

The mission of the AALCA is to share and discuss information on unmet needs and issues faced by families, friends, and neighbors in the African American community and to convey these issues to local businesses, county authorities and other organizations to seek solutions. The AALCA is independent and nonpartisan.

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**WHEREAS** the African American Leadership Council of Arlington has requested membership within the Arlington County Civic Federation.

**WHEREAS** the ACCF Membership Committee has reviewed the African American Leadership Council of Arlington membership request and has validated that the organization meets ACCF rules established by the bylaws, including that the organization has at least 20 members, that their demonstrated primary objective and principal work is consistent with the goals and purposes defined by the ACCF bylaws;

**WHEREAS** the ACCF Board voted on June 25 recommending that the General Membership approve the African American Leadership Council of Arlington membership application.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ACCF membership approves the African American Leadership Council of Arlington membership request and welcomes them as a new member.

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## **Gains and Struggles for Arlington's Environmental Affairs Need Your Energy**

*by Mary Glass, Environmental Affairs Committee Chair*

As delegates and alternates in ACCF, voicing your opinions is critical to shape Arlington's environmental objectives. Join the Environmental Affairs Committee to impact the following and other consequential topics.

### **Gains:**

- Inspired by two years of ACCF collaboratives and a March 2021 resolution, private citizens have funded the newly released *Tree Canopy Assessment of Arlington County, Virginia: An Analysis of Forest Cover and Benefits, June 2023*. This report is available to all citizens through the Arlington Consortium for Tree Sustainability (<https://www.arltreeconsort.net/>), a newly formed information hub for tree related organizations, individuals, and events. Information on tree canopy, plantable areas, and street trees is available for each neighborhood. The link to the report is <https://www.arltreeconsort.net/arlington-tree-canopy-report-and-maps>.
- ACCF members have provided valuable comments to the County on the June 1, 2023, draft *Forestry and Natural Resources Plan* (<https://www.arlingtonva.us/files/sharedassets/public/parks-amp-recreation/documents/draft-forestry-and-natural-resources-plan-june-2023.pdf>). Improvements and insights from these public comments are to be considered in the next draft. Although online comments are no longer being taken, any additional comments can be provided by email to [fnrp@arlingtonva.us](mailto:fnrp@arlingtonva.us) or telephone to 703-228-1865.

### **Upcoming Challenges:**

- Deer Management Project – **July 18<sup>th</sup> Public Comment Ends** – Project overview available at <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Projects/Project-Types/Parks-Projects/Deer-Management-Project> . Project will evaluate the need for active management of deer populations on County-owned lands. Management strategies to address negative ecological impacts (including trees) will include

various culling and treatment options. Individual members are encouraged to comment online or by email to [asegel-moss@arlingtonva.us](mailto:asegel-moss@arlingtonva.us).

- Tracking Enhanced Housing Options (EHO), “Missing Middle” implementation and impact on natural resources, water quality, stormwater, etc.
- Investigating urban heat islands and impacts on air quality, health, etc. Ozone levels increase with higher temperatures and disproportionately impact neighborhoods with more impervious surfaces and less vegetation. Equity implications arise from this and other environmental issues.

PLEASE JOIN US! As Arlington continues to grow, environmental awareness will be critical. We need your opinions and energy to address these topics. Delegates and Alternates are encouraged to help, but any members of ACCF member organizations are welcome to participate. Please contact the Committee Chair Mary Glass, [bod.member3@civfed.org](mailto:bod.member3@civfed.org).

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## Presentation on “Demographic Trends in Arlington”

*by Anne Bodine, Housing Committee Chair*

Register now for the July 20 Housing Committee meeting, which will be 100% virtual at this link: <https://uso6web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlpcu-tpjopGd1XCQd3IL5vWSOYsOXYA5h6>.

Have you ever heard anyone in Arlington cite the county's housing shortage when they are proffering ideas for Arlington's growth and development? But felt it could be explained in a more manageable, logical way? With some method that would better match actual housing project planning to the identified need? We have just the ticket for those seeking to enhance their understanding of these tricky equations.

Join us on Thursday, July 20 (6:30-8:00 pm) as the Housing Committee features one of its own, [Michael O’Grady](#), a VCU development economist and PhD candidate who will brief on "**Demographic Trends in Arlington**." Using highly-detailed census micro data, O'Grady will focus on population demographic trends in Arlington over the past decade, and will offer predictions for the next 5 to 10 years utilizing advanced statistical modeling. Along with this holistic picture of the county, Michael will break the trends down geographically (North and South Arlington) and into sub-groups for age, race/ethnicity, income, and employment. Finally, he will tie this into the current housing debate by giving a similar time series analysis of changes in Arlington’s housing stock." We welcome questions at the end of the presentation and are open to suggestions for ways to modify this tool for the Committee's and community's future reference.

Please contact [housing.chair@civfed.org](mailto:housing.chair@civfed.org) with any questions.

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## TiGER Update

In keeping with the wishes of the ACCF membership as expressed in the approved TiGER resolution of November 2022, [https://www.civfed.org/newContent/2022-11/2022-11%20ACCF%20TiGER%20Res\\_on\\_Recommendations\\_2022-06-08-APPROVED.pdf](https://www.civfed.org/newContent/2022-11/2022-11%20ACCF%20TiGER%20Res_on_Recommendations_2022-06-08-APPROVED.pdf) the ACCF Board instructed the President to advise the County Board in writing of ACCF's support for ranked-choice voting (RCV) in this November's election for the County Board. Unfortunately, by vote on 15 July 2023, the current County Board voted to conduct the November general election for the County Board under the traditional method. We are disappointed in this decision.

Please email [tiger@civfed.org](mailto:tiger@civfed.org) for any questions or concerns.

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# Arlington County Fair

The [Arlington County Fair](#) is scheduled for August 16-20. As part of our outreach effort, ACCF will sponsor a booth at the Fair again this year and we need help staffing the booth. Come join us in promoting the Civic Federation and our committees and in getting feedback from the public on their priorities for CivFed action. Please click this [link](#) to sign up for volunteering time slots.

A reminder to Committee chairs: If you would like a half-page statement regarding your Committee to be available for fair-goers, please submit that content to Board Vice-Chair Jackie Snelling at [bod.vicechair@civfed.org](mailto:bod.vicechair@civfed.org) no later than Friday 21 July 2023.

Please contact [secretary@civfed.org](mailto:secretary@civfed.org) if you have any questions.



## Engage Arlington

CivFed highly encourages members to check out Arlington County's [Engage Arlington](#) website. This website provides a listing of current engagement opportunities and much more. On the site you can also sign up for weekly updates on ways you can get involved with the community.



Civic engagement is at the heart of Arlington. Find a way to make a difference in your community — share feedback today, or find ways to get more deeply involved.

**Free NARCAN Training and Distribution Next Week**  
*Public Services Mental Health Subcommittee*

Learn how to reverse the effects of an opioid overdose and save a life! This free training will teach you the basics on the opioid epidemic and how to recognize and respond to an overdose. At the completion of the training you will be provided with free NARCAN nasal spray. [View or share a flyer about these trainings in English and Spanish here](#)

This summer, online trainings will be offered at 12 p.m. or 7 p.m. on August 2. Register for virtual training dates by emailing [narcan@arlingtonva.us](mailto:narcan@arlingtonva.us) with your preferred time.

For an in-person abridged training and Narcan distribution, drop by anytime between 3 and 6 p.m. on July 19 or August 16 at 2120 Washington Blvd, Room 112, no registration required.

Source: Arlington County Human Services Bulletin

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## Learn About New Options for Emergency Medical Service

*Public Services Mental Health subcommittee*

See a video by Dr. E. Reed Smith, Operations Medical Director for Arlington County Fire Department on YouTube <https://youtu.be/p7k3fLz7flo>

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## Seeking Member Priorities and Participation

**Watch for a survey in late July on your priorities on issues and member services.** We are seeking your input on the issues that should be our priorities for next year, the services that will help meet your needs as members, the services that you can provide peer-to-peer, and your participation on the CivFed committees that deliver on priorities, and services. We will be sending you an email later in July with surveys for your input on what you would like to see on our agenda. **Look for it soon.**

**Now is a great time to Join a committee.** During the summer, all of our committees will be working to identify their plans for next year and to recruit new members to work on the important actions and decisions that the County is planning for the fall, and the important actions we'd want to advocate that they take. Take a look at the committees on <https://www.civfed.org/about-us/committees/> and their work. If you are interested in any you can email the link for the chair of the committee on the committee page or you can email us at [joinus@civfed.org](mailto:joinus@civfed.org) and we will help you find the best match for your interests.

**We have a few committees that we are working to re-energize. If these are your issues, help us with your input.**

**Planning and Zoning.** We are starting the work to develop a discussion on Planning and Zoning for our October Membership Meeting. About 25 years ago, in 1986, a County Board task force developed a report for 2000 and beyond. Our initial thoughts are to discuss how to consider and develop a vision for Arlington's future of the next 25 years or so, and how we can work together to improve the P&Z process that implements the policy vision. We'll be working on planning the meeting this summer. If you have ideas or are interested in joining this informal discussion, please contact Jackie at [bod.vicechair@civfed.org](mailto:bod.vicechair@civfed.org).

**Communications – Meeting Support.** We've done all our meetings as hybrid meetings this year and are planning to continue the hybrid format next year. We want to make the format and the tech better. You can join the committee or just volunteer your expertise. We are also looking for student volunteers for General Membership meeting set-up, and Zoom management including audio and video. If you are interested, please contact [Secretary@civfed.org](mailto:Secretary@civfed.org).

**Parks, Green Space.** We have heard from you that you are concerned that we don't have enough unplanned natural space in the county and that the space we do have does not provide equitable access throughout the county. In 2021 our Parks and Rec Committee did a very detailed report and resolution on park and green space equity. You can read the

resolution at this [link](#).

We need to follow up on this resolution and report and work on next steps for advocacy. If you are interested, please contact Jackie at [bod.vicechair@civfed.org](mailto:bod.vicechair@civfed.org).

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## **2023-2024 Board of Directors**

### **Officers**

President, [John Ford](#)

Vice President, [Ron Haddox](#)

Secretary, [David Smith](#)

Treasurer, [Benjamin Watts](#)

### **Board of Directors**

Board Chair, [Adam Henderson](#)

Board Vice-Chair, [Jackie Snelling](#)

Member at Large, [Dave Schutz](#)

Member at Large, [Jim Todd](#)

Member at Large, [Mary Glass](#)

Member at Large, [Michael McMenamin](#)

Member at Large, [Nicholas Giacobbe](#)

Member at Large, [Richard McNamara](#)

Member at Large, [Scott Miles](#)

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## **ACCF PUBLIC INTEREST COMMITTEES**

- Cultural Affairs – Chair Tina Worden
- Diversity Committee – Chair TBD - if interested contact [bod.vicechair@civfed.org](mailto:bod.vicechair@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 [bod.vicechair@civfed.org](mailto:bod.vicechair@civfed.org)
- Public Services – Chair John Ford
- Revenues and Expenditures – Suzanne Sundburg
- Schools – Chair Todd Truitt
- Transportation – Chair TBD - if interested contact [bod.vicechair@civfed.org](mailto:bod.vicechair@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](#)**

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## **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 FY2024

#### August

- No General Membership Meeting, No Newsletter
- Sunday, 8/6: Board Meeting - If you are interested in attending, please [email the Board Chair](#)
- Wednesday, 8/30 (TBD): Board Meeting - If you are interested in attending, please [email the Board Chair](#)

#### September

- Monday, 8/21: Deadline for Newsletter Input
- Tuesday, 9/5: General Membership Meeting, Annual Candidates' Night
- Sunday, 9/10 (TBD): Board Meeting

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