



Arlington County Civic Federation

The Civic Voice

The Newsletter of the Arlington County Civic Federation
September 2023 | Volume 108 | Number 01

September General Membership Meeting

Location: Hazel Auditorium, Virginia Hospital Center

Date: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 @ 7:00 PM

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

Delegates: All requests for delegate swaps with alternates must be submitted to the secretary@civfed.org by **Sunday September 3rd at 12 noon**. No exceptions.

Options for attending the meeting:

1. **In-Person (Delegates, Other Guests):** No registration is needed to attend in-person.
2. **Facebook Live (Other Guests):** No registration is needed to watch the live stream which can be found on the [ArlCivFed Facebook page](#).
3. **Zoom (Delegates):** [Registration](#) is required by **Monday September 4th at 12 noon**. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. The Zoom passcode is 773492, but if you use the links provided after you register you will not have to enter it.

Meeting Agenda

- 7:00 - 7:10: Opening pledge of allegiance and brief administrative approvals - includes voting on [minutes](#).
- 7:10 - 8:45: Annual Candidates' Forum
- 8:45 - 8:50: September Preparedness Announcement
- 8:50 - 9:00: Vote on new Member - AALCA (see article below)

Reminder: Parking passes will be provided. Meetings are held in the 'Conference Center' depicted on the map below.



President's Message

School's back in session in Arlington this week, so the summer must be drawing to a close! As parents prepare for school, your Civic Federation board is preparing for what promises to be a busy and productive 2023-24 year. And as usual, this will launch with our annual candidates' forum on the day after Labor Day.

Our forum will feature four debates, covering the four contested elections on November's ballot.

Our leadoff debate will include the four candidates for two vacant County Board positions. They are: Independent Audrey Clement; Democrats Maureen Coffey and Susan Cunningham, and Republican Juan Carlos Fierro.

Elsewhere, what could have been a really crowded agenda has been winnowed down by the results of the June Democratic Party primary. Arlington's five constitutional officers (Commonwealth's Attorney, Treasurer, Commissioner of the Revenue, Clerk of the Court and Sheriff) face no opposition in the November general election.

Neither does the Democratic candidate for the one vacant School Board position, Miranda Turner. Her opponent, independent Vell Rives, has suspended his campaign, though he remains on the ballot.

None of these unopposed candidates will feature in our September 5 forum, nor will two of Arlington's three representatives in the Virginia House of Delegates. Only new District Three, which includes part of Alexandria, is contested this year. Incumbent Democrat Alfonso Lopez is opposed by Independent Mike Webb.

Two new Senate districts cover Arlington. The new 40th includes virtually all of Arlington north and west of Interstate 395. Incumbent Democrat Barbara Favola is opposed by Republican David Henshaw. The new 39th district, with a slice of Arlington on the Alexandria side of I-395, features a contest between incumbent Democrat Adam Ebbin and Republican Sophia Moshasha.

We look forward to welcoming all these candidates on September 5.

Also on our agenda will be a membership vote on the application to join us from the

African American Leadership Council of Arlington (AALCA), an independent, non-partisan organization actively participating in our civic life for over 15 years.

Looking ahead, we're pleased to announce the post-COVID return of the well-received roundtable discussions with County Manager Mark Schwartz. Two of these are scheduled for the first half of October, as follows from a forthcoming county notice:

"Please join us for informal roundtable conversations co-hosted by County Manager, Mark Schwartz, and Civic Federation President John Ford.

During these sessions, civic and condo association leaders will have the opportunity to share early thoughts with the County Manager about the FY 2025 budget considerations and offer insights about their experiences as leaders in our community. Participants will also have the chance to share best practices and opportunities in areas related to enhanced communications, expanded membership, and organizational growth. During our time together, we hope to also explore strategies for building equitable engagement and participation across all our collective efforts."

These two roundtables will be held on Monday, October 2 from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. at Arlington Mill Community Center and on Thursday, October 12, also from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. at John M Langston Community Center.

These sessions have in the past offered a good opportunity to interact with the top executive in the county government and key members of his staff, and I urge appropriate member organizations to ensure that they are represented. More details will be forthcoming, but please do mark your calendars.

We're looking forward to a good civic year ahead, with exciting programming and more substantive, single-subject sessions outside our normal monthly meeting schedule.

A priority for us this year will be reaching out to new members and to our current members for participants on our committees.

In October, for example, we will devote most of our membership meeting to a civil examination of all sides of the prickly planning and zoning issues in the county. We are hoping to attract new member interest and participation around this issue, which is sure to be at the center of public discourse in the months to come.

In this connection, you will read elsewhere in this newsletter about our new survey of members. Please take a moment and give us your thoughts. We want to get your feedback on priorities for meetings and services.

See you along on the ride!

Best,
John

Fair Outbrief

by David R Smith, CivFed Secretary

The Arlington County Fair was a big success. Special thanks to Ron Haddox, Jackie Snelling, and Adam Henderson for organizing and preparing for the Fair this year. We engaged the community through our 'find and mark your home on the civic association map' and we took input on community interest areas for the upcoming year. We were thrilled that forty people signed up to receive our newsletter. Community interest areas included:

- Ranked choice voting
- Affordable and missing middle housing
- Climate and mitigation measures
- Deer population
- Fiscal responsibility
- Parks, trails, and pickleball

- Retention of small businesses & vacant office space
- Improvement to schools
- Traffic enforcement
- Safety in our neighborhoods

Adam Henderson will address community interest input in the October newsletter.



Photo: CivFed Board Chair Adam Henderson at our County Fair Booth

From the Board Chair

To all delegates, alternates, and followers of ACCF, greetings and welcome to another busy year of ACCF activities! Since the fiscal year began on July first, the ACCF leadership team, including fellow new board members Nick Giacobbe and Dick McNamara, has been busy with planning for the year ahead. ACCF President John Ford has touched on some highlights of the first couple of months elsewhere in this newsletter, but I'd like to focus on some broader themes for the year. Simply put, we are looking to you to help guide us in making CivFed more relevant and useful for you as member organizations. To do that, we will be increasing our two-way communications with you and seeking your input on what is important to you. Look for a survey on your thoughts in a CivFed email shortly after the September General Meeting. We are also looking to reinvigorate our committees—the heart of what we do—as well as seeking new member organizations who can add fresh perspectives and engagement. While doing this, we will also seek ways to improve the

character of our conversations; a vigorous yet civic and respectful debate on even the most contentious of issues. A full plate, yes, but one that we trust will build on our one-hundred seven year-old legacy as the 'civic voice of Arlington County'.

I will be sharing more on these initiatives in the months ahead, but for now a bit of housekeeping. As you recall, the membership voted in June to amend our bylaws to make the annual membership recertification and dues deadlines concurrent, with a common due date of November 20th. I am pleased to tell our members that the board adopted our FY2024 budget on August 6th, and held dues to \$65 per organization for the third consecutive year. Look for more information soon on this annual process from our Secretary and Treasurer. When this process begins, please respond promptly. We want all of you in good standing and able to participate in the interesting conversations we have ahead.

Until next month,
Adam R Henderson
ACCF Board Chair

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. AALCA members have worked together on a broad range of issues including questions for candidates for public office, Arlington law enforcement and judicial system topics, Arlington Public Schools Board priorities, and topics related to inclusion and equity in Arlington County staffing. The AALCA is independent and nonpartisan.



Proposed Resolution

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.

September is National Preparedness Month

from Arlington CAART (Community Advancing Resilience and Readiness Together)

September is National Preparedness Month, the perfect time to raise awareness about and prepare for an emergency or disaster. Here are a few things you can do today to prepare your household:

- **Stay Informed:** Identify multiple ways to get information before, during, and after an emergency. Sign up for [Arlington Alert](#), turn on [Wireless Emergency Alerts](#) on your cell phone, and know your local TV and radio stations.
- **Gather Emergency Supplies/Build a Kit:** Being prepared means having food, water, and other supplies to last several days. Gather emergency supplies, and if possible, [build an emergency kit](#). This doesn't have to cost money: many items you might have around the house can go into a kit, like spare blankets, toiletries, pet supplies, and more.
- **Prepare Older Adults:** The 2023 NPM campaign focuses on preparing older adults for disaster, specifically older adults from communities disproportionately impacted by emergencies. [Find resources](#) to help older adults be prepared.

Find more preparedness tips and resources on how you can celebrate National Preparedness Month at arlingtonva.us/prepmonth. And remember, disasters don't plan

ahead—but you can!



FY24 Budget

by Ben Watts, CivFed Treasurer

The CivFed annual budget for FY24 has been approved and can be viewed at [this link](#). The board agreed to maintain dues at \$65 for the following year. Thanks to some concessions from our service providers, expenses remained relatively flat compared to last year. Total expenses, including contingency, are expected to be \$5,194.

Please contact treasurer@civfed.org if you have any questions.

Annual Certification and Dues

by David R Smith, CivFed Secretary

In FY23 we passed a resolution which aligned our certification date and dues date to November 20th. We will soon begin reaching out to the officers of member organizations to complete our online form and pay dues. To expedite the process and keep things simple we will request that each member organization delegate one officer who can provide certification data as well as pay the dues.

Please contact David Smith, secretary@civfed.org, with any questions.

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, [Michael McMenamin](#)

Member at Large, [Nicholas Giacobbe](#)

ACCF PUBLIC INTEREST COMMITTEES

- Cultural Affairs – Chair Tina Worden
- Diversity Committee – Chair TBD - if interested contact 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
- Public Services – Chair John Ford
- Revenues and Expenditures – Suzanne Sundburg
- Schools – Chair Todd Truitt
- Transportation – Chair TBD - if interested contact 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](#)

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

September

- Tuesday, 9/5: General Membership Meeting, Annual Candidates' Night
- Sunday, 9/17: Board Meeting

October

- Monday, 9/25: Deadline for Newsletter Input
- Tuesday, 10/10: General Membership Meeting
- Sunday, 10/15: Board Meeting

September

- Monday, 10/30: Deadline for Newsletter Input
- Tuesday, 11/14: General Membership Meeting

- Sunday, 11/19: Board Meeting

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