



# Arlington County Civic Federation

## The Civic Voice

**The Newsletter of the Arlington County Civic Federation  
July 2024 | Volume 108 | Number 11**

### **President's Message**

While the summer months of July and August do not feature monthly membership meetings of your Arlington County Civic Federation, your Board of Directors has been busy with planning for the upcoming 2024-25 season and are actively sponsoring outreach and events for August.

At our June 23 organization meeting for the new ACCF Board of Directors, Bluemont CA treasurer and former CivFed secretary David Smith was unanimously elected as the new Board chair, replacing Adam Henderson in that leadership position. New Board members are Jean Henceroth (president of Leeway-Overlee CA), incoming Civ Fed Secretary Matt Gloudeman (president of Westover Village CA), Paul Holland (vice president of Waverly Hills CA) and former CivFed president Allan Gajadhar.

On the day after their installation, the new Board members joined our traditional June meeting with County Manager Mark Schwartz and his senior community outreach team for what is always a lively exchange of views. One concrete result of that meeting is the continuation of our popular series of community roundtables with the Manager.

The next roundtable will be held on Thursday September 12 at 7:00 p.m. at Lubber Run Community Center. County staff will be reaching out with details and invitations soon. But I encourage you to let me know of your interest in joining this discussion event as soon as you can so we can ensure your place.

Another date to mark on your calendars is Monday August 19. That is the date for a CivFed-sponsored public forum on Ranked Choice Voting and other form of government issues. The forum will be held at the County Board room on the third floor of the Bozman Building in downtown Arlington, and we are planning for a 7:00 p.m. start. There may be breakout sessions earlier in the day. We will get out the word as this evolves.

Our members well know that CivFed's TiGER committee has stimulated a robust public discourse on alternatives to the county's current form of government and elections; the August 19 meeting is designed to reignite that discourse in advance of the fall political season. If you are passionate or curious about these important issues, please plan to join our forum.

We will once again have a booth at the Arlington County Fair. If you are at the fair,

stop by our booth and if you'd like to help staff it, see the article and below by Nick Giacobbe. We still have lots of time slots available for volunteers to help get the word out about CivFed.

Also in August and going forward, we are continuing our efforts to revive and recruit for CivFed's numerous committees that form the backbone of our policy development efforts. In that connection, I'm delighted to announce that former Aurora Highlands CA president Cory Giacobbe has assumed the position of co-chair for parks on our Parks and Recreation Committee. More info on Cory's many qualifications for this position are below, but her leadership will reinvigorate a vital committee that has frankly been dormant for too long.

Looking further ahead, we are actively planning for our traditional candidates' forum on Tuesday, September 3 at Virginia Hospital Center's Hazel Auditorium. This event serves as the kickoff to Arlington's busy political season, and this year will afford an opportunity for several new candidates to introduce themselves to our community.

Our October and November meetings will feature an innovative approach to the critical issues we all face in the often-overlapping issues of housing, planning and zoning and climate change adaptation. We're still developing these programs, but I think they will address some of the most critical issues on our countywide agenda. More information will follow in the weeks to come.

Meantime, please take care with your and your family's health as we all try to cope with our record-breaking heat.

Best,  
John Ford  
President

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## June General Membership Outbrief

The annual election was held for FY25 positions. All positions were uncontested. Here are the vote percentages:

### OFFICERS

- President John Ford
- Vice-President Nick Giacobbe
- Secretary Matt Gloudeman
- Treasurer Benjamin Watts

### DIRECTORS AT-LARGE

- Director At-Large Allan Gajadhar
- Director At-Large Ron Haddox
- Director At-Large Jean Henceroth
- Director At-Large Paul Holland
- Director At-Large Mike McMenamin
- Director At-Large Richard McNamara
- Director At-Large David Schutz
- Director At-Large David Smith
- Director At-Large Jacqueline Snelling

Meeting Video Link: [Arlington Cty Civic Fed \[ACCF\] \(vimeo.com\)](#)

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## June 11 EOY Reports to Membership

In order to provide membership with a review of the year and priorities for next year, representatives of each of the CivFed committees gave highlights of their key activities this year and plans for next year.

**Arts and Culture** – Co-Chairs Tina Worden and Sandi Chesrown – Jackie Snelling reported the following highlights on behalf of the committee:

- This year the committee changed its name to Arts and Culture, added a co-chair, brought in two new member organizations relating to the arts, and kicked off a new series of in-person meetings and engagement held at MoMA as part of the renewed focus on expanding the network for supporting the arts.
- Activities included increasing County support for the arts and for places for art with recognition of significant new funding for Arts and support for including a board priority for preserving and expanding spaces for art.
- The September meeting include Board member Susan Cunningham and the chair of the Arts Commission.

**Environmental Affairs** – Mary Glass, chair, presented the highlights.

- Using data from the citizen funded tree canopy study, the committee has continued its focus on tree canopy through tree conservation and tree replacement.
- In addition, in discussions of priorities they have identified lot coverage, climate adaptation and heat islands, deer management and support for implementing the Forestry and Natural Resources Plan as areas of interest.
- The committee hosted two meetings for coordination with others, a meeting with other committees to discuss climate adaptation priorities and roles, and a public town format on meeting on deer management.

**Housing** – Co-chairs Anne Bodine and Matt Hall, presented by Anne Bodine

- The committee has hosted a monthly series of expert educational presentations by leaders in the field to get a broader understanding the housing market, strategies used in other jurisdiction, the impact of taxes on housing burdened residents, and to discuss potential tools for tracking Arlington progress on affordable housing.
- Presentations posted on the committee page at <https://www.civfed.org/about-us/committees/housing/>. Examples include an overview of housing challenges, and successes in the DMV, Office to Residential Conversions, Land Trusts in Expensive Housing Markets, Arlington in Data, 2010-2021', Housing and Plan Langston BLV, an affordable housing case study by APAH, Housing and the Columbia Pike Form Based Code, and a “middle” approach to EHO.
- The committee is working on two resolutions for the fall, one on a tool for tracking progress on affordable housing, and one on the impact of tax increases for “home burdened” residents.

**Legislation** – Paul Holland, chair. Presented by Dave Schutz, Form of government subcommittee chair

- This is a service committee with the role of bringing forward state legislative priorities coming from other committees and the form of government subcommittee. This year’s resolution included legislative proposals for expanding county authority related to tree canopy, stormwater, and governance.
- This year, the former TIGER Task force was established as a subcommittee and has provided several educational presentations on rank choice voting. In addition, in response to an offer by the County Board president, the subcommittee on form of government will be hosting a community meeting this August on form of government, the committee will host this in August.

**Parks and Recreation** – No chair at time of the meeting, presented by Jackie Snelling

- The president will be announcing a new chair this month.
- Past and future members of the Parks Committee were recruited to develop the April CivFed presentation on green space equity and a holistic biophilic approach to planning. In this presentation Jon Huntley built on and updated the significant work that he and other members of the previous committee in 2021 that developed a white paper and a resolution on green space equity.

**Planning and Zoning** – Presented by Brian Harner, Chair

- This is the first year of a re-established P&Z committee.
- Initial meetings reviewed Comprehensive Plan models from other jurisdictions including the topics covered and principles. Discussions identified a priority to balance growth and environmental protections to consider how to incorporate this balance into the Comprehensive Plan.
- A series of meeting introduced a tool using the FAR (floor area ratio) to look at current zoning from two perspectives 1) overall density and housing growth and the availability for growth related to established goals, and 2) how to analyze lot coverage and density at the lot level to balance community goals for housing with goals for environment
- The Committee has now established three subcommittees (see the article in this newsletter) on the Comp Plan (compared to others and balance), lot coverage balance density and growth, and a Special GLUP focus. These areas will be focus for next year

**Public Services** – Presented by John Ford, chair and subcommittee chairs

- The charter for Public Services establishes this committee with a broad range of potential areas and the task of focusing on current priorities. Currently there are three primary focus areas and subcommittees for each.

**Public Safety** – Presented by Mike McMenamin

- The primary issues for the committee are understanding and improving strategies for addressing crime, and supporting effective strategies for officer retention and recruitment to maintain and develop a police force to meet the challenges of public safety. The committee tracks these issues through reviewing data, meetings with law enforcement, and questions for policy makers. CivFed has a representative on the Police Chief's Advisory Committee that meets monthly.
- The committee has provided recommended questions for the Manager, the county board and for candidates that have addressed the Civic Federation.
- This year the committee co-hosted a Community Policing Workshop with ACPD that included the chief and other officers as well as a presenter from the Ballston Mall and from county Marcus Alert program. The workshop discussed specific challenges and tips, reviewed and provided suggestions for a new crime data tool that is geographic and searchable, and discussed how neighborhood and civic associations can improve collaboration.
- Next year will continue working with CAs and bringing CAs together to facilitate regular collaboration.

**Health and Wellbeing (formerly Mental Health)** – Presented by Jackie Snelling

- This subcommittee name has changed to reflect a broader focus on health to include physical and mental health and overall wellbeing,
- The committee brought together people who had worked on Destination 2027 for Health equity, and included a focus on Health Equity with Dr, Varghese for the April CivFed general membership meeting.
- The committee has continued to be represent CivFed in the development of

the Marcus Alert program that establishes a cross cutting continuum of engagement and services with law enforcement and mental health.

**Stormwater** – Presented by John Ford

- There is close coordination and regular liaison with DES and regular briefings on the development of the stormwater utility, the RAMP (risk Assessment Management Plan) for stormwater. on plans for the 5 critical watersheds
- The subcommittee is working with the Environment and other committees to focus on climate adaptation and to develop a more comprehensive program for the October and November general membership meetings.
- There is regular coordination with the leaders of civic association groups for each of the identified critical watersheds of Spout Run, Lubber Run, Torreyson Run, Crossman Run, Columbia Run and Doctors Run.

**Revenues and Expenditures** – POC Suzanne, presented by Jerry Auten committee member

- Online discussions included the FY 25 budget, the County debt service as a matter of concern, Banking stability, the state budget, and other topics.
- The committee provided regular newsletter articles on budget topics.
- Next year the committee will review FY 26 and continue on-line discussions.

**Schools** – Presented by Todd Truitt, chair

- The focus has been on managing the March and April General Membership meetings with the Superintendent and the School Board. The committee solicited questions from all committees and any member submissions and reviewed to select key topics.
- Next year the committee will manage these meetings as well as a Spring and Fall Forum for the open seats.

**Transportation** – Presented by Joe Pelton

- A coalition mostly focused on airport noise and safety and some on multi-modal
- They have been working closely with Don Beyer and Senators re flights to/from National Airport for both noise and safety.
- Next year we need more focus on safety with expanded flights for this most intensively used airport in country. Civ Fed should consider a new resolution re the safety standards.
- A committee with broader membership should address multi-modal transportation, and look at the broad issues related to telework and energy consumption.

**Audit** – Presented by John Ford, chair

- The books have been reviewed and received a positive report.

**Banquet** – Presented by Nick Giacobbe, chair

- After a five year hiatus, the committee planned and held the 108<sup>th</sup> anniversary banquet and awards ceremony on April 12 with over 100 attendees.

**Communications** – Presented by Adam Henderson, chair

- Reconstituted last year, this year most of the members are officers and directors. The committee developed a revised a new charter approved by board that spells out the roles for each of the tasks.
- In addition to the established roles, the workplan this year has focused on Ron Haddox providing support for CAs for list servs and websites.

**Bylaws** – Presented by Adam Henderson

- Last year this committee was very active, but this year no issues have required meetings. Work has included updating drafts or formalizing the boundary procedures and the committee procedures.

**Membership** – Eric Cassel, chair, presented by Allen Norton, committee member

- The committee reviewed 5 membership applications and forwarded 4 to the board for approval.
  - African American Leadership Council of Arlington (AALCA)
  - League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)
  - The Arlington Chorale (TAC)
  - Arlington Artists Alliance
- An accomplishment included improving the process with the introduction of an on-line application form.

**Board Report** – Presented by Adam

Board works throughout the year, transition at the June meeting and throughout the summer. Board and CivFed accomplishments this year include:

- First annual banquet since 2019
- Participation in the Arlington County Fair with new collateral and fresh look
- Balanced budget and able to keep the dues low at 65
- Reconstituted committees for Communications, P&Z, Legislation, Task force form of Government, renamed Arts and Culture
- Revised charter for Communications, and for Form of Government
- Conducted a member survey and worked to implement priorities, particularly designing meetings with more time for member interaction
- Outreach to the County Manager and the Board on implementation of resolutions particularly the action plan from the 2023 resolution to Restore Public confidence, R&E resolutions.
- Recommended 4 new members to the membership and welcomed all four
- Reviewed the 2024 Legislation committee resolution

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## **ACCF Booth at Arlington County Fair**

*by Nicholas Giacobbe, Fair Chair*

We are gearing up for our annual presence at the Arlington County Fair next month. Looking ahead to the August heat, we will have a nice cool corner location inside the TJ gym for our booth. We're looking forward to speaking with (and recruiting) interested Arlingtonians to let us know their concerns and join our efforts.

We need your help staffing the booth on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, August 16 to 18. Most of our shifts are two hours. If you have availability, and would like to help out -- while having a good time and engaging with your neighbors, please [sign up here!](#) For those of you who have already signed up for a shift, thanks!

Please contact Nick Giacobbe at [vicepresident@civfed.org](mailto:vicepresident@civfed.org) if you have any questions or would like to help with our booth.



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## Parks and Recreation Committee

We are pleased to announce that ACCF has appointed Cory Giacobbe as the new Parks Co-Chair for the Parks and Recreation Committee (P&R). Cory has a great background working as an Arlington Tree Steward, as a past civic association president, and professionally with experience in education and outreach related to environment and natural resources. Cory will be working this summer to re-constitute the Parks Committee.

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### Cory Giacobbe, Chair, Parks

I'm looking forward to serving as Parks co-chair on the ACCF Parks and Recreation Committee. I support finding ways to protect, enhance, and increase Arlington's parks for the role they play in the community and ensuring that they support health, climate, and habitat. Green space is central to our well-being, and all Arlington residents should be able to access a park within walking distance. I'll be reaching out to meet with County and civic leaders who play a role in parks and how they support Arlington's environment, urban forest, and overall ecology. I need your help to identify cross-cutting issues as we collaborate to find practical solutions that will serve the community, the ecosystem, and our overall health. If you have ideas about how we can focus effectively on priorities for parks, I'd like to talk with you. Please contact



me at [parks.rec.chair@civfed.org](mailto:parks.rec.chair@civfed.org)

There will be a P&R organizational meeting Monday July 29 by Zoom starting at 7pm. To join the meeting, please register at:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEvdU-upjssHNdgdIt-IW-RWuGdVmAqlUm>

If you are you interested in the committee but can't make this meeting, please email me, Cory, at [parks.rec.chair@civfed.org](mailto:parks.rec.chair@civfed.org).

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## **CivFed Arts and Culture Committee Success Stories**

*by Jean Henceroth, ACCF Board*

At the May 28, 2024, Arlington County Board Meeting, Mark Schwartz, County Manager, announced that Lee Center will not be demolished after his staff presented its draft summary of the FY 2024-2034 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) to the County Board. The CIP included \$15.6 million for Lee Community Center in FY 2030. The County Manager had previously included \$250,000 in its FY2025 Operating Budget to assess the building to determine a conceptual cost estimate to bring the existing building to public use standards. The County will use the study results to evaluate future uses of the building which would best meet the greater community's needs.

This concluded approximately two years of advocacy by the Leeway Overlee Civic Association community to preserve and renovate this 100-year-old school building. The Civic Association has a long history with the building: its first meeting was held in it on May 7, 1925. Several other community constituents in the Langston Boulevard Corridor, including the arts community, had advocated for years to save the building.

The Leeway Overlee Civic Association will partner with the Langston Boulevard Alliance and other civic associations along the Langston Boulevard corridor to collaborate with Arlington County to evaluate future uses for the building which would ideally include a Community Center and space for arts.

The building known as Lee Center was designed by a then well-known architect, Percy Crowley Adams, who also designed a total of six elementary schools in the 1920s as well as the Longworth House Office Building, the Avalon theater in Chevy Chase, the Rixey Mansion at Marymount, the original Washington Lee High School in Arlington, as well as apartment and government buildings in DC and up the east coast.

Originally built in 1925 as the Robert E. Lee Elementary School, it was expanded in 1957 with the addition of a multi-purpose room/cafeteria and closed in 1971.

For more information, please contact: Co-Chairs Sandi Chesrown and Tina Worden at [arts.culture.chair@civfed.org](mailto:arts.culture.chair@civfed.org).

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## **CivFed Housing Committee**

*by Anne Bodine and Matthew Hall, Housing Committee Co-Chairs*

The Housing Committee will hold its July meeting exceptionally the last week of the month, on Tuesday, July 30 from 6:30-8:30 pm.

Please join at 6:30-7:30 as Executive Kate Toth provides lessons learned from her Organization [Bricks and Mortals](#) which partners with religious institutions in the NYC area to redevelop properties or find ways to maximize their real property assets. Arlington has also seen a number of religious institutions pursue redevelopment activities; both through APAH and Wesley Housing. We'd like to see if there are patterns or policies and ways to bring the larger community into the discussion as these community-based venues look to the future.



Register here: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYkf-yhqzgjG9JIK1czxOmNSSMHk8MMQ5XG>

Please email [housing.chair@civfed.org](mailto:housing.chair@civfed.org) for more information.

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## **Son of TiGER will Roar! (or, well, news from the Form of Government subcommittee of the Legislation Committee)**

*by Dave Schutz, Form of Government Committee Chair*

The County has recruited CivFed to organize a meeting about Form of Government and has offered the County Board room and County resources for making it publicly available. This meeting will be on 19 August. From the County side, this provides them with some input on Form of Government issues for the Arlington 2050 document and also is a response to their agreement with the Arlington delegation to the House of Delegates that there would be a public meeting on these issues in the aftermath of the postponement of consideration of Delegate Hope's bill on equalizing Arlington's authorities to determine its own Form of Government with the authorities of other jurisdictions in the Commonwealth.

The Form of Government subcommittee is currently developing background materials and a publicity strategy for this meeting. We will welcome any advice from CivFed members! Email to the subcommittee: [formofgov.chair@civfed.org](mailto:formofgov.chair@civfed.org)

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## **CivFed Planning and Zoning Committee Update**

*by Brian Harner, Planning and Zoning Co-Chair*

At the June meeting, the Planning and Zoning Committee identified three subcommittees that the Committee will work through to focus on the priorities for next year. We will be working this month on organizing at the subcommittee level so we will not hold a July Committee meeting.

If you'd like to join the P&Z Committee and work on one of these subcommittee areas, please email the Committee Chair, Biran Harner at [plan.zone.chair@civfed.org](mailto:plan.zone.chair@civfed.org) Or, send an email directly to the chair of the subcommittee that you'd like to work on.

The three subcommittees and the chairs and their contact information are:

**Subcommittee on Visioning and comprehensive Plan**, Jane Siegel Chair.

Email Jane at [compplan.sc.chair@civfed.org](mailto:compplan.sc.chair@civfed.org)

**Subcommittee on Lot Coverage, height, and setbacks**, Bill Richardson, Chair. Email Bill at [lotcov.sc.chair@civfed.org](mailto:lotcov.sc.chair@civfed.org)

**Subcommittee on General Land Use Plan Change process**, Jack Spilsbury, Chair. Email Jack at [glup.sc.chair@civfed.org](mailto:glup.sc.chair@civfed.org)

For more information, please contact Brian Harner, Chair for ACCF Planning and Zoning, [plan.zone.chair@civfed.org](mailto:plan.zone.chair@civfed.org).

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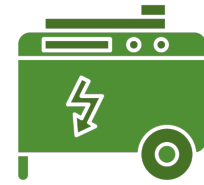
## **Generator Safety**

Generators can be helpful when the power goes out. It is important to know how use them safely to prevent carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning and other hazards.

- Generators and fuel should always be used outdoors

and *at least* 20 feet away from windows, doors and attached garages.

- Install working carbon monoxide detectors on every level of your home. Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas that can kill you, your family and pets.
- Keep the generator dry and protected from rain or flooding. Touching a wet generator or devices connected to one can cause electrical shock.
- Always connect the generator to appliances with heavy-duty extension cords.
- Let the generator cool before refueling. Fuel spilled on hot engine parts can ignite.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions *carefully*.



Source: <https://www.ready.gov/power-outages>

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## Arlington County Preparedness Campaign

**Extreme Heat:** As temperatures rise, it's important to take steps to stay cool and safe during extreme heat. Here are some tips to help you and your loved ones beat the heat:

- Stay Informed : Keep an eye on local weather forecasts and heat advisories. Sign up for Arlington Alert for the latest updates.
- Keep Cool : Visit free and fun places to keep cool, like County playgrounds, libraries, and community centers. Use fans, AC, and keep blinds or curtains closed during the hottest parts of the day.
- Hydrate, Hydrate, Hydrate : Drink plenty of water throughout the day.
- Know the Signs : Learn to recognize symptoms of heat exhaustion and heatstroke, such as dizziness, nausea, headaches, and confusion. Seek medical help if needed.
- Check on Others : Check on elderly neighbors, those with disabilities, and individuals living alone. Make sure they are staying cool and hydrated.
- Get Help w/AC Repairs or Utility Bills : Call 703-228-1350 for financial assistance.

Find more tips & resources

at: [www.arlingtonva.us/extremeheat](http://www.arlingtonva.us/extremeheat), [www.ready.gov/heat](http://www.ready.gov/heat), or check out this video: <https://youtu.be/eoes4enyUpE?feature=shared>.

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## 2023-2024 Board of Directors

### Officers

President, [John Ford](#)

Vice President, [Nick Giacobbe](#)

Secretary, [Matt Gloudeman](#)

Treasurer, [Benjamin Watts](#)

### Board of Directors

Board Chair, [David Smith](#)

Member at Large, [Allan Gajadhar](#)

Member at Large, [Dave Schutz](#)

Member at Large, [Jackie Snelling](#)

Member at Large, [Jean Hencroth](#)

Member at Large, [Michael McMenamin](#)

Member at Large, [Paul Holland](#)  
Member at Large, [Richard McNamara](#)  
Member at Large, [Ron Haddox](#)

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## ACCF PUBLIC INTEREST COMMITTEES

- Arts and Culture – Co-Chairs Tina Worden and Sandi Chesrown
- Diversity – Chair TBD - if interested contact [bod.orgdev@civfed.org](mailto:bod.orgdev@civfed.org)
- Environmental Affairs – Chair Mary Glass
- Housing – Co-Chairs Anne Bodine and Matt Hall
- Legislation – Chair Paul Holland
- Parks and Recreation – Chair Cory Giacobbe (Parks)
- Planning and Zoning – Chair Brian Harner
- Public Services – Chair John Ford
- Revenues and Expenditures – Chair TBD
- Schools – Chair Todd Truitt
- Transportation – Chair TBD - if interested contact [bod.orgdev@civfed.org](mailto:bod.orgdev@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.

[joinus@Civfed.org](mailto:joinus@Civfed.org)

[The Civic Federation's Website](#)

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## CivFed Calendar FY2024

### July - August


- No Planned General Member Meetings
- 7/28: Board Meeting
- 7/29: Parks and Recreation organizational Meeting
- 7/30: Housing Committee Meeting

- 8/14 - 8/18: Arlington County Fair (CivFed will have a booth)
- 8/19: Form of Government Meeting with Arlington County

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