



Arlington County Civic Federation

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES, TUESDAY 14 JANUARY 2025

MEETING

- Arlington County Civic Federation, General Membership Meeting, 1/14/2025 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
- Hybrid meeting held in-person at the VHC Hazel Auditorium and virtually via Zoom, called via email invitation, web notification, and Facebook post.

ATTENDANCE

- In-Person: Member delegates checked in and were provided a voting ballot.
- Zoom: Member delegates registered in-advance, and were recorded via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER (John Ford)

- Called to order at 7:00 p.m. with quorum met with 1/10th of member delegates (required 25).

MINUTES APPROVAL (John Ford)

- A motion was made to approve the December General Membership (GM) [minutes](#), the motion was moved, and seconded. The December GM minutes were approved by acclamation.

PROGRAM:

ACCF was honored to welcome Arlington County government and civic leadership to discuss a range of topics including County Board activities, form of government, the Fire Department, and the Police Department. We included time for the audience to ask questions throughout, with membership involvement in the discussion a priority. Discussion topics and questions included:

1. County Board Chair, Takis Karantonis, discussed:
 - a. His priorities for the year, emphasizing government transparency and constituent responsiveness.
 - b. An open 'town hall style' community discussion about the past, present, and future of The Arlington Way later this year.
 - c. Plans for the annual joint meeting with CivFed on February 26th
 - d. Question topics from the audience included consent agenda, public services capacity, form of government, Virginia Hospital Center site, and more.
2. Former County Board member, John Milliken, discussed:
 - a. The history and structure of Arlington County's government, highlighting key points about its evolution.
 - b. He identified four fundamental elements to evaluate: the non-elected county manager role, the five-member County Board handling all policy and budget decisions, the at-large election of Board members in staggered terms, and the annually rotating Board chair position.
 - c. Pros and cons to consider when thinking about the future state of Arlington's form of government.

3. Arlington County Fire Chief, David Povlitz, discussed:
 - a. An overview of the County's Fire Department operations. He highlighted that the Department has been busier post-pandemic, with an increase in emergency incidents.
 - b. The department is currently relying on overtime due to staffing shortages, but they are working to return to full staffing. He also mentioned that they are considering new shift configurations, but any changes would require hiring additional firefighters.
 - c. See briefing posted [here](#).

4. Arlington County Police Chief, Andy Penn, discussed:
 - a. An update on regional security measures being taken for the upcoming presidential inauguration, including providing mutual aid to D.C. police and drone monitoring.
 - b. Chief Penn reminded the audience to sign up for Arlington Alerts and be aware of the crime data hub ([Crime Data Hub – Official Website of Arlington County Virginia Government](#)).
 - c. The County Police are planning a dual exercise with APS and are looking for 75 volunteers. Register [here](#) by January 31st.

ADJOURNMENT – 9:00 p.m.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting and approved by acclamation.

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

Submitted by: Matt Gloudeman, ACCF Secretary 1/18/2025