



Arlington County Civic Federation

The Civic Voice

The Newsletter of the Arlington County Civic Federation
December 2025 | Volume 110 | Number 5

President's Message

I hope each of you enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving surrounded by family, friends, and the traditions that make this season so special. As we turn toward the close of the year, I am reminded of how fortunate we are to live in a community that values both fellowship and civic engagement.

Urgent Action Item. The County Board is considering an ***Advisory Panel to Examine Arlington County's Form of Government*** and it will be discussed at the December County Board meeting. In the interim, there is a [survey](#) that closes on Monday, December 1 at noon. Let your voice be heard through this survey, Open Door Mondays, or other communication with the County Board. **Dave Schutz**, will give us an update on the initiative at our December General Meeting and there is an article in this newsletter.

Adaptive Reuse Applications. I'm pleased to share that we've seen encouraging progress in how adaptive reuse applications are being processed. In the most recent case of [1800/1901 S Bell Street](#), the County hosted an open meeting for the community, the developer provided a clear and thorough presentation, and a member of the Planning Commission joined the discussion. This level of collaboration is exactly what we have been advocating for, and it represents a step forward in ensuring that residents are informed and engaged without delaying the streamlined process. The project is scheduled to go before the Board for approval in December, and we will continue to follow the process.

Comprehensive Plan. The County is compiling the many comments over the last round of engagement. Your participation is critical on this foundational document that will guide the future of the County, and we look forward to a revised draft over the winter.

November Meeting. Our session on demystifying the development process gave lots of insights into the various players and decisions in development. Thanks to moderator Brian Harner and our experts Marc McCauley, Kedrick Whitmore, Casey Nolan, and Mary-Claire Burick. This is the start of improved collaboration, and the problem-solving approach promoted in the recently adopted Planning & Zoning resolution. If you would like to revisit the session, it is available on the [CivFed web page](#).

December Meeting. This month's program promises to be especially engaging. We are honored to welcome **Arlington County Manager Mark Schwartz**, who

will be answering questions and sharing insights on the issues that lie ahead in 2026, particularly the budget and comprehensive plan update. His perspective will be invaluable as we prepare for the challenges and opportunities of the coming year. We were pleased to cohost a roundtable with the County Manager and civic/condo association presidents in November. It was a wide-ranging discussion of issues across the County.

Duke Banks will also be with us to discuss the Arlington Historical Society's plans for [Virginia 250](#), a commemoration that will connect our local history to the broader story of the Commonwealth and the nation.

As we enter the final weeks of 2025, I encourage each of you to stay engaged, ask questions, and make your voice heard. CivFed thrives on the dedication and curiosity of its members, and together we continue shaping Arlington's future. To support this work, CivFed hosts the **Arlington Neighborhood News Exchange (ANNE)**, a resource that allows neighborhood newsletter editors and webmasters to share and swap articles. With the ease of cut-and-paste, you can enrich your newsletter or web page with timely updates or a variety of interesting stories. To subscribe, please contact Randy Swart at randy@civfed.org.

Regards,

Nick Giacobbe
President, Arlington County Civic Federation

December General Membership Meeting Agenda

- 7:00 - 7:10 Open and Welcome, Approval of November [minutes](#)
- 7:10 - 8:25 Arlington County Manager Mark Schwartz
- 8:30 - 8:40 Dave Schutz on Form of Government Advisory Panel
- 8:40 - 8:50 Duke Banks on Virginia 250 Celebration
- 8:50 - 9:00 Other business from the floor and adjournment

Location: Hazel Auditorium, Virginia Hospital Center

Date: Tuesday, December 9th, 2025 @ 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 December 7th** at 12 noon. No exceptions.

Options for attending the meeting:

1. **In-Person** (Delegates, Other Guests): No registration is needed to attend in-person. See parking instructions below in this newsletter.
 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 ([link](#)) by Monday, December 8th at 12 noon. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. The Zoom passcode is 123456, but if you use the links provided after you register you will not have to enter it.
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Legislative Committee Meeting

Submitted by Dave Schutz, chair

The ACCF legislation committee will meet via Zoom on December 3rd at 7:30pm to discuss recent events on the County proposed Form of Government task force.

Zoom registration

link https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/2O26MaKDRNmNn2M64_3dqQ

Members are also encouraged to communicate their concerns to the County Board through the on-line comment form that closes December 1st.

<https://us.openforms.com/Form/c616040f-6082-4294-87a3-2a3bdc5c95ca>

For more background, see the ACCF committee web page

at <https://www.civfed.org/about-us/committees/legislation/formofgov/> that includes links to the ACCF study and resolution through the Civic Federation Task Force in Governance and Election Reform (TiGER).

For questions, contact Dave Schutz at legislation.chair@civfed.org

New Round of Opportunity Grants Closing January 13

Submitted by Nick Giacobbe, ACCF President

Arlington County just announced the FY 2027 Opportunities Grant. This grant is intended to support nonprofits in implementing programs or projects which will create opportunities for Arlington residents to thrive, while reducing, eliminating, and preventing inequities in direct response to demonstrated community or human service needs. Proposals are due January 13, 2026.

The County anticipates allocating \$1.25 million for FY 2027 in support of this grant cycle. More information on the program, including a link to the application portal, may be found [here](#).

An information session will be held Thursday, December 4, 2025, at noon.

Log in [here](#).

Meeting ID: 233 795 956 825 8

Passcode: yc7gH22U

Annual Dues and Recertification

by Richard McNamara, ACCF Secretary

Yes it is that time of year again for each member organization to recertify it has an active membership of at least 20 members and pay annual ACCF membership dues. Also if there are any changes to ACCF Voting delegates it is a good time to notify the ACCF.

ANNUAL MEMBER PROCESSES

Per our bylaws, all member organizations must complete an annual recertification and pay member dues by **20 November** each year.

MEMBER RECERTIFICATION [Annual Member Organization Update and Recertification, FY2026](#) [1 Jul 2025 – 30 Jun 2026; Google Forms] – Recertification the Association has 20 active members.

MEMBER DUES

Annual dues are for **FY2026 remain at \$65.00** per member organization.

DONATIONS

Donations in any amount in addition to member dues are greatly appreciated.

Pay with Zelle:

Pay **with Zelle** right from your bank app or bank website. Please add \$1.30 to your payment to cover the **Zelle** surcharge.

Send your **Zelle** payment to ***treasurer@civfed.org***.

Pay with PayPal:

Pay with PayPal (\$2.85 surcharge covers the **PayPal** processing fee)

Pay by Check:

Mail your check to:

Arlington County Civic Federation

Attn: Treasurer

PO Box 42091

Arlington, Virginia 22204-9091

Arlington VA250 Commemorative Events/Programs/Activities

Submitted by Duke Banks, AHS Delegate



The Arlington County Board has designated the Arlington Historical Society (AHS) to chair Arlington's VA250 Committee to coordinate the planning of county-wide efforts to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. Five projects, collectively titled "Arlington VA250", have been proposed. These include:



Find Your Place in History

Find Your Place in History (FYPH) is a marketing campaign that will allow local neighborhoods, historic locations, and business districts to participate in 2026 commemorative celebrations. The program will promote Arlington's history by utilizing decorative flags and storefront images. These flags and images will present historic themes tailored to each of the participating "places." FYPH will also create an online map showing the locations of the flags and where neighborhoods will hold their July 4th events.

The second project, "**250 by 2026**," will be an opportunity for local historians and educators to research and submit their top 250 story ideas online, including the people, places, and events that have had a significant historical impact on Arlington and the country. 250 by 2026 will be accessible on both a website and an app, as well as a planned commemorative newspaper.

The third project, "**HistoryFest 250**," will be a history festival scheduled for May

Join the Environmental Affairs climate change team

Submitted by Mary Glass, Environmental Affairs Committee Chair

The EA Committee will be tracking the new climate change initiatives established by the County and other key organizations. We will provide advice to the County on the content, materials, and outreach methods to be developed. Comments will also be provided to the County on what will be most helpful for individuals, CA's, other ACCF organizations, and businesses wanting to take their own action. Participation will be structured to minimize time and effort needed by the Committee members, e.g. Zoom meetings.

The discussions can include a wide range of topics from weather to heat to trees to energy – all depending on the members interests. All individual viewpoints are useful and will be considered. If you have interest in these topics please contact Mary Glass, Committee Chair, at mglassmail1@gmail.com

Housing Committee Update

Submitted by Anne Bodine, Housing Committee co-chair, housing.chair@civfed.org

The Housing Committee had to postpone its November session on senior housing until January 15 at 6:30. Stay tuned for the announcement of our speaker and more details on the topic in the January newsletter.

ARLINGTON COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION (ACCF) PROCEDURE FOR MEETING MATERIALS AT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

- Only materials generated by ACCF or pre-approved outside materials in support of an ACCF General Membership meeting may be distributed within/during an ACCF General membership meeting.
- Member organizations or guest speakers may leave materials at the meeting sign in table. However, the ACCF Board of Directors reserves the right to reject and remove materials for any reason.

APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE OF THE ACCF BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT A REGULAR BOARD MEETING, SUNDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2025.

Virginia Hospital Center Hazel Auditorium Parking and Access Instructions for General Membership Meetings

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

The VHC Director of Security has advised CivFed that we should begin to park in Parking Garage C (map below). You can then walk across to the Oncology entrance and gain admittance until 8 p.m. **After the meeting, you MUST EXIT via the Women's and Infant lobby.**

ENTER (until 8 p.m.): Zone C Ground floor Oncology entrance (only open until 8 pm, Monday-Friday)

- Sign into the visitor kiosks (**need driver's license each time**)
- Get visitor sticker and wear at all times when inside the hospital
- Take a right at the double doors by the visitor kiosks
- Take a right at the single door
- Go to elevators and take to lobby floor
- Exit elevators and go left to hall directly behind welcome desk in lobby
- Take a left at the single door and continue down the hall toward a set of double doors
- Go through double doors and go right
- Conference center auditorium is directly ahead

ENTER or EXIT (24/7): Zone C first floor Women's and Infant lobby entrance (please use this entrance to exit after 8 pm, open 24/7):

- Sign into the visitor kiosks (**need driver's license each time**)
- Get visitor sticker and wear at all times when inside the hospital
- Walk to hall directly behind the welcome desk in the lobby
- Take a left at the single door and continue down the hall toward a set of double doors
- Go through double doors and go right
- Conference center auditorium is directly ahead



2025-2026 Board of Directors

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ACCF PUBLIC INTEREST COMMITTEES

- Arts and Culture - if interested contact bod.orgdev@civfed.org
- Diversity – Chair TBD - if interested contact bod.orgdev@civfed.org
- Environmental Affairs – Chair Mary Glass
- Housing – Co-Chairs Anne Bodine and Matt Hall
- Legislation – Acting Chair, Dave Schutz
- Parks and Recreation – Chair TBD
- Planning and Zoning – Chair Brian Harner
- Public Services – Chair John Ford
- Revenues and Expenditures – PoC Suzanne Sundburg
- Schools – Chair Todd Truitt
- Transportation – Chair Nicole Merlene Toulouse

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 Nick Giacobbe 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.

joinus@Civfed.org

[The Civic Federation's Website](#)

CivFed Calendar FY2026

Looking Ahead:

- 12/03/25 - Legislation Committee
- 12/08/25 - Public Safety Committee
- 12/09/25 - General Meeting

- 12/18/25 - Transportation Committee
- 01/13/26 - General Meeting

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