



Arlington County Civic Federation

The Civic Voice

The Newsletter of the Arlington County Civic Federation
February 2026 | Volume 110 | Number 7

President's Message

I hope everyone has managed to weather the recent storm safely and is staying warm through these frigid temperatures. This cold spell has been a challenge for many across Arlington, and I trust you and your neighbors are doing well. In case you wondered about CivFed's position on snow and ice, we adopted a comprehensive resolution 25 years ago that resulted in today's snow removal ordinance.

For a look back at the original 2000 text, see this [link](#), (or the article in this issue), and for the 2007 update reiterating the CivFed position, see this [link](#).

Our **January meeting** on the steps to examine Arlington's form of government was productive and engaging. We were pleased to welcome County Board members **JD Spain, Sr.** and **Susan Cunningham**, whose participation added valuable perspective. We also appreciated the updates from the **Arlington County Police Department**, whose continued partnership with CivFed is always welcome.

Looking ahead, our February meeting will be a **work session with the County Board**. Please note the special schedule and location: **Tuesday, February 17, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the County Board Room at the Ellen Bozman Government Center**. The session will focus on the following topics:

- **Economic Safety Net (Federal impact, human services, public safety, affordability, budget FY 2027)**
- **Connecting with Local Government (public engagement, open governance, transparency, accountability, auditor work, Open Door Mondays/town meetings)**
- **Planning / Zoning (low residential, comprehensive plan update, Housing Arlington, community benefits, transportation)**

I encourage all delegates to attend in person or online.

In other news, planning for our **Awards Ceremony and Banquet** continues to move forward. Please **mark your calendar for April 24**. More details are available in the article by Banquet Committee Chair **Jean Henceroth** in this issue.

We are also seeking recommendations for awards and members of the nominating committee, please see the article by Committee Chair **John Ford**.

Finally, a reminder that a few member organizations have not yet completed their **annual recertification and/or dues payments**. If your organization is still outstanding, now is the time to take care of it so that all members remain in good standing. Questions, write to secretary@civfed.org.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to civic engagement in Arlington. I look forward to seeing you at our February work session.

Regards,

Nick Giacobbe
President, Arlington County Civic Federation

February 17 Meeting Agenda Joint Work Session with County Board

- 6:00 - Open and Welcome
 - Economic Safety Net
 - Connecting with Local Government
 - Planning and Zoning
- 7:30 - Adjourn

Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 @ 6:00 PM

Location:

The meeting will be held in the County Board Room on the third floor of the Ellen M. Bozman Government Center at 2100 Clarendon Boulevard.

It will also be livestreamed on the County's YouTube page: [Arlington County, VA - YouTube](#).

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

SAVE THE DATE! 2026 Arlington County Civic Federation Banquet

Please mark your calendars to save the date for the 2026 Arlington County Civic Federation Banquet:

Date: **Friday, April 24, 2026**
Time: 6 - 10 PM
Location: Spates Hall Conference Center Ballroom
214 McNair Road
Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall

We look forward to you joining us — CivFed members, guests, government and civic leaders — to celebrate Arlington's vibrant civic life.

Awards Committee and Nominating Committee *Submitted by John Ford*

CivFed is now organizing both an Awards Committee and a Nominating Committee for 2026, and I want to encourage members' interest for several reasons. First, these committees are charged with recognizing and sometimes recruiting to replace exemplary leaders of and contributors to the work we do in our county. The work of these committees is important for our organization.

I also want to urge you to participate. If you have interest in serving on one of these committees, please let me know. But perhaps even more importantly, please consider joining CivFed on our Board of Directors or in some active other capacity, such as service on another committee or in making suggestions about worthy colleagues whom we should consider honoring with an award at our upcoming banquet on April 24.

And if you know of CivFed members or local organizations whose efforts to assist our fellow county residents are worthy of recognition by one of our awards, please let me or another Board member know your recommendation. This will help us make our awards more meaningful.

Let us hear from you! We want your voice to count. Please email me:

bod.member3@civfed.org

Looking Back at Our 2000 Snow and Ice Resolution

Submitted by Nick Giacobbe

A quarter century ago we had enough snow and ice to make CivFed take notice and adopt a resolution. It's worth taking another look at the text. The snow-removal ordinance is now in place, but several of the other points continue to trouble us.

Resolution of the Arlington County Civic Federation Regarding Arlington County's Snow and Ice Policy, December 5, 2000

- Whereas unsafe walking conditions, sometimes lasting weeks, exist in the county following periods of snowfall forcing persons to walk in the street, drive, or remain snowbound,
- Whereas the county encourages citizens to walk or use transit when weather conditions make driving dangerous or difficult,
- Whereas current road clearing methods often push snow onto sidewalks, bus stops, and crosswalks,
- Whereas many county trails which are used for transportation (e.g., walking to school or Metro), not just recreation, and walkways over bridges, which serve as crucial pedestrian connectors, are left uncleared,
- Whereas Arlington, unlike other local jurisdictions such as the Cities of Falls Church and Alexandria, does not require property owners to clear snow and ice from sidewalks adjacent to their property,

Therefore, the Civic Federation resolves that,

Arlington should enable citizens to walk or use transit when weather conditions make driving dangerous or difficult by:

- Enacting a snow ordinance requiring all property owners (business and residential) to clear snow and ice from sidewalks adjacent to their property within a reasonable period of time following snowfall, with an exemption, as permitted by the state, for those persons physically and financially unable to clear snow and ice; and
 - Setting an example by effectively clearing snow and ice from the walkways of county facilities including police and fire stations, county offices, and schools; and
 - Clearing snow from high-priority trails, walkways, and bridges used by pedestrians, bicyclists and others for transportation; and
 - Improving roadway snow clearance by using methods which will not block sidewalks, crosswalks, and bus stops and considering long term solutions such as designing sidewalks with planting strips wide enough to store snow cleared from roads.
-

Consider Joining the Commonwealth Attorney's Advisory Panel

Submitted by Nicholas Giacobbe, ACCF President

The Commonwealth's Attorney is recruiting community members with a broad range of personal and professional experience for the Commonwealth Attorney's Advisory Panel (CAAP). The CAAP serves as a community liaison, offers input on reform ideas, analyzes policies for equity impact, and keeps the community informed of the office's goals and objectives. Established by the current Commonwealth's Attorney, Parisa Dehghani-Tafti, the CAAP consists of 7–10 residents of Arlington and the City of Falls Church, who meet quarterly with the Commonwealth's Attorney and participate in special projects.

Application deadline is February 7, 2026, visit this [link](#) for more details or email CWAcomms@arlingtonva.us.

ACCF Transportation Committee

Submitted by Nicole Toulouse, Chair

The Transportation Committee recommends a new resolution on Safe, Equitable, and Accountable Transportation. It addresses major transportation planning efforts that are underway including Arlington's Transportation Future and Vision Zero. It also provides general recommendations on transportation related feedback for site plans and the many projects and plans involving VDOT-owned roads. You can find the full resolution posted on the ACCF web page for review and comment:

Transportation Committee Resolution: A Safe, Equitable, and Accountable Transportation Plan in Arlington County [DRAFT Resolution](#).

Members are invited to send comments and edits on the resolution to the Transportation Committee at transport.chair@civfed.org.

The resolution will be introduced at the March meeting with edits at that time and then an updated resolution will be introduced for a vote at the April General Membership Meeting.

The next committee meeting will be held **Tuesday February 24th at 7pm**.

Registration link: https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/u9FU1zPdQa6x-a6b_hIW9w

Arlington Civic Association boundaries - Establishment and adjustments

Updated Procedures

Submitted by ACCF Membership Committee Chair, Jackie Snelling

As the organization that includes membership of most civic associations, traditionally, since 1916, the Arlington County Civic Federation [ACCF] has had oversight on the geographic boundaries of civic associations (CA) within Arlington County.

The principles of the ACCF boundary process have been included in both informal and adopted procedures and updated over the years with a primary focus on robust public notice and consultation and confirmation from neighboring civic associations.

During the past few years there have been discussions of updates suggested to the ACCF Board as we followed the procedures. After a thorough review by a Bylaws committee work group and recommendations to the ACCF Board, the Board adopted updated procedures at the last meeting. The update includes sections on: reasons why boundary changes may be considered, who initiates the process, the ACCF role in the process, the procedure of

identifying the current boundaries and stakeholders, communication with stakeholders, context for the boundary review, proposed map, agreements, ACCF membership vote to approve, and ACCF coordination with Arlington County for implementation and updating the maps.

We are pleased that ACCF has recently been approached by a couple of areas seeking to become new civic associations for areas that appear not to be currently represented by a civic association. To address these requests, the updates now add clarification specifically for the process for this circumstance.

A copy of the adopted procedures has been posted to the ACCF website procedures page at <https://www.civfed.org/documents/procedures/>:

[ACCF Procedures: Arlington Civic Association Boundaries – Establishment and Adjustments; BR2026-011, adopted 25 Jan 2026](#)

If you have questions, please contact Jackie, Membership Chair,
at membership@civfed.org

Planning and Zoning Committee

Submitted by Brian Harner

The committee and its two subcommittees have been continuing to work this year on three principal issues: (1) the pending update of the County's comprehensive plan that guides its planning and zoning policies, (2) the process and criteria for evaluating site plans that seek exceptions from existing zoning rules, including the identification of "community benefits" advanced as justification for such exceptions, and (3) the County's pending "low residential" study, which reverses its prior decision to study whether to reduce current limits for lot coverage and building footprints for single-family homes, and centers instead on a possible limit of impervious surfaces more generally. The first two of these issues have also been addressed in a June 2025 CivFed resolution. See:

Planning and Zoning Committee Resolution to Improve Planning and Zoning Policy and Processes [Jun 2025] [APPROVED Resolution](#)

The committee will be meeting on **February 26 at 6:30 p.m.** to discuss where things stand and solicit your views on each of these three issues. You may register for this Zoom meeting at this link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/wq9OAYhBQN24d0nu7z3qkQ>

Arlington Historical Society Update

Submitted by Peter Vaselopoulos, President, and Duke Banks, AHS delegate

Many thanks to the ACCF for allowing the Arlington Historical Society to give a presentation about AHS plans to celebrate our 250th birthday.

We have received numerous requests by civic organizations to participate in the History Fair scheduled for May 9th, 10AM to 5PM at Kenmore Middle School. If your organization has an interest in participating, please contact the AHS by going to this registration link: [Arlington HistoryFest 250 Participant Registration - Arlington Historical Society](#) and filling out the form.

We can get back to you to work out details on how to participate.

Likewise, if you have a short, interesting history story (300-500 words) that you want to submit for a planned commemorative 250 stories of Arlington to be issued at the history fair,

please let us know ASAP.

For those going to the Civic Federation banquet on Friday, April 24, we will be there to join you.

CivFed Membership Committee – Join us

Submitted by Jackie Snelling, Chair

The Membership Committee has a broad charge (see below) that is critical to meeting the ACCF mission to promote the general welfare of Arlington. Our ACCF strategy strives to bring together civic groups with diverse perspectives and backgrounds to discuss issues and to seek collaborative solutions to issues.

Join us to update our strategy and actions to recruit new members that support the ACCF mission and to focus on ACCF actions to include and support existing members. In the new year, I'm planning to work with members to expand the recruitment strategy and to renew and update the strategy and actions for member support that were developed a few years ago based on member surveys. If you are interested in joining our committee for the new year to help set our direction, please email me at membership@civfed.org

Membership Committee Charge

It shall be the duty of the Membership Committee to develop and implement strategies to recruit new members that support the ACCF mission and to support and retain existing members.

- **New Members.** Activities will include outreach, recruitment, review of applications, and recommendations to the Board for new members. This will include a focus on improving diversity as referenced by DEBI. (resolution: Diversity, Equity, Belonging and Inclusion (<https://www.civfed.org/newContent/2021-09/2021-09 ACCF DEBI Resolution APPROVED.pdf>)
 - **Member Services.** The committee will recommend and support methods for continuous inclusion and engagement of new and current members in the ACCF mission. Support for engagement may include recommendations for communications to members, programs for members, engagement of members in meetings, committees and ACCF leadership. Member services will include requests from Civic Associations for boundary changes.
 - **Member Feedback.** The committee will use multiple methods to collect feedback from members to assess their satisfaction with the member role and to seek their recommendations for improvement.
 - **Support Secretary for Member Management.** The Committee will support the Secretary as requested to maintain an up-to-date list of members and with membership renewals.
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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

2025-2026 Board of Directors

Officers

President, [Nick Giacobbe](#)

Vice President, [Jean Henceroth](#)

Secretary, [Richard McNamara](#)

Treasurer, [Benjamin Watts](#)

Board of Directors

Board Chair, [David Smith](#)

Director at Large, [Allan Gajadhar](#)

Director at Large, [Dave Schutz](#)

Director at Large, [Jackie Snelling](#)

Director at Large, [John Ford](#)

Director at Large, [Michael McMenamin](#)

Director at Large, [John Snyder](#)

Director at Large, [Matt Gloudeman](#)

Director at Large, [Ron Haddox](#)

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:

- 02/17/26 - General Meeting
 - 02/24/26 - Transportation Committee Meeting
 - 02/26/26 - Planning and Zoning Committee Meeting
 - 03/10/26 - General Meeting
 - 04/24/26 - CivFed Banquet
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