



# Arlington County Civic Federation

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CANDIDATE PERSONAL STATEMENTS; FRIDAY 5 JUNE 2026

## ACCF FY2027 Officer and Director Nominee Biographies

The CivFed Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following biographies of nominees for officers and directors for FY2027. Voting for FY2027 officers and directors will be held at our Annual General Membership Meeting on Tuesday evening 9 June 2026 from 7 pm EDT. This year’s Nominating Committee are:

- John Ford, Chair, *Tara-Leeway Heights C A, former CivFed President*
- David Smith, Co-Chair, *Bluemont C A, current CivFed Board Chair, former CivFed Secretary*
- Lois Koontz, *Alcova Heights C A, former CivFed Board Chair*
- Ron Haddox, *Columbia Heights C A, former CivFed Vice-President*
- Dixie Duncan, *Glencarlyn C A*

FY2027 ACCF Position	Candidate	Current and Past CivFed Positions	Member Organization
President	Nicholas Giacobbe †	President; Picnic Chair	Aurora Highlands C A
Vice President	Jean Henceroth †	Vice President; Banquet Chair	Leeway Overlee C A
Secretary	Dixie Duncan	–	Glencarlyn C A
Treasurer	Michael Bruce	–	Waycroft-Woodlawn C A
Board 1	David Schutz †	Board Member; Chair, Legislation Committee	Ashton Heights C A
Board 2	David R Smith †	Board Chair; former Secretary	Bluemont C A
Board 3	Allan Gajadhar †	Former President; Chair, Health and Wellness Committee	Cherrydale C A
Board 4**	Francine Friedman	–	Lyon Village C A
Board 5	Jackie Snelling †	Board Member; Former Board Chair; Chair, Membership Committee	Lyon Village C A
Board 6	Mike McMenamin †	Board Member; Former President; Chair, Public Safety Committee	Maywood C A
Board 7	John Ford †	Board Member; Former President; Chair, Public Services Committee	Tara-Leeway Heights C A
Board 8	Natalie Roy	–	Lyon Park C A
Board 9	Alison Babb	–	Arlington Parents for Education



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**NAME:** Alison Babb

**CANDIDATE FOR:** Member, Board of Directors

**MEMBER ORG:** Arlington Parents for Education (APE)

**ACCF EXPERIENCE:** Delegate

**OTHER EXPERIENCE:**

An Arlington resident since 2012 and APS parent, Alison has been actively involved in civic and educational volunteer leadership. She is a founding board member of Arlington Parents for Education (APE), serves on the Joint Facilities Advisory Commission (JFAC), to which she was jointly appointed by the Arlington County Board and Arlington School Board, and previously served on the APS Strategic Plan Steering Committee. Alison also served as Chair of the Arlington School Health Advisory Board (SHAB) and continues to serve as a member.

**CURRENT ACCF POSITIONS:** Delegate

**DIVERSITY STATEMENT:**

Arlington's continued success depends on strong public schools, sound fiscal stewardship, effective local government and an engaged community. As a CivFed Board member, I hope to help strengthen CivFed's role as a trusted forum where residents and organizations can exchange ideas, engage in respectful dialogue and work through complex issues together. My professional experience in finance, governance and ethics compliance, combined with my volunteer service in Arlington, has reinforced the importance of transparency, accountability and thoughtful decision-making. I look forward to helping ensure that diverse perspectives are heard while supporting policies and investments that contribute to a strong, vibrant and financially sustainable Arlington.

**PERSONAL STATEMENT:**

None Provided



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**NAME:** Michael Bruce

**CANDIDATE FOR:** Treasurer

**MEMBER ORG:** Waycroft Woodlawn Civic Association

**ACCF EXPERIENCE:** Delegate from Waycroft Woodlawn Civic Association

**OTHER EXPERIENCE:**

Mr. Bruce volunteer experience includes:

- Scout Troop 167, Parent Committee and Merit Badge Counselor
- Cubmaster of Cub Scout Pack 116
- Arlington Public Schools Budget Advisory Council.

Mr. Bruce currently serves on the Boards of:

- Overlee Community Association
- International Biometrics and Identity Association (IBIA)
- Security Industry Association, Identity and Biometrics Technology Advisory Board

He continues to compete with the Wild Geese Old Boys Rugby Football Club, and is a supporter of Old Glory Major League Rugby

**CURRENT ACCF POSITIONS:**

Member, Planning and Zoning Committee, Delegate

**DIVERSITY STATEMENT:**

Arlington is always better when we discuss and determine resolutions with a diverse set of persons with differing backgrounds, experiences, and expertise. This Civic Federation has always sought to provide a forum that fosters dialogue and discussion across the entire County to ensure we promote thoughtful and reflective opinions across the many issues and needs of our community.

**PERSONAL STATEMENT:**

None Provided



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**NAME:** Dixie Duncan

**CANDIDATE FOR:** Secretary

**MEMBER ORG:** Glencarlyn Civic Association

**ACCF EXPERIENCE:** Delegate

**OTHER EXPERIENCE:**

Wheels to Africa – Changing lives one bike at a time!

Sending bicycles to needy communities for over 20 years.

[www.wheels-to-africa.org](http://www.wheels-to-africa.org)

**CURRENT ACCF POSITIONS:** Delegate

**DIVERSITY STATEMENT:**

Arlington's strength has always been the community involvement from all walks of life. CivFed plays a vital role in leading conversations with the Arlington County Board. I will work to ensure that all voices are heard at CivFed and throughout the county.

**PERSONAL STATEMENT:**

My goals are to develop an avenue where different sides of any issue can listen to each other and learn how to help each other reach their goals. Where you are passionate about an issue, it is difficult to hear another opinion about your passion. However, learning from others enables everyone to move forward with no one left behind.

The Most Dangerous Road in Arlington and all pedestrian safety are issues I hope to find some methods of improvement without a large budget item in the CIP plan.

Encouraging younger people to become involved in Arlington County's future is a goal that needs more of my attention so I hope to create gatherings that are "Cool!"

My expectation as a Civ Fed Board member is to enhance the strength of the organization and work with everyone to build strong bonds and relationships.



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**NAME:** John Ford

**CANDIDATE FOR:** Member, Board of Directors

**MEMBER ORG:** Tara-Leeway Heights CA

**ACCF EXPERIENCE:**

John served as the President of ACCF for FY23, FY 24 and FY 25. As chair of the Public Services Committee during past years, John led the development of an effective campaign to identify and address critical countywide flood mitigation and stormwater management. Through his work, the committee has drafted and passed 4 resolutions with guidance for the county in the approach to flooding and stormwater and he has been successfully leading coordination with the county staff to implement the recommendations. He has initiated and is coordinating a strategy to organize civic associations by watershed to develop and promote civic association collaborative plans and to identify priorities for the CIP. In his role as Chair of Public Services, John has also provided support for subcommittee leads on Public Safety, Community Mental Health, and individual members addressing public services issues ad hoc. Both subcommittees and ad hoc groups have developed and provided presentations to the ACCF membership on a wide range of range of topics including review of the Police Practices Group findings, the Marcus Alert mental health initiative, the consideration of a broadband authority for Arlington, and privacy issues with the Clarendon Innovation and Public Safety Zone.

**OTHER EXPERIENCE:**

President, Tara-Leeway Heights Civic Association (2019 - 2024); Vice-President, Highland Park-Overlee Knolls CA 1983-86; Vice-President, Tara-Leeway Heights CA, 2017-19; President, Overlee Community Association 1984-86; Acting Ambassador in Belarus and The Bahamas during 33-year diplomatic career.

**CURRENT ACCF POSITIONS:**

Member, Board of Directors; Committee Chair, Delegate

**DIVERSITY STATEMENT:**

John is highly skilled in leadership through an inclusive team management style that recognizes, welcomes, includes, and supports individual contributions through collaboration. As a career diplomat with the state department serving in management



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and at the top levels of embassies, John has lived in many cultures and demonstrated the highest skills in promoting collaboration among diverse cultures and perspectives.

## **PERSONAL STATEMENT:**

After three years as Civ Fed president, I have been privileged to remain on the Executive Board during the past year and witness exceptional progress for the organization. I believe that your board and officers have provided a packed agenda throughout the year with opportunities to listen and understand each other and opportunities to take actions to advocate for our critical issues.

I have been working with your board and officers to identify and develop positive proposals to improve how our elected leaders plan policy and how staff plan, interact with, and respond to the community. In the current overall environment in the county, this process will require diligence. I am committed to continue the focus on this work in a collaborative effort with County leadership, as I strongly believe in the potential and the reality of Civ Fed influence in Arlington's public arena. This experience has only reinforced my faith in ACCF as the county's leading civic voice. It has also granted me an opportunity to work with an extraordinarily talented and dedicated group of colleagues who I would be proud and honored to count as colleagues as we and the county continue to face these and other challenges.

As we continue to rebuild our essential committee structure, enhance membership services and reposition ourselves as Arlington County's major civic organization, I am confident we will improve our community for all Arlingtonians.



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**NAME:** Francine Friedman

**CANDIDATE FOR:** Member, Board of Directors

**MEMBER ORG:** Lyon Village

**ACCF EXPERIENCE:** None

**OTHER EXPERIENCE:**

Board Member, National Homelessness Law Center

Chair of 2026 Human Right to Housing Awards

Communications Chair and Event Committee member, Georgetown Class of 1995

Reunion (multiple years/cycles)

Reunion Chair (2024) and Reunion Committee member, William and Mary Law School Class of 1999

Arlington Science Focus PTA: Volunteer Coordinator, Room Parent Coordinator, Social Media Coordinator; Auction Committee member

Former Board Member, National Kidney Foundation for the National Capital Area (2002-2012) (Chaired 5K, Thrive Ball and Thrive! (Young Members) Board)

**CURRENT ACCF POSITIONS:** Delegate

**DIVERSITY STATEMENT:**

I pride myself on working with and identifying stakeholders with multiple perspectives with a goal of finding areas of common ground. Arlington's strength has always been its diversity. The CivFed plays a vital role in fostering conversations with participants from across the County and I am dedicated to ensuring that all voices and perspectives are encouraged to share input with the CivFed.

**PERSONAL STATEMENT:**

I am looking forward to collaborating with the CivFed in bringing together diverse stakeholders on key issues affecting Arlington. Through this process, I hope to better understand our community and its many perspectives, enabling the CivFed to advocate for outcomes that reflect broader resident representation. My aim is to expand and strengthen our engagement with elected officials in Arlington and across Virginia. Decisions made in Richmond will influence life here in Arlington, so I plan to continue working with the CivFed to identify important areas where our involvement is needed.



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**NAME:** Nicholas Giacobbe

**CANDIDATE FOR:** President

**MEMBER ORG:** Aurora Highlands CA

**ACCF EXPERIENCE:**

President for the past year, Vice President for the prior year and member of the ACCF Board of Directors for the past three years, prior member delegate representing AHCA before going on overseas assignment. Chaired the Banquet Committee, which revived the dormant tradition of an annual awards ceremony and banquet; served as a member of the Awards Committee and Fall Picnic Committee.

**OTHER EXPERIENCE:**

Currently serving as the Recording Secretary of the Aurora Highlands Civic Association and an active member of the CA's leadership team. Nick is a frequent speaker at County Board meetings, and representative of AHCA on the County's Long Range Planning Committees and Site Plan Review Committees. For the past year has served on the Board of Directors of the National Landing Business Improvement District. Professionally, retired from the State Department's Senior Foreign Service and continues to train Foreign Service Officers.

**CURRENT ACCF POSITIONS:**

President; Member, Board of Directors, Delegate

**DIVERSITY STATEMENT:**

Arlington's strength has always been its diversity and CivFed plays a vital role in fostering conversations with participants from across the County. I will continue to work to ensure that all voices are heard during what can sometimes be difficult conversations.

**PERSONAL STATEMENT:**

I have enjoyed being a part of CivFed once again and think that its role is as important today as it was at its founding over a century ago. We have worked to restore CivFed as a respected forum for our members, the community, and County leadership. I hope to continue building those relationships and open conversations over the next year, while seeking out the best ways to serve our members.



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**NAME:** Jean Henceroth

**CANDIDATE FOR:** Vice President

**MEMBER ORG:** Leeway Overlee Civic Association

**ACCF EXPERIENCE:**

I have been President of the Leeway Overlee CA (LOCA) for the last 4 years and was Vice President for the year. As LOCA President, I saved the LAC Studios Building located at 5722 Langston Blvd. in Arlington (formerly Lee Community Center) from demolition through the guidance of and working with Arlington County Board Members, County Manager, Staff, Commissioners, Langston Boulevard Alliance, ACCF Officers, Civic Association Presidents, and influencer citizens. ACCF acknowledged these efforts by honoring me with its Community Impact Award at its spring 2024 banquet. I was subsequently the 2026 ACCF Banquet Chair and anticipate planning the 2027 ACCF Banquet.

**OTHER EXPERIENCE:**

1) President-elect, Vice President and Treasurer at Dallas-Fort Worth French American Chamber of Commerce (DFW FACC) which evolved into the European American Chamber of Commerce, Texas. The DFW FACC provided members with access to transatlantic business opportunities as well as timely and relevant information, resources, and support on matters affecting business activities between France and the US. 2) President of Dallas Fort Worth International Trade Association (later absorbed into the Dallas Council on World Affairs, now known as the World Affairs Council of Dallas Fort Worth). Members were involved in international trade as exporters, importers, advisers, bankers, lawyers, government representatives, freight forwarders, etc. 3) Volunteer at Sire, a Houston-based equestrian therapeutic riding center which provides equine therapy to individuals with disabilities to help them develop both physically and emotionally. Responsibilities included working with clients including stabilizing and encouraging the rider, as a horse leader with a client rider during classes, and grooming, tacking and untacking the horse.

**CURRENT ACCF POSITION:** Vice President, Delegate

**DIVERSITY STATEMENT:**



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I support the ACCF diversity resolution and inclusion at all levels, in all activities from spiritual to personal relationships to professional practices.

**PERSONAL STATEMENT:**

I am honored to participate in ACCF and its commitment to the general welfare of the citizens of Arlington through civic engagement.



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**NAME:** Mike McMenamin

**CANDIDATE FOR:** Member, Board of Directors

**MEMBER ORG:** Maywood, CA

**ACCF EXPERIENCE:**

Mike has a long history of service with the Arlington County Civic Federation (ACCF). He has been a member of ACCF for over 25 years and a board member from 2018-Present, and has served as ACCF President from 2013-2015. Known for his excellent judgment, Mike promotes respectful discussions on sensitive topics.

As chair of the Public Safety Group, he has coordinated presentations on crime in Arlington and various public safety issues, including community broadband and the Clarendon Safety and Innovation Zone technology project. He also developed the "Working Together for a Safer Arlington Community Policing Workshop," held on May 28, 2024. Mike has also led a discussion on how local public safety agencies work together with the Commonwealth Attorney and Health and Human Services to maintain a proactive, safe community.

**OTHER EXPERIENCE:**

Mike McMenamin's commitment to community service extends beyond his roles in ACCF, e.g., former President and board member. He has also served as the President of the Maywood Community Association, a Member of the Arlington Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee, and a former youth sports coach in Arlington. These diverse experiences have given him a comprehensive understanding of our community and its needs.

**CURRENT ACCF POSITIONS:**

Board of Directors, at-large, Delegate

**DIVERSITY STATEMENT:**

Mike McMenamin is deeply committed to promoting engagement and expanding the diversity of our Civic Federation. He is dedicated to creating an atmosphere that is not only welcoming but also inclusive, ensuring that all voices are heard and represented.

**PERSONAL STATEMENT:**

None Provided



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**NAME:** Natalie U. Roy

**CANDIDATE FOR:** Member, Board of Directors

**MEMBER ORG:** Lyon Park Citizens Association

**ACCF EXPERIENCE:** Delegate from Lyon Park

**OTHER EXPERIENCE:**

Environmental professional and non-profit and association management experience for more than 30+ years includes:

Executive Director of the National Pollution Prevention Roundtable and the Clean Water Network, Deputy Director of the Environmental Council of the States, Director of Recycling and Legislative Affairs, Glass Packaging Institute, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Citizens for Handgun Control, Recycling Planner, Massachusetts DEQE and Recycling Coordinator, City of Takoma Park MD. Years of political campaign and activist experience including working for Clean Water Action Project, the League of Conservation Voters and specific campaigns including the Mel King for Mayor Campaign in Boston. Currently I am the team leader of a top producing real estate team in the DMV, Bicycling Realty Group of KW Metro Center.

- Currently I am the President of the Lyon Park Citizens Association in Arlington. I served as President previously (this is my second time) and have also been on the LPCA Board as VP of Neighborhood Conservation, VP of Development, and Membership chair.
- Previously a member of the Arlington County Sports Commission and currently am a member of Arlington's Joint Facilities Advisory Commission.
- Past President of the Thomas Jefferson PTA. Served in different active roles for my kid's other PTAs at W-L and Long Branch Elementary.
- Head tennis coach of the Yorktown High School varsity tennis team for 17 years. Paid position but nominal.
- Over the years I have volunteered for numerous political campaigns, involving door-to-door canvassing, fundraising and telephone work. Campaigns I was an active volunteer included the Hillary Clinton for President campaign, Ralph Northam's Gubernatorial campaign and numerous congressional and local races. Helped organize a major fundraiser for the Abigail Spanberger Gubernatorial campaign in Arlington.
- Coached my children's recreational soccer teams in Arlington.



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- Served on various Boards over the years including the Clean Beaches Council (national), the Violence Policy Center (national), the Arlington Women’s Civic Alliance, etc.

**CURRENT ACCF POSITIONS:** Delegate

**DIVERSITY STATEMENT:**

I am committed to building on the great work of the Arlington Civic Federation to actively reach out to everyone in our wonderfully diverse community. A key path to growth and meaningful change for any organization is to be welcoming and inclusive. I wholeheartedly subscribe to that philosophy and look forward to putting my energy into helping the Civic Federation grow and move forward. It takes a village and we have a great one.

**PERSONAL STATEMENT:**

I am excited at the prospect of serving as a board member for the Arlington County Civic Federation, an organization with a long vibrant history and a bright future ahead.



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**NAME:** Dave Schutz

**CANDIDATE FOR:** Member, Board of Directors

**MEMBER ORG:** Ashton Heights Civic Association

**ACCF EXPERIENCE:**

Board of Directors. Member TiGER task force on Arlington Form of Government. Current Chair, ACCF Legislation Committee.

**OTHER EXPERIENCE:**

Former President, Ashton Heights Civic Assn; former Chair, Arlington Park and Recreation Commission; former member, Site Plan Review Subcommittee.

**CURRENT ACCF POSITIONS:** Board of Directors, at-large.

**DIVERSITY STATEMENT:**

I intend to continue working to have all voices heard.

**PERSONAL STATEMENT:**

I'm sort of an institutional loyalist for CivFed - think its historic role as an incubator of ideas for moving Arlington forward remains good and valuable to the community.



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**NAME:** David R Smith

**CANDIDATE FOR:** Member, Board of Directors

**MEMBER ORG:** Bluemont CA

**ACCF EXPERIENCE:**

David has served ACCF for the past four years as Secretary (2 years), Board Chair (2 years), and as a member of the Public Services - Stormwater Committee (4 years). David also manages the Zoom for the General Membership and Board meetings and manages the membership database.

**OTHER EXPERIENCE:**

Bluemont Civic Association Treasurer (6 years)

**CURRENT ACCF POSITIONS:**

Member of the Stormwater Committee  
Board Chair

**DIVERSITY STATEMENT:**

David is known for his adaptive/inclusive leadership style and has demonstrated the effectiveness of this style by including and engaging civic association leaders with diverse backgrounds and perspectives. He will continue to bring this inclusive leadership style to the work of the Civic Federation.

**PERSONAL STATEMENT:**

I enjoy serving our community and adding value within the CivFed organization.



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**NAME:** Jacqueline Snelling

**CANDIDATE FOR:** Member, Board of Directors

**MEMBER ORG:** Lyon Village CA

**ACCF EXPERIENCE:**

Jackie is currently an ACCF board member and serves as the lead for Organizational Development and as the Chair of the Membership Committee. As a board member, Jackie has focused on organizational development and assisting the president to rebuild and support the ACCF Committees to engage members in building the ACCF capacity to address issues critical to members and on increasing the general membership and services to members. She has helped re-start the Housing Committee, the Legislative Committee, the Planning and Zoning Committee, and the Transportation Committee.

Membership presentations on key topics have served as the base and outreach for re-energizing committees by engaging members and others in the planning and presentations. Jackie has also worked on outreach to increase membership of new and diverse organizations recruiting several new member organizations.

During the past years she also served on the Public Services Committee where she worked on flood resilience, the Public Safety subcommittee, and co-chaired the Mental Health subcommittee. Jackie founded the Spout Run Watershed Planning Group of 10 residential and civic associations that has actively provided advocacy. She supported a broad range of presentations to members with each of the committees. Jackie has been active in ACCF since 2000. She served on and chaired the Public Services Committee for many years. She served on the board and as board chair in 2006 and 2007 and 2022 and she served as vice president in 2007.

**OTHER EXPERIENCE:**

Jackie served APS actively for 23 years. Activities included APS advisory committees including ACI, CCPTAs (newsletter editor), Facilities, Budget, English (chair), Early Childhood (chair), and After School committees. She jointly developed and led a team that resolved a significant boundary change for capacity and diversity. She developed a revised capacity study methodology that was adopted. She authored a comprehensive analysis of inequities in school achievement identified with race and culture and used the study to gain overlay funding for minority schools, In the 1990s, Jackie co-chaired the successful campaign and a referendum to restore Arlington's ability to elect their



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school board. School board elections resumed in 1994 after a forty-year absence. Jackie founded the Preparedness Advisory Committee for post 9/11 recovery and preparedness. Jackie initially chaired the committee advisory to the county manager and then served on the successor Preparedness Advisory Commission and the successor manager's Committee.

## **CURRENT ACCF POSITIONS:**

Member, Board of Directors, Organizational Development, Chair of the Membership Committee

## **DIVERSITY STATEMENT:**

I am committed to the mission of CivFed to bring people together from different backgrounds and points of view to listen to each other, improve their understanding of different backgrounds and perspectives on civic issues and to work together to identify common objectives. I worked to provide a CivFed civil dialogue of differing points of view on sometimes acrimonious topics including missing middle and planning and zoning to include equitable access to green space, housing and response to climate change. I have been actively recruiting organizations of people with diverse backgrounds and individuals representing different points of view.

## **PERSONAL STATEMENT:**

ACCF has a critical role in Arlington in these times of significant change. ACCF can provide substantive consensus recommendations and be the voice for effective advocacy. This role requires an inclusive ACCF with robust member committees to listen and learn from different perspectives and to engage in thoughtful recommendations. I have built on previous diversity initiatives to seek new members, to re-build member outreach to seek a strong and diverse membership base. I have also worked systematically to rebuild an active committee structure and to support the development and adoption of resolutions to give ACCF the policy infrastructure to be responsive to current issues. This year, I'd like to continue building with a focus on continuity and sustainability.