

Arlington County Civic Federation

The civic voice of Arlington for 84 years

Newsletter

January, 2000

Volume 84, No. 5

January Meeting:

County Board Visit

7:30 pm, Tuesday, January 4th
John T. Hazel Conference Center
Arlington Hospital
1701 N. George Mason Drive

We are pleased that the members of the Arlington County Board have accepted our invitation to be with us for their traditional visit at our January meeting. We have asked the Board Members for statements of their plans and priorities for the new year and the millennium, followed by a question-and-answer period. Although Board members sometimes cover some of the same material in their first organizational meeting of the year on January 1st, most of us miss that meeting due to New Year's activities, and this year of all years we will be likely to have something else occupying our New Year's Day!

As usual, we are planning the meeting to start promptly at 7:30 PM and end as close to 9:30 as possible.

School Board Visit Postponed

Many Find Debate on Non-Political School Board Elections Interesting

Due to scheduling difficulties, a medical problem and mostly to assumptions on our part that emails had been delivered and of course the School Board knew that they were invited for our December meeting again this year, we were forced to postpone the School Board visit until February.

The unexpected additional time permitted a thorough discussion of Tim Wise's resolution calling for non-political School Board elections. Every delegate in the room had an opinion, and all had a chance to speak. In the end we voted not to pass the resolution, but the margin was narrow, 28 votes to 33.

Following the program a number of delegates were enthused about having more floor debate in Federation meetings. For most topics it is more efficient to work in committees, and produces more coherent results on complex issues, but the Executive Committee will be looking for new issues that lend themselves well to floor debate.

Committee of 100 Program: "The Arlington Way"

The Arlington Committee of 100 will devote its January program to a discussion of "The Arlington Way," a much-used and seldom-defined term. As always, the Committee will consider pros and cons on the subject.

Speakers include Todd Endo, Director of Urban Alternatives: the effects of changes in population patterns; Elizabeth Chaney, Chair of Arlington Human Services Commission: the role of the commission in human services; Charles Rinker, Co-Convener, Arlington New Directions Coalition: experiences in dealing with Arna Valley and other housing problems; and Voncille Trotter Hines, President of the Arlington County NAACP and Multi-Cultural Advisory Commission: minority participation in Arlington's activities and programs.

The Committee meets at Marymount, and begins with a social hour at 7 PM followed by dinner at 7:30 and the program. For reservations please call the answering machine at 703-921-1124 by Sunday January 9th to leave your name and the number of guests. Dinner is \$13 payable at the door, with checks preferred.

Put That Four Wheeler to Work When it Snows

Innova VNA Home Health is recruiting volunteer snow drivers with four-wheel drive vehicles to transport nurses to homebound patients living throughout Northern Virginia during snow emergencies. For details please call the Arlington Volunteer Office at 703-228-5811.

January County Forum: Green Building Technology

On January 26th the Arlington County Board and the Arlington Community Sustainability Roundtable will conduct a public forum on the Arlington Urban Village, exploring ways to promote community sustainability and green building technology in Arlington. The program focuses on stewardship of our community's built environment in ways that make Arlington a vibrant and sustainable community.

Keynote speakers include Huston Eubank, of the Rocky Mountain Institute, providing an overview of the links between sustainability and green building design. Sandra Mendler, of HOK Architects, will use the Nature Conservancy's headquarters building in Arlington and other local projects as case studies to illustrate specific benefits of green building technologies.

After the presentations a panel of local experts and members of the County Board will join the speakers. They will discuss the benefits and practicality of building "green" in Arlington and how environmentally friendly, energy-conserving green building technology fits into Arlington's broader goal of becoming a sustainable Urban Village.

The Forum is free, and will be held on Wednesday, January 26th at 7:00 PM at the NRECA Conference Center, 4301 Wilson Boulevard. It is near the Ballston Metro Station and free parking is available in the garage under the building. For more information please call 703-228-3599.

Whatever Happened to Traffic Calming?

The sharp-eyed among you will have noticed that in our last issue the Coming Up box had an additional item for our January 1st meeting: Traffic Calming. That item has been deferred.

The Neighborhood Traffic Calming Committee is working on a set of recommendations to the County Board on the launching of the County's traffic calming program. The Federation's representative, Elaine Squieri, is taking an active part in the Committee's work.

The Committee has been working on the difficult task of defining specific rules for traffic calming activities in all situations in all neighborhoods. The work is progressing slowly, as it did when a previous committee drafted more general guidelines. The recommendations were not finished as anticipated in December, so we have postponed the Federation's discussion.

We hope that the Committee's recommendations will be available to our Transportation Committee for its late January meeting, and we can put it on the agenda to adopt a Federation position in our February meeting. In the meantime, you will be receiving a full copy of the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Committee's recommendations in the mail from the County, using a mailing list we have supplied them that includes all delegates, alternates and association presidents.

ACCF Banquet Coming Up: Friday, April 28th:

Please mark your calendar for Friday, April 28th for the Federation's Annual Banquet for 2000. We promise an interesting speaker, a delicious meal and a good time for all!

A-SPAN Requests Help for Arlington's Homeless

The Arlington Street People's Assistance Network (A-SPAN) has opened its emergency winter cold weather shelter. The shelter is staffed by volunteers, and for the first time this year will provide mattresses for the homeless who use the shelter. A-SPAN needs men's clothing, particularly jeans. Please call Bill Watkins at 703-820-4357 to arrange a drop-off, or to volunteer to help staff the shelter. Donations to support the organization's work can be mailed to A-SPAN, P.O.Box 1554, Arlington, VA 22210-0854.

Coming Up

January 1 - New Millennium. Also County Board organizational meeting.

January 4 - ACCF Meeting: Annual County Board visit

January 26 - ACCF Meeting: Annual County Board visit

From Building Technology 1st Conf
February 1 - ACCF Meeting: Annual School Board visit

April 28 - ACCF Banquet. Please mark your calendar!

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