
ACCF General Meeting Notice

NORMAL START TIME
Tuesday, December 5, 2006, 7:30 PM
Hazel Conference Center
Virginia Hospital Center – Arlington
1701 North George Mason Drive

1. **7:30 pm** Pledge of Allegiance (formal start)
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes (November 14, 2006)
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Selection – Banquet Awards Committee
6. Special Rules for School Board Program
7. **7:45 – 9:00 pm**
Arlington School Board Program
 - School Board Presentation - Including response to ACCF submitted policy questions (30 minutes) – (See Page 2)
 - Questions and Answers of School Board (35 minutes) – (See Special rules - Page 1)
 - School Board Concluding Remarks (10 minutes)
8. **9:00 – 9:10 pm** New Business & Announcements
9. Adjournment

FYI - Annual Legislative Hearing

By Eileen M. Williams

The annual legislative hearing of the Arlington delegation to the General Assembly will be Monday, December 11, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. It will be held in County Board Room 307. Free parking is available in the garage underneath the building. Attend and present your views to the delegation.

School Board Q & A Rules

By Executive Committee

The Executive Committee has decided on question and answer “rules” for the Arlington School Board program. These rules will be in effect during the planned 35 minute questions and answer period set forth in the agenda. The purpose of these rules is to maximize participation by the delegates and alternates. Even with the rules below, given the planned time, it is most likely that only 10 to 12 questions can be addressed. These “rules” are as follows:

1. Participation – Only Delegates or Alternates will be permitted to ask questions of the Arlington School Board at the December 5th meeting.
2. Questions will be limited to a maximum of 30 seconds only. Delegates or Alternates should minimize comments and make sure they pose a “single” question. Compound and follow-up questions by the same individual will not be allowed.
3. The School Board response(s) to any individual question will be limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes.
4. Timing will be rigidly enforced – the moderator will cut-off either questions or responses exceeding the timeframes set forth above.

Tidbits

This section will bring you up to date on status of some “old” items. Also highlighted are new activities or actions approved by the Executive Committee since the November meeting. In all cases, unless specifically noted, material has been posted to our Web site. Please refer to that resource for further details where noted:

- **Appointments** – None during this period
- **2007 Banquet Program** –The Executive Committee has started work on the 2007 annual banquet. We have determined the location for this year. The Committee led by its able Vice Chair, Stan Karson is hard at work on identifying and getting a commitment from the keynote speaker. During the December meeting, the selection will

be made of the awards committee for the 2007 program. Stay tuned for details as they develop.

- **Veterans Day 2006** – As in past years, the ACCF presented a wreath at the ceremony at the memorial located in Clarendon Central Park. This ceremony is sponsored and organized by American Legion Post 139. Thanks to Patrick Smaldore and Jim Pebley for their able assistance. A picture of the event is on our web site.
- **Elder Readiness Task Force** – We have had communication from the Chairman of the Elder Readiness Task Force – a group appointed by the County Board. Initial draft reports have been received. As far as we know, no ACCF member is on this group. The Executive Committee decided that further discussions with the Chairman at our December 11th Executive Committee meeting was the next logical step. Determination of any presentation to the ACCF members and, response to what are very broad recommendations will be considered.
- **FYI - Quarterly meeting with Board Chair** – We have been fortunate in having meetings at least quarterly with the County Board Chair. This schedule was established early this year by Patrick Smaldore and has continued. We are hopeful we can adhere to this type of meeting in the future. Such meetings enable us to address activities during that period. We also follow up on any unresolved resolutions or issue areas, including appointments. As appropriate, material will be posted to the web site after preparation of meeting memoranda. Members are always encouraged to submit queries to the President for consideration or inclusion in the next quarter's meeting topics.

January Meeting: Tuesday, January 2, 2007

The Major Topic: Arlington County Board Program
(With the County Board members)

January News deadline: December 15, 2006

Call for Questions!

As shown above, our January meeting is with the Arlington County Board. As last year, we plan to give them a set of questions from the Federation. These questions will be determined by your Executive Committee. Any input you would like us to consider should be sent via email to Larry Mayer by December 5th (*see last page for address*). Of course, the Executive Committee will reserve the right as to what will be included in the final set of questions. However, “noting ventured, nothing gained”!

School Board Posed Questions

By Executive Committee

As part of the invitation to the Arlington County School Board, the Executive Committee submitted a set of policy related questions to the Board. The focus on policy is because that is what the Board addresses – versus the operational activities addressed by the Superintendent and staff. We expect these policy oriented questions will be addressed during the School Board presentation. The “Issue” areas followed by the specific policy oriented questions are as follows:

1. Issue Area - Achievement Gap -schools

Question: What is the School Board doing to raise achievement for schools that consistently don't make AYP? What were last year's strategies and results (for specific schools) compared to the year before? What are strategies and goals or expected results for this year?

2. Issue Area - Achievement Gap – populations

Question: What initiatives supporting the four critical variables identified by the School Board (expectation, quality of teachers, access to opportunity, and parental/community support) have changed since your visit last December? Which are the most important in improving the academic performance of minority students?

3. Issue Area - Quality and Cost Comparisons to VA and Nation

Question: Arlington taxpayers provide funding that meets or exceeds the levels of other NVA communities and similar communities nationally yet quality measures like SAT scores and the numbers gaining entrance to competitive VA schools doesn't seem to be competitive. Please provide relevant comparisons of cost and quality and indicate what the Board is doing to be accountable for delivering a competitive cost/benefit for students and taxpayers.

4. Issue Area - Evaluation and accountability

Question: How do results of annual priorities and results of evaluations impact School Board strategies and programs?

- a) Which results of last school year's annual priorities surprised you and which ones do you find unsettling and/or most significant?
- b) What significant findings and changes have been made as a result of the 5 years of evaluations by the Planning and Evaluation Department and the Accountability and Evaluation Committee?

5. Issue Area - Policy & scope of students who are not legally in US

Question: Please address the policy and scope of APS students whose parents are not legally in this country. ... *continued*

6. Issue Area - Community Engagement

Question: What should the community expect from the School Board in how they address and answer both policy questions and questions relating to admin accountability?

Help Wanted – Open Invitation

There are always positions that can open at any time. If you have any particular interest – keep us (Committee Chairs advised) - (*see last page*).

Want More Information? – Arlington Insider

By *Serena Ingre-Martinez*

Arlington Insider is a bi-weekly electronic newsletter with more than 6,000 Arlington community subscribers. *Arlington Insider* features information on County programs, events and services, provides up-to-date information about upcoming County events and activities, links readers to news articles about Arlington and to information about development projects around the County.

To subscribe to the Arlington Insider, please visit the County Web site at www.arlingtonva.us. On the left navigation bar, you will see a link that says, “*Arlington Insider*.” Click on the link and follow the registration instructions.

Committee Calendar

Please look on the ACCF Web page calendar for latest postings of committee meetings – none reported for publication prior to “press time”.

Your Home - Workshop

By *Chikwe Njoku - Neighborhood Program Coordinator*

The following is from Chikwe Njoku who is the Neighborhood Program Coordinator with CPHD (Community Planning, Housing and, Development) of Arlington County. This workshop was mentioned briefly at the November ACCF meeting.

Chikwe Njoku would like to take this opportunity to invite your participation in a new project that CHPD is developing that they hope will be useful and informative for the residents of Arlington County. A series of interactive workshops is being prepared that are designed to provide more insight into the programs and services that are provided by the various County Departments to the community. The purpose of this program is to provide residents with an opportunity to meet, to ask questions and to learn more about County programs, processes, and services. Additionally, residents will be able to identify opportunities where they can partner with the County.

They are particularly interested in members of the Civic Federation attending their “Pilot” Workshop that will include representatives from Code Enforcement, Inspection Services, and the Housing Division. The subject of this workshop is “Your Home” and each Division will conduct a brief presentation and an overview of their services as it relates to “Your Home” and cover such topics as: building permit process, when a permit is needed, what constitutes a code violation, types of violations, the violation process, how to report a violation, home maintenance tips, tenant/landlord services just to name a few of the topics. Afterwards, participants will have the opportunity to ask questions of these representatives regarding their programs and services. The goal is to get 15 to 20 members of the Civic Federation who are interested in participating in this workshop and who will give feedback at the end of the session.

Workshop Particulars:

At this workshop you will meet several county staff from the Department of Community Planning Housing and Development. The following Divisions will make presentations:

Inspection Services – The office of Inspection Services issues building permits to ensure that all building construction and related services are carried out according to the Virginia Unified Statewide Building Code to ensure the health and safety of residents and users. You will learn when a permit is required, the process involved in getting a permit and general information about other related services provided by this office.

Code Enforcement – The Arlington County Office of Community Code Enforcement responds to thousands of inquiries about possible violations of Virginia Commonwealth Law and Arlington County’s Local Ordinances. In this illustrative presentation you will get answers to these frequently asked questions: How do I make a formal complaint? What is a violation? What should I do if I receive a notice of violation and what is the enforcement process?

Housing Services - Participants will get information on their rights and responsibilities as a tenant and how to build good relationships with their landlords. For home owners, the services include information on “hands on” workshops that are offered concerning property maintenance and home improvement; and for the potential homeowner, information on the County’s homeownership programs.

Date/Time and Location:

Wednesday, December 13, 2006

6:00 PM until 8:00 PM

Arlington Career Center

816 S. Walter Reed Drive

The Registration deadline is December 6, 2006 and forms are available from either Larry Mayer (*see last page*) or directly from Chikwe Njoku at (703) 228-3823 or email - Cnjoku@arlingtonva.us.