



THE Civic Voice

ARLINGTON COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION

The Newsletter of the Arlington County Civic Federation

October 2008

ACCF General Meeting Notice

NORMAL START TIME
Tuesday, October 7, 2008, 7:30 PM
Hazel Conference Center
Virginia Hospital Center – Arlington
1701 North George Mason Drive

1. **7:30 pm** - Pledge of Allegiance
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes (September 2, 2008)
4. Treasurer's Report
5. **7:40 pm** – Committee Reports/Announcements
6. **7:45 – 8:30 pm** Housing Authority Referendum Program (45 minutes) – see page 2
 - Panel of Josh Ruebner (Green Party - for), Jack Cornman (AHS - against), Michael Scheurer (VA HDA - VA Code) – 25 minutes
 - Discussion - 20 minutes
7. **8:30 – 9:15 pm** Arlington Bond Issue Program (45 minutes)
 - School Bond Issue – see page 1
 - Other bond issues – see page 1
 - Discussion and Delegate Poll
8. **9:15 – 9:20 pm** Environmental Committee Report on Resolution on Exotic Animals (5 minutes)
9. **9:20 pm** New Business & Announcements
 - Resolution on “Booster for MAPP” – to Public Services Committee
 - Other
10. **9:25 pm** Adjournment

Happy Birthday – Roye!

Roye Lowry turns 91 on Oct 2nd. Birthday recognition is not a normal newsletter feature. However, given his many years of service to the community and, his commitment to the Civic Federation - congratulations Roye!

Meeting Discussion Rules

As a **gentle** reminder, in all meetings, the Civic Federation will follow our normal procedure as stated in the Standing Rules, Section 6, to wit:

“During debate, no delegate or alternate delegate shall speak more than twice on the same subject, or more than once, until all others have had the opportunity to speak. No delegate or alternate delegate shall speak more than two (2) minutes consecutively”

We will definitely cut off individuals after the two (2) minute period – so watch the timekeeper signs and plan appropriately.

Arlington Bonds

By Revenues and Expenditure Committee

There will be referenda on three **County bonds** totaling \$70.8 million and one **school bond** for \$99.4 million on this year's November's ballot. The Committee will present a program describing the bonds at the October meeting, in cooperation with the Schools Committee. The proposed bonds include: \$10 million for Metro, \$ 10.8 million for neighborhood projects and joint County/schools facilities, \$50 million for the water pollution control plant, and \$ 99.4 million for schools (see the Schools Committee's section below). The County Board has proposed the bonds in the context of debt levels that have been rising steadily and the County Manager's belief that we are approaching the maximum amount of debt we can take on without endangering the County's top-level bond rating. Come hear a discussion of what the proposed bonds are for, Revenue & Expenditure's recommendations on them, and vote on whether the Civic Federation will recommend passage of any or all of the bonds by the voters on Election Day.

School Bonds

By School Committee

The Schools Committee will discuss the proposed \$99.4 million **school bond** and present the Committee's recommendation concerning it. The school system plans to use the money to: 1) begin designing the reconstruction of Wakefield High School (\$ 11 million); construct the next phase of of Yorktown (\$ 83 million); and projects at the Career Center and Reed School. After a presentation and time for discussion, the Federation will vote on whether to recommend passage of the bond.



Arlington County Civic Federation
C/o Lawrence R. Mayer
3108 4th Street North
Arlington VA, 22201-1614

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November Meeting: Tuesday, November 11, 2008
(one week later due to Election on November 4th)

The Major Topic: Legislative Package Program

November News deadline: October 20, 2008

Mystery??

By ACCF Treasurer

Member leadership - what has happened to the needed information? When you received your \$50 membership renewal notice, included was a request to submit the names, addresses, telephone numbers, and EMAIL addresses for your delegates and alternates. Some of the letters must have had invisible ink for this request since checks are being sent but no additional information. SO, if you have sent in your membership check but not the needed delegates/ alternate names, please send it to the Treasurer now using your organization letterhead. We are in the process of updating the data base and want to be sure we are correct. We also need the above information for your president and treasurer and let us know if they are serving as a delegate or alternate. The information should be sent to: Eileen Williams, 4141 North Henderson Road, Apt 1226, Arlington VA 22203.

Tidbits

New activities or actions, considered by the Executive Committee since the September meeting are itemized. Where noted, material has been posted to our Web site.

1. **Meetings for 2008/2009** – Some changes in meeting plans for the balance of the year were discussed by the Executive committee. Tentatively planned is a December 2nd County Board meeting. See #3 below for change in School board program. Other program changes are being determined and we will keep you informed. **Objective - make meetings more exciting and useful for you and your organizations!**

2. **School Board Program** - Heads-up for fans of this program, which traditionally has been held in December. The Federation has invited the School Board to present its program at the March 3, 2009 meeting instead. The Superintendent's proposed budget should have been released a few days before that, so discussion with the School Board members should be lively! Save the date, and if you have questions or issues you'd like the School Board to address in their program, please send them to Beth Wolffe at 703-536-1654 or WolffeLaw@verizon.net.
3. **Committee Chairs Still Needed** – Response has been lackluster! We still have openings for both a **Cultural Affairs** and **Community Relations** Chair. Please respond to Larry Mayer with your interest!

Housing Authority Referendum

By Housing Committee

Is there a need for the Housing Authority in Arlington? You will have the chance to vote on whether or not to activate the Housing Authority in Arlington in November.

Alexandria City and Fairfax County both have Housing Authorities. Instead, Arlington County has long worked with non-profit partners and developers to address affordable housing issues.

The Housing Committee has invited Jack Cornman, Alliance for Housing Solutions, and Josh Ruebner, Green Party, to present their opposing viewpoints on the referendum. Also invited is Mike Scheurer of the Virginia Housing Development Authority. He will enlighten us on the complexities of the Virginia Code that enables and empowers housing authorities. Housing activists have been discussing the issue for months and have formulated their positions. Our presenters appeared before the Housing Commission in September to help the commissioners discuss the issue. Following a presentation and discussion in August, the Arlington County Democratic Committee adopted a resolution opposing the Authority. Arlington Republicans have not yet issued their position as of the Newsletter publication date.