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# Arlington County Civic Federation

January 1997

81st Year as "The Civic Voice of Arlington "

Volume 81 , No. 5

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 7, 7:30 p.m.**

(Note: All Federation meetings now begin at 7:30 p.m.)

**Place: John T. Hazel Conference Center, Arlington Hospital  
(1701 N. George Mason Dr.)**

**Program: Arlington County Board**

## **Arlington County Board Report**

Members of the County Board will make their traditional first-of-the-year report to Federation delegates at our January 7 meeting.

**Bring your questions for the Board.** After brief presentations by each of the five Board members, the floor will be open for an extended question/ answer period. So that all delegates who wish to ask questions will have an opportunity to do so, we request that questions be in the form of a question and be as *brief* as possible. (Subtle reminder: The Gettysburg Address can be delivered with feeling in less than a minute. )

Those delegates who comply with this request for brevity will be rewarded. In keeping with our Standing Rules that limit a delegate to speaking no more than "three minutes consecutively," the Executive Committee agreed at its December meeting that a **delegate may ask a follow-up question** if desired, as long as the total time for both the original and the follow-up question does not exceed the three-minute allowance.

Two hours have been allotted for this County Board program.

*Happy New Year!*

## **Awards Committee Elected**

At its busy December meeting, the Federation elected five delegates to the Awards Committee. The Committee will convene to select this year's recipient of the Journal Newspapers Cup and may also make recommendations to the Executive Committee for recipients of Certificates of Appreciation. Federation Awards are presented each year at the Annual Banquet.

Elected to serve on the Awards Committee are:  
**David Foster**, Chairman; **Amy Appelbaum**;  
**Roye Lowry**; **Bill Munson**; and **Tim Wise**.

## **School Board Speaks to Delegates**

Also at the December meeting, delegates heard from members of the School Board and from the School Superintendent, Dr. Arthur W. Gosling, who has announced his resignation after serving 12 years in that post. (*continued on reverse side*)

### **Officers of the Federation**

**President - William F. Nolden, Jr.**

**Vice President - Larry Zaragoza**

**Treasurer - Edward D. McWethy**

**Secretary - Tommye Morton**

### **Executive Committee**

**Frances Finta**, Chairman; **Timothy Wise**, Vice Chairman; **Rebecca Gray**, **Robert Nester**, **Rohan Samaraweera**

**School Board Speaks to Delegates** *(continued)*

An array of interesting topics were discussed during the evening including the ongoing challenges and opportunities of the English as a Second Language program in the schools. Currently, for 6,700 students in the Arlington system (out of a total student population of 17,500), English is not their first language. Because of the diversity of this population, an array of approaches is required, delegates were told.

Another challenge currently facing the Arlington schools is preparing for Virginia's new "Standards of Learning" which are requiring extensive curriculum revisions and additional changes throughout the system in order to meet new student testing and state assessment requirements.

Additional topics covered by School Board members included the Capital Improvement Program; current use of school buildings; increased role of technology in the education of students; and ways that civic groups can assist.

**Delegates Hear About Crime Trends**

Also at the December meeting, Daniel Boring, Deputy Chief of Police, and members of the County's Crime Analysis Unit gave an informative presentation on criminal activity in Arlington.

The Police officers provided a helpful handout to delegates that listed the County's 10 "beats" and the names and telephone numbers of each of the Corporal Liaisons assigned to those beats.

Delegates were told that there are currently six known gangs in Arlington -- 4 Hispanic, 1 Black; and 1 Asian. So far, the gangs have proven to be more of a threat to

each other than to the community at large. Graffiti, often gang-related, is a community problem, however, and residents are requested to call the Graffiti Hotline (358-4264) when they spot graffiti. Cleanup on public property is done as quickly as possible.

**~ In Memoriam ~**

With great sadness, we note the death in early *(Died)* December of **Vernon Davis**, long-time faithful and dedicated delegate to the Federation from Yorktown (formerly Northwest Arlington). Mr. Davis served two terms as Treasurer of the Federation in the early 1980s. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Mr. Davis's family. We shall miss him. *\*and 1972-74*

**New Multi-Cultural Program Under Way**

Delegates are reminded that names of volunteers from their organizations are needed for the County's new cross-cultural exchange program, which will provide opportunities for people of diverse cultural backgrounds to meet and get acquainted. Called "The Dialogue Project," the program is designed to help bring the community together. Additional information will be provided at the January meeting, and a sign-up sheet will be available.

**Weather Alert**

In case of inclement weather on the day of a scheduled Federation meeting, please contact Frances Finta (528-2882) or Tommie Morton (522-1506) after 1:00 p.m. for information concerning cancellation

**Next meeting: February 4, 1997**

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