

ACCF

# Arlington County Civic Federation

February 1997

81st Year as "The Civic Voice of Arlington "

Volume 81, No. 6

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, February 4, 7:30 p.m.

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

**Program:** 1) Home-Based Business Draft Recommendations  
2) Telecommunication Facilities on County-Owned Properties  
3) County School Budget

## Delegates to Address Important Issues

An issue-packed session awaits delegates at the Federation's February 4 meeting. Items to be discussed and considered include:

**\* Draft Recommendations for Home-Based Businesses.** The County's Economic Development Commission is studying the issue of permitting one or more nonresidents to work at the site of a home-based business. A subcommittee of the Commission has drafted a number of recommended changes to the Zoning Ordinance related to home-based business use. **Tanya Barvenik**, of the County's Department of Economic Development, will be present to describe these recommended changes. After a question/answer session, **Bill Gearhart**, Chairman of ACCF's Planning and Zoning Committee, will present his committee's resolution on the draft recommendations for consideration by delegates. *(Time allotted for this segment of the program: 45 minutes.)*

**\* Placement of Telecommunication Facilities on County-Owned Properties.** The rapid growth of the wireless industry has increased requests to place telecommunication facilities (poles, towers, etc.) on county-owned properties. The structures would facilitate use of such devices as cellular phones in the area. A recent request has been received to place such a structure on Minor Hill in North Arlington. The County plans to have a comprehensive policy on telecommunications in the future. In the meantime, County staff has drafted a set of proposed Interim Guidelines that the County Board will review at its

February 22 meeting, and the Board will then apply any guidelines that it approves when it reviews the Minor Hill request on March 8. This short timeline makes it imperative that the Federation look into this issue right away. **Tom Miller**, of the County Planning Department, will make a brief presentation to delegates on the Guidelines. After questions and discussion, **Bill Gearhart** will present a resolution from his committee for delegate consideration. *(Time allotted: 45 min.)*

**\*School Budget** information will be provided by **Roy Lowry**, Chairman of ACCF's Schools Committee. *(Time allotted: 30 minutes)*

## Weather Alert

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

## Officers of the Federation

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

**Vice President - Larry Zaragoza**

**Treasurer - Edward D. McWethy**

**Secretary - Tomye Morton**

## Executive Committee

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

## Delegates Hear From County Board

At the Federation's January 7 meeting, delegates heard from members of the Arlington County Board. Chairman **Ellen Bozman** led off the program with her theme for the year, "Celebrating Community." She named a number of ways the County is planning to improve communications with and "to help build links" with the citizens, including special events and programs and an upcoming Home Page on the Internet. The Board is reinstituting the "Good Ideas Campaign" this year. Mrs. Bozman additionally provided information on the capital budget and capital programs.

**Jim Hunter's** theme this year is a "goal of zero tolerance for fire-related deaths." He urged delegates to spread the word throughout their communities and organizations that smoke detectors should be replaced if more than ten years old. He emphasized that the elderly and citizens not fluent in English are most at risk.

**Al Eisenberg** spoke about the wide diversity that now exists in Arlington, giving eye-opening statistics: 1 citizen in 5 is foreign born; 1 in 4 is non-English speaking; 1 in 5 has children; 40% of the citizens live in one-person households; 12,000 have incomes under the poverty level; and approximately 350 are homeless. Saying that he believes that discrimination in housing still exists in the County, Mr. Eisenberg has set Fair Housing as his "issue of the year."

**Paul Ferguson** spoke briefly about the County budget, saying that revenue projections are flat for the near future and that some budget cut proposals may be on the agenda. He told delegates that the Federation's input is important to the County's budget process. Mr. Ferguson also addressed environmental issues and informed delegates that a new recycling drop-off has been placed at the Bread and Circus on Wilson Blvd.

The question/answer session that followed the presentations was a lively exchange on a wide variety of topics, from the number of firefighters on a truck to the need for traffic monitoring on the side streets when the Quincy Street extension

is open. The "experiment" of allowing follow-up questions from the floor was generally considered to be a success. Occasionally, the Board members followed up with questions of their own, adding a sense of genuine dialogue to the evening.

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**Of Interest:** The Virginia Room in the Central Library is online with the State Legislature. You may use the computer to check in on "doings" down in Richmond on Mon, Tues, Thurs, Sat, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; on Wed, 1- 9 p.m. It's a good idea to call ahead (358-5966). For those already connected at home, the Internet address for the Legislature: **WWW.Legis.state.va.us**

**Please note:** The Federation will undertake its annual consideration of the County Budget at the March 4 meeting. As always, the Revenue & Expenditures Committee will be meeting several times this month to hammer out a Budget package to present to delegates. In hopes of avoiding a repeat of last year's over-long session, the Executive Committee and the R & E Committee are urging the following: 1) Those with specific requests for the budget are requested to submit those requests to the R & E Committee early so that the request can be considered in a timely fashion; and 2) For optimum involvement, join the Committee and attend the work sessions. Being on the Committee in no way ensures that your "favorite line item" is included in the final resolution, but participating in the process has rewards of its own. Additionally, some changes in our Budget resolution procedure are possible this year. One likely change: anyone making an amendment that would add expenditures will be required to offer at the same time changes resulting in an equal amount of either cuts elsewhere or increased revenue to maintain the Committee's "bottom line." (To add your input to the Committee, contact Chairman Ed McWethy, at 920-2240.)

**Next meeting: March 4; Agenda: County Budget**

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