

ACCF

Arlington County Civic Federation

March 1997

81st Year as "The Civic Voice of Arlington "

Volume 81 , No. 7

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 4, 7:30 p.m.

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

**Program: Arlington County FY '98 Budget
Special Election for Vice President**

County Budget to be Delegates' Focus

County Manager Anton Gardner has proposed a total County budget for FY 1998 of \$555.5 million, with an 0.8 % spending increase over the current year's budget. The proposal, which includes a schools transfer of around \$9.5 million less than the School Board requested and no COLA for school or County employees, has a shortfall in revenues over expenses of \$800,000. Gardner suggested increases of the emergency 911 and garbage-collection fees to cover the shortfall.

At our March 4 meeting, **Ed McWethy**, Chairman of ACCF's Revenue and Expenditures Committee, will summarize the proposed budget and will offer to the delegates a resolution that his large, hardworking Committee has forged over a number of meetings during February. The resolution will embody recommendations on the schools' component of the budget provided by the ACCF Schools Committee, chaired by **Roye Lowry**.

If a proposed Special Rule for this meeting is agreed to by the body, the Committee's resolution will, after full discussion, be voted either up or down without formal amendments. Should the resolution then fail, a previous proviso, if adopted, will allow it to be reopened for further debate and amendments from the floor, with delegates making amendments entailing increased costs asked to offer balancing cuts elsewhere in the budget.

The Federation's resolution will be forwarded to the County Board, which will adopt the final budget on April 12.

New Vice President to be Elected

First, the good news. **Larry Zaragoza**, this year's Vice President and a longtime active member of the Federation, married a beautiful young woman late last year. The bad news, though, is that Larry and his bride Karen have moved to their dream home -- in Fairfax County.

In keeping with our Bylaws, announcement of the vice presidential vacancy was made at the February meeting and we'll hold a special election at the upcoming March meeting. The floor will be open to nominations, and the election will follow.

Along with our deep appreciation for his many contributions to ACCF, we send to Larry our congratulations and best wishes for a happy future!

Weather Alert

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

Officers of the Federation

President - William F. Nolden, Jr.

Vice President - (vacant)

Treasurer - Edward D. McWethy

Secretary - Tommye Morton

Executive Committee

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

At ACCF's February meeting...

* **Friends of the Arlington County Public Library**, a group of nearly 1,000 members, was admitted to Federation membership by a unanimous vote. **James P. Keane** is president of the organization. *Welcome, Friends!*

* **Home-Based businesses in the County** received a boost from delegates who, by a vote of 31-15, supported a proposed zoning code amendment to allow employment of one person from outside the home. The Federation's resolution would require home-based businesses to provide the employee with an on-site parking space, obtained by special permit and subject to annual review.

The County Economic Development Commission is in the process of drafting a number of recommended changes to the Zoning Ordinance related to home-based business use. Present at the February meeting to discuss the draft regulations with delegates were **Tanya Barvenik**, of the Department of Economic Development, and two members of the Economic Development Commission, **John McCracken** and **Richard Dowd**.

* Delegates voted to request the County Board to defer consideration of the County staff's **proposed guidelines for placement of "monopoles"** on County property and to refer the guidelines to the Planning Commission for a hearing on the likely impact of the high-rise antennas, which are designed to support telecommunications devices such as cellular phones.

* A background briefing on the **School Board's proposed 1998 School Budget** was provided by **Roye Lowry**, chairman of the ACCF Schools Committee.

About Parking at the Hospital

If you park in the underground parking facility at the hospital, please be aware that the garage doors are closed to outside access after 7:00 p.m. You can get to the garage and to your car by using the inside hospital corridors. Directions to the garage through this interior route will be provided at our meeting.

Survey Being Distributed

Should the Federation's newsletter be expanded?

The Executive Committee has appointed a task force to look into ways Federation communications might be improved. The group is considering a proposal to expand the ACCF newsletter, possibly to four pages, and to widen its scope beyond Federation news to include such information as neighborhood activities and county-wide issues. To find out if delegates are in favor of such an expansion, how they feel about alternative ways to fund such an effort, and to obtain their comments and ideas on the matter, the task force has developed a brief survey that will be distributed at the March meeting.

Extra copies will be available to take back to delegates or alternates who may not be in attendance.

Please take a few minutes to respond to the survey and give the task force the benefit of your views! Completed surveys may be turned in at the meeting or mailed to Communications Task Force Chairman **David Foster**, 2607 N. Wakefield St., Arlington 22207, before April 1.

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Arlington
County
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