



# Arlington County Civic Federation

April 1997

81st Year as "The Civic Voice of Arlington "

Volume 81 , No. 8

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, April 1, 7:30 p.m.

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

**Program:** Arlington Fire Department  
Community Planning, Housing and Development  
Arlington's "Community Day"

## Our Community, Today and Tomorrow: Protecting, Planning & Participation

The Federation's April meeting will cover a potpourri of interesting subjects:

**Community Day.** To start off the evening, we'll hear from **Sally Michael**, of the County Manager's Public Affairs Department, who will tell us about Arlington's first "Community Day," which is scheduled for September 27, 1997. The event will highlight area neighborhoods, and civic associations will be key to the success of the undertaking by their active participation. *(30 minutes are allotted for this segment of the program.)*

**Fire Department.** Deputy Fire Chief **George Lyon** will be on hand to provide a status report on the County's Fire Department and will address such topics as fire protection of high-rise and mid-rise buildings, current and planned facilities for female fire fighters, and the number of fire fighters assigned per truck. A question/answer period will follow Mr. Lyon's presentation. *(One hour is allotted for this segment of the program.)*

**1998 Draft Plan for Planning, Housing and Development.** **Fran Lunney**, Coordinator of Housing Planning of the County's Housing and Neighborhood Division, will provide an overview of the draft plan, addressing topics such as the Neighborhood Strategic Areas and affordable housing. Included in her discussion will be funding and sources of funding for housing programs in the County. Responses to delegates' questions and discussion of

the plan will follow the brief presentation. *(30 minutes are allotted to this segment of the program.)*

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## Federation Banquet to be Held April 26

ACCF's Annual Banquet is scheduled April 26, and will be held once again this year at the beautiful Koran Room of the Fort Myer Officer's Club. Cash bar opens at 6:30 p.m.; dinner will begin at 7:30.

We're honored to have as our keynote speaker **Fran Zorn Trachtenberg**, Vice President for Educational Outreach of WETA. Ms. Trachtenberg directed WETA's search for a new headquarters location and was instrumental in the selection of Arlington as WETA's continuing home. She is currently overseeing renovation and new construction of the public broadcasting company's facilities. Her active role in educational outreach includes WETA's partnership with Abingdon Elementary School.

***Don't miss this gala and informative evening!***

### Officers of the Federation

President - William F. Nolden, Jr.

Vice President - Randolph (Randy) Swart

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 March meeting...**

\* **Randy Swart** was elected ACCF Vice President to fill out the term of Larry Zaragoza, who has moved out of the County. Randy is a longtime active delegate to the Federation and a past president of Barcroft School and Civic League.

\* **Delegates voted to recommend adoption of a County budget of nearly \$465 million** for FY '98 with an increased schools budget and a two-cent real estate tax increase. Acting on the recommendations of the Revenues & Expenditures and the Schools Committees, the Federation supported a General Fund budget balanced at \$464.7 million including net base program reductions of \$5.2 million from the County Manager's proposed budget; a 1.5% cost-of-living adjustment for County and School employees, adding \$4.5 million; an increased County transfer payment to the school system of \$7.7 million (bringing that transfer to \$163.5 million, about \$400,000 below the School Board's request); no increased carryover; and increases in fees and taxes of \$7.5 million. This latter figure includes \$400,000 in increased fees for services such as waste collection; \$5.6 million in additional real estate tax collections and \$1.8 million in additional personal property taxes. **Ed McWethy**, Chairman of Revenues and Expenditures Committee, and **Roy Lowry**, Chairman of the Schools Committee, and their hardworking committees are to be congratulated for the clarity and detail of their presentations at the March meeting. After a wide-ranging discussion by delegates of the joint budget resolution, the committees' recommendations passed without a single amendment. (*A rare accomplishment, gentlemen!*)

\* **Delay recommended in consideration of guidelines for erection of monopoles on Country property.** A resolution was passed requesting the County Board to defer indefinitely consideration of the "Interim Guidelines for Placement of Telecommunication Facilities on County-Owned Properties" and to establish a citizen-based commission to review, craft and advise the Board on the Telecommunications Act of 1996. The ACCF Monopole Task Force, chaired by **David Jones**, having found additional information about the 1996 Telecommunications Act through a consultant's work commissioned by the American Planning Association, the National Association of Counties, and the American Public Works Association, expressed the belief that the proposed guidelines have had insufficient citizen participation and inadequate County staff review. Monopoles are high-rise antennas or towers, designed to support such telecommunications devices as cellular phones.

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**Wanted: Committee Chairmen**

The Federation currently has vacancies in the chairmanships of two of our vital and important groups -- the **Housing Committee** and the **Environment Committee**. Please consider volunteering to serve! For information, call Bill Nolden 841-1482.

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**Next meeting: May 6, 1997, 7:30 p.m.**

**Agenda: Elected Representatives Night (State and Federal Representative have been invited to speak and to answer our questions)**

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