

Arlington County Civic Federation

The civic voice of Arlington for 82 years

Newsletter

May, 1998

Volume 82, No. 9

May Meeting:

Congressional and State Representatives Report on Legislative Session

7:30 pm, Tuesday, May 5th
John T. Hazel Conference Center
Columbia Arlington Hospital
1701 N. George Mason Drive

Our May meeting will feature our annual visit and briefing from our State and Congressional Representatives.

At press time we had already received confirmations of attendance from Congressman James Moran, State Senators Patsy Ticer and Mary Margaret Whipple, as well as State Representatives James Almand, Robert Brink and Karen Darner.

We have asked them to fill us in on action during this session on the items included in the Federation's Legislative Program.

Honors to Nolden, Bozman

The ACCF banquet provided a very pleasant time to renew friendships and enjoy informal chats with delegates and elected officials.

Ann Rudd did a fine job of coordinating this year's event, and has more ideas for next year! Judge William T. Newman's keynote address gave some candid, eye-opening insights into the life of an Arlington judge.

The Journal Cup was awarded to President Bill Nolden for his outstanding contributions to the Federation. Ellen Bozman received a Special Extended Service Award recognizing her contribution to Arlington civic life over more than two decades.

Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to Nancy Graham for her work on the Legislative Committee, Stan Schachne for Public Services Committee work, Randy Swart for the Newsletter and more, and Tim Wise for an impressive list of contributions including his performance as Secretary and his work on the Stadium Committee, three other committees, the County's Industrial Development Authority, Courtlands Civic Association, and Volunteers for an Independent Arlington.

New History Notes Civic Federation's Influence

Reviewed by Tim Wise

Long-time Arlington resident and Past ACCF President (1972-3) Sherman Pratt has recently published *Arlington County Virginia: A Modern History*. The Federation has a prominent place in the book. Sherm not only calls the Federation a source of influence, but

says that it "has probably had the most influence on county affairs, in widely varying degrees from time to time, over the longest period" of any non-governmental organization in Arlington County.

Sherm lists two other Federation members in the chapter about sources of influence: the Arlington County Taxpayers Association and the Arlington Education Association. In an appendix he includes the Federation's membership, past Federation presidents, recipients of the Distinguished Meritorious Service award, Journal Cup award recipients, and an article about the Federation published on March 4, 1975 in the *Northern Virginia Sun*.

The book explains the history of many geographic features, including: Aurora Hills, Barcroft, the Boundary Channel, Dawson Terrace Recreation Center, Langston School, Nauck, Rolfe Street, and Wise Street. A chapter covers major community "battles" and controversies, some of them subjects of Federation votes and familiar to long-time delegates: the battle for "good" schools, I-66 controversy, football and baseball stadiums, acquisition of Ft. Smith, Home Depot, and the Rosslyn boathouse.

Baseball Stadium Still Issue

by Rebecca Gray

I represented the ACCF at a Fairfax County Federation of Civic Associations (FCFCA) program, "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" on April 16th.

A presentation was made by Mr. Gabe Pau Jr., the new Executive Director of the Virginia Baseball Stadium Authority on the status of the Authority's stadium site selec-

tion and funding process. As background, the FCFCA has taken a position of opposing the use of any public funds for a baseball stadium in Virginia and also opposed the re-authorization of the Authority by the Virginia Assembly. Mr. Paul was accompanied by Mr. Lee Fifer, attorney for the Authority, who described the "Sports Lottery" that has been authorized by the Virginia Assembly to test whether or not sufficient funds could be raised by the lottery to finance the stadium shortfalls. When objections were raised from the audience that State lottery moneys are to go to education, Mr. Fifer repeatedly stated that at present lottery moneys go into the General Fund and not directly to education and are indeed used for other purposes.

Nonetheless, Mr. Paul stressed that "no public funds" are to be used for the stadium! The Virginia Baseball Stadium Authority is currently being funded by loans from the "Virginia Baseball Club." These loans are to be paid back by the State (no public funds?) if a team is purchased. In response to concerns about traffic, congestion, and impingement on residential areas, Mr. Paul stated that the Virginia Baseball Authority will conduct transportation studies, etc. to determine site suitability. Note, however, that these "studies" are being paid for by "loans" from the Virginia Baseball Club. The sites under consideration are still "secret," but indications are that three sites are being seriously looked at: two urban (Arlington) and one suburban (Fairfax).

It should also be noted that Arlington State Senator Mary Margaret Whipple at a recent joint meeting of the Arlington Ridge and Aurora Highlands Civic Associations replied

in answer to a query that she believes Arlington could be an appropriate site for a baseball stadium if traffic and other concerns can be addressed. So the issue of a baseball stadium in Arlington is still very much alive. Yet, it is difficult to understand how expenditures of public moneys in the form of a State lottery or otherwise are contemplated for use to support a "privately" owned, sports activity when funds are so badly needed for schools in Virginia, in general, and in Arlington, in particular.

Neighborhood Day Coming in October

You can mark your association's calendar now for this year's Neighborhood Day celebration on Saturday, October 3rd. The event will now be sponsored by the Civic Federation, the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee and the Schools. It will feature joint events held by neighborhood civic associations and their neighborhood schools. The steering committee will meet on May 5th to choose a theme. If you are interested in serving on the committee or have ideas about how Neighborhood Day should be celebrated, please call Randy Swart at 521-2080.

Coming Up

June Meeting: Elections

USA 32



D AAUW
FRANCES FINTA
3317 23RD ST N
ARLINGTON VA 22201-4310

Arlington County Civic Federation
c/o Swart
4611 Seventh Street South
Arlington, VA 22204-1419

Briefs

Infill Housing: After the Board of Zoning Appeals denied a new pipe-stem on 23rd St. N., the developers are now seeking a variance for a smaller infill house on the same lot.

President Bill Nolden presented to the County Board the resolution on Infill Housing passed by the Federation at our March meeting. It calls for the establishment of a Task Force to consider revision of Arlington's zoning ordinances for residential neighborhoods.

Budget: The bottom line in the budget adopted by the County Board in April was a modest tax increase of 1.2 ¢ per thousand dollars of home valuation, exactly the figure recommended by the Federation.

Newsletter Editorial Committee

Editor: Randy Swart 521-2080
President: William Nolden 841-1482
Newsletter email: civicfed@bscl.org
Fax submissions: 486-0576

ACCF Officers

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| President | William Nolden |
| Vice President | Randy Swart |
| Treasurer | Edward McWethy |
| Secretary | Timothy Wise |

Executive Committee

| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Chairman | Randy Swart |
| Vice Chairman | Rebecca Gray |
| Member | Robert Atkins |
| Member | Jennie Davis |
| Member | Frances Finta |
| Member | Mileva Hartman |