

The CivFed Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following candidate nomination information as submitted by our members for the FY25 election which will be held on June 11, 2024. This year's committee: Alex Sakes, Bryan Coleman, David Smith (Chair), Lois Koontz, Sandi Chesrown.

Below is the current list of nominees. Please see the following pages for Nominee bios.

Position	Candidate	CivFed Position (not required)	Member Organization
President	John Ford	President, Public Services Chair	Tara-Leeway Heights
Vice President	Nicholas Giacobbe	Board Member, Banquet Chair, Fair Chair	Aurora Highlands
Secretary	Allen Norton*	Secretary*	Bluemont*
Treasurer	Ben Watts	Treasurer	Aurora Highlands
Board 1	David Schutz	Board Member	Ashton Heights
Board 2	David R Smith	Secretary, Nominating Committee Chair	Bluemont
Board 3	Allan Gajadhar	Former President	Cherrydale
Board 4	Richard McNamara	Board Member	Woodmont
Board 5	Jackie Snelling	Board Member	Lyon Village
Board 6	Mike McMenamin	Board Member, Public Safety	Maywood
Board 7	Paul Holland	Legislation Committee Chair	Waverly Hills
Board 8	Ron Haddox	VP	Columbia Heights
Board 9	Jean Henceroth	N/A	Leeway Overlee

<sup>\*</sup>Allen has graciously offered to serve as Secretary if there are no other interested candidates.



### **FY2025 NOMINEE STATEMENTS**

NAME: John Ford

**CANDIDATE FOR: President** 

MEMBER ORG: Tara-Leeway Heights CA

#### **ACCF EXPERIENCE:**

John has served as the President of ACCF for FY23 and FY 24. As chair of the Public Services Committee during past years, John led the development of an effective campaign to identify and address critical countywide flood mitigation and stormwater management. Through his work, the committee has drafted and passed 4 resolutions with guidance for the county in the approach to flooding and stormwater and he has been successfully leading coordination with the county staff to implement the recommendations. He has initiated and is coordinating a strategy to organize civic associations by watershed to develop and promote civic association collaborative plans and to identify priorities for the CIP. In his role as Chair of Public Services, John has also provided support for subcommittee leads on Public Safety, Community Mental Health, and individual members addressing public services issues ad hoc. Both subcommittees and ad hoc groups have developed and provided presentations to the ACCF membership on a wide range of range of topics including review of the Police Practices Group findings, the Marcus Alert mental health initiative, the consideration of a broadband authority for Arlington, and privacy issues with the Clarendon Innovation and Public Safety Zone.

#### OTHER EXPERIENCE:

President, Tara-Leeway Heights Civic Association (2019 - current); Vice-President, Highland Park-Overlee Knolls CA 1983-86; Vice-President, Tara-Leeway Heights CA, 2017-19; President, Overlee Community Association 1984-86; Acting Ambassador in Belarus and The Bahamas during 33-year diplomatic career.

### **CURRENT ACCF POSITIONS:**

President; Member, Board of Directors; Committee Chair.

## **DIVERSITY STATEMENT:**

John is highly skilled in leadership through an inclusive team management style that recognizes, welcomes, includes, and supports individual contributions through collaboration. As a career diplomat with the state department serving in management and at the top levels of embassies,



John has lived in many cultures and demonstrated the highest skills in promoting collaboration among diverse cultures and perspectives.

#### PERSONAL STATEMENT:

During the past two years I have been privileged to lead the ACCF as President. I believe that your board and officers have provided a packed agenda throughout the year with opportunities to listen and understand each other and opportunities to take actions to advocate for our critical issues.

I have been working with your board and officers and the County Board and Manager's office to identify and develop positive proposals to improve how our elected leaders plan policy and how staff plan, interact with, and respond to the community. In the current overall environment in the county, this process will require diligence. I am committed to continue the focus on this work in a collaborative effort with County leadership, and I will keep you advised and engaged. This experience has not only reinforced my faith in ACCF as the county's leading civic voice, and in its enormous positive potential to improve our lives and our county. It has also granted me an opportunity to work with an extraordinarily talented and dedicated group of colleagues who I would be proud and honored to lead as we and the county continue to face these and other challenges.

As we continue to rebuild our essential committee structure, enhance membership services and reposition ourselves as Arlington County's major civic organization, I am confident we will improve our community for all Arlingtonians.

**NAME:** Nicholas Giacobbe

**CANDIDATE FOR:** Vice President

**MEMBER ORG:** Aurora Highlands CA

## **ACCF EXPERIENCE:**

Member of the ACCF Board of Directors for the past year, prior member delegate representing AHCA before going on overseas assignment. Chaired the Banquet Committee, that revived the dormant tradition of an annual awards ceremony and banquet; served as a member of the Awards Committee.

### OTHER EXPERIENCE:

Currently serving as the Recording Secretary of the Aurora Highlands Civic Association and an active member of the leadership team. Nick is a frequent representative of AHCA on the County's Long Range Planning Committees and Site Plan Review Committees. Professionally, recently retired from the State Department's Senior Foreign Service and continues to train Foreign Service Officers.

## **CURRENT ACCF POSITIONS:**

Member, Board of Directors, Committee Chair

### **DIVERSITY STATEMENT:**

Arlington's strength has always been its diversity and CivFed plays an important role in fostering conversations with participants from across the County. I will continue to work to ensure that all voices are heard during what can sometimes be difficult conversations.

## **PERSONAL STATEMENT:**

I have enjoyed being a part of CivFed once again and think that its role is as important today as it was at its founding over a century ago. We have worked to restore CivFed as a respected forum for our members, the community, and County leadership. I hope to continue building those relationships and open conversations over the next year.



**NAME:** Allen Norton

**CANDIDATE FOR:** Secretary

**MEMBER ORG:** Bluemont CA

#### **ACCF EXPERIENCE:**

Have been a Delegate from the BCA since Sept 2017. Served as the Secretary of the ACCF for the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 fiscal years. Served as the Chair of the Bylaws and Rules Committee from Dec 2019 to May 2021. ACCF Representative to the Vision Zero Project from Dec 2019 to Sept 2023.

## **OTHER EXPERIENCE:**

Have served on numerous Ad Hoc committees for my Civic Association (Safeway Rebuild, Bikeshare, etc.). Chair of the Mathematics Subcommittee of the ACTL (early 2000's).

### **CURRENT ACCF POSITIONS:**

Member of Bylaws and Membership Committees

## **DIVERSITY STATEMENT:**

By being logical, analytic, non-emotional and only interested in an idea's merit; not where it came from.

### **PERSONAL STATEMENT:**

This is an administrative position. The Secretary takes minutes for 24 meetings, keeps many ACCF records, keeps the Contact Lists and Membership Certifications for 85+ organizations, etc. It requires time and organization. I have the first and am good at the other.

SPECIAL NOTE: Allen has graciously offered to serve as Secretary if there are no other interested candidates.

**NAME:** Ben Watts

**CANDIDATE FOR:** Treasurer

**MEMBER ORG:** Aurora Highlands CA

#### **ACCF EXPERIENCE:**

Ben has served as the Treasurer for Arlington County Civic Federation (ACCF) for the past year. In this capacity, and in collaboration with the Secretary, he continued to effectively collect dues from members, including some past due items. He managed and maintained a balanced budget using current funds to pay current expenses, and expanded the ACCF surplus funds balance. Through monitoring of the budget, Ben identified significant overcharges from a vendor that are presently being refunded to the organization. He is working with the board to invest the surplus cash balances into higher yield interest-bearing accounts.

#### **OTHER EXPERIENCE:**

Professionally, Ben has served in a variety of private and public roles and is currently serving as a financial manager at the US Coast Guard in their Financial Policy division.

An active Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Ben has worked for both public, private, and quasi-public organizations in a range of roles from payables to preparing financial statements, project accounting, SEC Reporting, to name a few. Ben has been the Aurora Highlands Civic Association (AHCA) Treasurer for the last few years and in that capacity has developed a comprehensive Excel workbook to track cash balances, expenses, dues payments and monitor the budget. He has modified the workbook and uses it to manage ACCF finances and dues payment information.

#### **CURRENT ACCF POSITIONS:**

Treasurer

### **DIVERSITY STATEMENT:**

Ben has demonstrated his commitment to fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment and to increasing diverse engagement through his community building activities and his skill in working with people with diverse backgrounds and perspectives.

# **PERSONAL STATEMENT:**



I enjoy being a part of the ACCF, and with that, the feeling of being able to give back to our great community!! The ACCF financial position is solid at this point thanks to the work of my predecessor with my continued engagement. I will remain vigilant in monitoring cash inflows and outflows and reporting to the ACCF board timely. Additionally, I will use my financial background and experience to help the board continue to be good stewards of Association finances.

NAME: Allan Gajadhar

**CANDIDATE FOR:** Member, Board of Directors

MEMBER ORG: Cherrydale CA

**ACCF EXPERIENCE:** 

CivFed President 2020-2022, ClvFed Board 2022-2023, TiGER Chair, Schools Committee member

## OTHER EXPERIENCE:

Leadership Arlington 2024, Govt Program Manager, W\_L renaming committee

## **CURRENT ACCF POSITIONS:**

None

### **DIVERSITY STATEMENT:**

I will bring my own experience as a person of color as an example of diversity in CivFed leadership. I also pledge so support diversity initiatives, including if possible the diversity committee.

## **PERSONAL STATEMENT:**

None Provide

**NAME:** Paul Holland

**CANDIDATE FOR:** Member, Board of Directors

**MEMBER ORG:** Waverly Hills CA

## **ACCF EXPERIENCE:**

I currently serve as the Chair of the Legislation Committee. I have served in the capacity for one year.

#### OTHER EXPERIENCE:

Former President, Waverly Hills CA; Former Chair, Arlington County Park and Recreation Commission; Former Chair, Arlington County Fiscal Affairs Advisory Commission

## **CURRENT ACCF POSITIONS:**

Committee Chair

### **DIVERSITY STATEMENT:**

As a long-time civic leader, I am committed to engaging diverse communities, backgrounds, and perspectives. I want to ensure these voices are heard and considered in policymaking decisions in Arlington.

### **PERSONAL STATEMENT:**

I am excited to continue my work on behalf of the civic federation and to represent my community as a member of the Board of Directors. This is an exciting time for the Federation, one that presents a new opportunity to engage with diverse groups and advance a new vision for the future of our County.

**NAME:** Ron Haddox

**CANDIDATE FOR:** Member, Board of Directors

**MEMBER ORG:** Columbia Heights CA

#### **ACCF EXPERIENCE:**

Ron has served the ACCF for the past two years as the vice President and a member of the board of Directors. In this capacity Ron has frequently provided reliable experienced support for a wide range of activities for the board and the president. He is willing and able to step in as needed to support the president, the board, and committees. Ron has also served as the chair of the Legislative Committee for several years with a focus on social justice equity, and on cyber security and privacy education and protection for Arlington residents. He has worked collaboratively with the Public Safety subcommittee to provide input for presentations and areas of focus.

## **OTHER EXPERIENCE:**

Ron is the long-time president of the Columbia Heights Civic Association and active participant with other Civic Association presidents on issues impacting the neighborhoods along Columbia Pike. Among other issues, Ron has been instrumental in bringing together both neighbors of the Walter Reed Community Center and groups representing the Pickleball players to share their interests and concerns and to collaborate on potential solutions. Ron has been an active member of the Arlington NAACP and served on their social justice committee and helped bring NAACP perspectives to the work of the ACCF Legislation committee he chairs. Ron has served on the Bicycle Advisory Committee and the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee.

## **CURRENT ACCF POSITIONS:**

Vice-President; Member, Board of Directors; Committee Chair.

## **DIVERSITY STATEMENT:**

Ron has a record of outreach and bringing people together in a collaborative manner. He has been a strong advocate for diversity and inclusion of ACCF membership and has assisted with outreach.

# **PERSONAL STATEMENT:**

None provided.

NAME: Jean Henceroth

**CANDIDATE FOR:** Member, Board of Directors

**MEMBER ORG:** Leeway Overlee Civic Association

#### **ACCF EXPERIENCE:**

I have been President of the Leeway Overlee CA for the last 24 months and Vice President for the 12 months prior to that. During my time as President, I successfully saved the LAC Studios (formerly Lee Community Center) from demolition through the guidance of and working with Arlington County Board Members, County Manager, Staff, Commissioners, Langston Boulevard Alliance, ACCF Officers, Civic Association Presidents, and influencer citizens. ACCF acknowledged these efforts by honoring me with its Community Impact Award at its spring 2024 banquet.

#### OTHER EXPERIENCE:

1) President-elect, Vice President and Treasurer at Dallas-Fort Worth French American Chamber of Commerce (DFW FACC) which evolved into the European American Chamber of Commerce, Texas. The DFW FACC provided its members with access to transatlantic business opportunities as well as timely and relevant information, resources, and support on matters affecting business activities between France and the US. 2) President of Dallas Fort Worth International Trade Association (later absorbed into the Dallas Council on World Affairs, now known as the World Affairs Council of Dallas Fort Worth). Members were involved in international trade as exporters, importers, advisers, bankers, lawyers, government representatives, freight forwarders, etc. 3) Volunteer at Sire, a Houston-based equestrian therapeutic riding center which provides equine therapy to individuals with disabilities to help them develop both physically and emotionally. Responsibilities included working with clients as a side walker which including stabilizing and encouraging the rider, and as a horse leader, including leading a horse with a client in the class and preparing the horse pre- and post-class, grooming, tacking and untacking the horse.

### **CURRENT ACCF POSITIONS:**

None

#### **DIVERSITY STATEMENT:**

I support the ACCF diversity resolution and inclusion at all levels, in all activities from spiritual to personal relationships to professional practices.



## **PERSONAL STATEMENT:**

I am honored to participate in ACCF and its commitment to the general welfare of the citizens of Arlington through civic engagement.



**NAME:** Richard McNamara

**CANDIDATE FOR:** Member, Board of Directors

**MEMBER ORG:** Woodmont CA

**ACCF EXPERIENCE:** 

One Year as ACCF Board of Directors, At-Large

I have been a Civic Association President and Delegate for many years before coming to the ACCF Board. I find the ACCF the only place to turn to when the County leaders and staff ignore items that are meaningful to the residents and individual civic associations of Arlington. ACCF is often the clearing house of common activities (good and bad) from all corners of the county and can offer advocacy when needed.

### OTHER EXPERIENCE:

Former President of Woodmont, Woodmont Transportation coordinator, Boys Soccer and Basketball Recreation League coach. Arlington homeowner since 1977 and small business owner since 2008. In 2023 I became an Arlington County Election Official.

#### **CURRENT ACCF POSITIONS:**

At-Large ACCF Board Member for 1 year.

## **DIVERSITY STATEMENT:**

I believe in diversity and am an engineer who spent a civil service career working for the Department of the Navy. Since retiring, I have continued to work to promote small businesses and teach them how to deal with the Federal Government. Likewise, I attempt to show residents of Arlington how to deal with the County officials and staff on issues dear to the residents - particularly in Woodmont where I have lived since 1978 and I am a resident of Arlington since 1974. At times i have been President of both Parkway (before it became Woodmont) and Woodmont Associations and for many years a delegate to ACCF. I tend to like fact-based decision making and I think the County has lost its way. I fully supported the recent ACCF Restore Public Confidence Resolution regarding county perspectives and thoughts from all sources and work hard to seek to understand them. Often outreach is needed to gain acceptance and participation by those most affected. I practiced this throughout my professional career for the Federal Government and continue to do so in my role as the At-Large BOD member.

## **PERSONAL STATEMENT:**

None provided.



**NAME:** Mike McMenamin

**CANDIDATE FOR:** Member, Board of Directors

**MEMBER ORG:** Maywood CA

### **ACCF EXPERIENCE:**

Mike has a long history of service to ACCF, including serving as a board member for the past two years and from 2018-2021. He also served as the President of ACCF from 2013-2015. As a board member, Mike helped promote a civil and respectful discussion of sensitive topics. He is known as a thoughtful leader and is particularly valued for his excellent judgment. As chair of the Public Safety Group, Mike has coordinated the development of presentations to inform the members this year on Crime in Arlington and in prior years on topics including the findings of the Police Practices Group committees, a presentation on the pros and cons of potential Community Broadband, and a presentation on the public safety and privacy issues of the Clarendon Safety and Innovation Zone technology project. Also, I developed a program called Working Together for a Safer Arlington Community Policing Workshop (Policing Workshop) that occurred on May 28, 2024.

### **OTHER EXPERIENCE:**

Mike McMenamin's commitment to community service extends beyond his roles in ACCF, e.g., former President and board member. He has also served as the President of the Maywood Community Association, a Member of the Arlington Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee, and a former youth sports coach in Arlington. These diverse experiences have given him a comprehensive understanding of our community and its needs.

#### **CURRENT ACCF POSITIONS:**

Board of Directors, at-large.

#### **DIVERSITY STATEMENT:**

Mike McMenamin is deeply committed to promoting engagement and expanding the diversity of our Civic Federation. He is dedicated to creating an atmosphere that is not only welcoming but also inclusive, ensuring that all voices are heard and represented.

### **PERSONAL STATEMENT:**

None Provided



**NAME:** David R Smith

**CANDIDATE FOR:** Member, Board of Directors

**MEMBER ORG:** Bluemont CA

#### **ACCF EXPERIENCE:**

David has served ACCF for the past two years as Secretary and as a member of the Public Services - Stormwater Committee. As secretary, David organized and established a structure for CivFed documentation (e.g. insurance, incorporation docs, member data, CivFed property, accounts/access) and re-built the member and delegate database giving ACCF the capacity to reach delegates through communications and to verify delegate votes conducted at general meetings. He has provided the primary tech support for managing the hybrid meetings for both the general meeting and the board meetings and he has produced minutes for these meetings on a quick turnaround and tracking of required follow-up to actions taken. David has been responsible for the regular member newsletter and meeting reminders and has edited and produced articles including regular committee reports, topics of interest to the members and meetings, and articles on special events sponsored by ACCF. As secretary, he has fielded numerous member questions as well as questions about potential new members. In addition to these regular activities, David has been a highly valued member of the officers and board in providing sound advice on a wide range of topics. David was asked three years ago to take the lead in organizing the seven Civic Associations in the Lubber Run watershed to collaborate to protect residents and businesses against what have become frequent, damaging stormwater flooding events. David has a collaborative leadership style and willingness to compromise. David's skills in attention to detail, and in writing and circulating timely operational records have contributed to the smooth functioning of CivFed and helped facilitate the group formulation of strategies and statements for implementation.

# **OTHER EXPERIENCE:**

Bluemont Treasurer (3 years)

### **CURRENT ACCF POSITIONS:**

Secretary (2 years)

### **DIVERSITY STATEMENT:**

David is known professionally for his adaptive/inclusive leadership style and has demonstrated the effectiveness of this style by including and engaging civic associations leaders with diverse



backgrounds and perspectives. He will continue to bring this inclusive leadership style to the work of the Civic Federation.

## **PERSONAL STATEMENT:**

As secretary in FY23 and FY24 I believe I made considerable progress organizing CivFed data, property, and member databases, and I enjoyed publishing the monthly CivFed newsletter. I was also able to further improve my understanding how the County operates, and I was exposed to many community leaders. I am now ready to take on a new role as a Member of the Board to help further support our organizational and committee goals of promoting the general welfare of Arlington County. Please note that in the role of Member of the Board, I also plan to bridge my knowledge of specific duties (e.g. newsletter publishing, maintenance of the member database, management of CivFed documentation, meeting execution) to the new secretary, and I will continue to help keep our General Membership and Board meetings moving along.



**NAME:** Jacqueline Snelling

**CANDIDATE FOR:** Member, Board of Directors

MEMBER ORG: Lyon Village CA

## **ACCF EXPERIENCE:**

Jackie is currently an ACCF board member and Vice-Chairman of the Board. As a board member, Jackie has focused on assisting the president and officers to re-build the membership lists and dues payments, and to re-build the membership committees to engage members in building the ACCF capacity to address issues critical to members. She has helped re-start the Housing Committee, the Legislative Committee, the Arts and Culture Committee, the Planning and Zoning Committee, and soon the Parks and Rec Committee.

Membership presentations on Housing, Arlington Visioning 2040, and Health and Green Space Equity have served as the base and outreach for re-energizing committees by engaging members and others in the planning and presentations. Jackie has also worked on outreach to increase membership of new and diverse organizations recruiting several new member organizations.

During the previous several years she also served on the Public Services Committee where she worked on flood resilience, the Public Safety subcommittee, and co-chaired the Mental Health subcommittee. Jackie founded the Spout Run Watershed Planning Group of 10 residential and civic associations that has actively provided advocacy. She supported presentations to members on Mental Health, Law Enforcement and Mental Health, Broadband, and Covid Public Health. Jackie has been active in ACCF since 2000. She served on and chaired the Public Services Committee for many years. She served on the board and as board chair in 2006 and 2007 and served as vice president in 2007.

# **OTHER EXPERIENCE:**

Jackie served APS actively for 23 years. Activities included APS advisory committees including ACI, CCPTAs (newsletter editor), Facilities, Budget, English (chair), Early Childhood (chair), and After School committees. She jointly developed and led a team that resolved a significant boundary change for capacity and diversity. She developed a revised capacity study methodology that was adopted. She authored a comprehensive analysis of inequities in school achievement identified with race and culture and used the study to gain overlay funding for minority schools, In the 1990s, Jackie co-chaired the successful campaign and a referendum to restore Arlington's ability to elect their school board. School board elections resumed in 1994



after a forty-year absence. Jackie founded the Preparedness Advisory Committee for post 9/11 recovery and preparedness. Jackie initially chaired the committee advisory to the county manager and then served on the successor Preparedness Advisory Commission and the successor manager's Committee.

### **CURRENT ACCF POSITIONS:**

Member, Board of Directors

### **DIVERSITY STATEMENT:**

I am committed to the mission of CivFed to bring people together from different backgrounds and points of view to listen to each other, improve their understanding of different backgrounds and perspectives on civic issues and to work together to identify common objectives. I worked to provide a CivFed civil dialogue of differing points of view on the sometimes acrimonious topic of missing middle and planning and zoning to include green space, housing and response to climate change. I have been actively recruiting organizations of people with diverse backgrounds and individuals representing different points of view.

## **PERSONAL STATEMENT:**

ACCF has a critical role in Arlington in these times of significant change. ACCF can provide substantive consensus recommendations and be the voice for effective advocacy. This role requires an inclusive ACCF with robust member committees to listen and learn from different perspectives and to engage in thoughtful recommendations. I have built on previous diversity initiatives to seek new members, to re-build member outreach to seek a strong and diverse membership base. I have also worked systematically to rebuild an active committee structure. This year, I'd like to continue building with a focus on continuity and sustainability.



**NAME:** David Schutz

**CANDIDATE FOR:** Member, Board of Directors

MEMBER ORG: Ashton Heights CA

### **ACCF EXPERIENCE:**

Current member, Board of Directors. Member TiGER task force on Arlington Form of Government. Prior Chair, ACCF Parks and Recreation Committee. Current chair of the Form of Government Subcommittee of ACCF Legislation Committee.

## **OTHER EXPERIENCE:**

Former President, Ashton Heights Civic Assn; former Chair, Arlington Park and Recreation Commission; former member, Site Plan Review Subcommittee.

## **CURRENT ACCF POSITIONS:**

Board of Directors, at-large

## **DIVERSITY STATEMENT:**

I intend to continue working to have all voices heard.

## **PERSONAL STATEMENT:**

I'm sort of an institutional loyalist for CivFed - think its historic role as an incubator of ideas for moving Arlington forward remains good and valuable to the community.