



Arlington County Civic Federation

The Civic Voice

The Newsletter of the Arlington County Civic Federation
January 2025 | Volume 109 | Number 05

Get Engaged with Your Community!

Arlington County is buzzing with opportunities to make a difference, and the Arlington County Civic Federation (ACCF) is your gateway to action. From shaping policies on housing and schools to championing arts, parks, and public services, there's a Committee for every passion. Join us at this month's General Membership meeting on January 14th to connect with neighbors, share your voice, and learn how you can help shape the future of Arlington. If you're ready for the next level of civic leadership, join a [Committee](#) by emailing your interest [here](#).

This edition covers:

- Recap of our December meeting with links to documents presented
- A preview of our upcoming General Membership meeting with County leadership on Jan 14
- Housing and Planning & Zoning Committee Updates
- ACCF's commitment to Open Government
- A survey collecting input on the County's FY2026 budget

Don't miss out—your ideas and energy are what make Arlington thrive!

President's Message

Dear Civic Federation members,

I want to begin by making sure everyone has heard that we will have a regular ACCF membership meeting this month on our traditional second Tuesday evening, January 14, at 7:00 p.m. at the Hazel Auditorium at Virginia Hospital Center. This represents a change from recent practice.

For the past several years, our January meeting took place concurrently with the traditional organizing meeting of the incoming Arlington County Board. This year, the County Board and Civ Fed will instead convene for a special joint work session in the Board chambers on Wednesday, February 26 from 7:00 – 9:00. All Civic Federation members are most cordially invited to join us then, in person or virtually.

Despite this change in our plans, I urge everyone to attend the Board's organizing meeting on Monday January 6, starting at 6:00 p.m. In addition to electing their

leadership for 2025, Board members will share their aspirations and ambitions for the upcoming year. If there is snow as forecast and attendance becomes problematic, this session may be rescheduled for the following afternoon; stay tuned for more details.

Current board vice-chair Takis Karantonis should be chosen to lead the board this year, so his remarks will be of particular interest. I believe he envisions different processes for Board policy development and advocacy. His vision for community engagement with organizations such as ours will be a critical piece of his 2025 plans, and he has agreed to kick off our January 14 meeting by discussing that vision with us. Takis will lead off our January meeting program.

Former CB member, Virginia Secretary of Transportation and longtime community and statewide leader, John Milliken is presently a Senior Fellow at George Mason University's school of Policy and Development and a frequent speaker on local and state government issues.

As we begin 2025 with our support again on the record for proposed state legislation affording to Arlington County the freedom to choose its form of government, John has been publicly addressing this and other issues of general interest. He'll join us next Tuesday to share his views in a session to be moderated by our acting Legislative Committee chair Dave Schutz.

County fire, police, emergency and mental health services have been plagued by staffing shortages and other issues for some time. To provide a briefing on the county fire department's current operations and challenges, we will welcome fire chief David Povlitz as our third speaker of the evening. There will be ample time for in person and virtual questions for the chief.

We asked county police chief Andy Penn to join us in October as our region ramped up preparations for the upcoming presidential inauguration, and his visit was very well received indeed! He has been returning to brief us on those preparations since then, and he will be with us once more for our January meeting. Chief Penn will be available for questions after his remarks.

Meantime, your Board of Directors has been hard at work to maximize the impact and interactivity of the joint session in February with the County Board. We aim to use our regular February 11 membership meeting to set the stage for the joint session by looking closely at some of the central issues now facing our county and community. We'll keep you posted.

With my very best wishes for a happy and fulfilling New Year,

John Ford
ACCF President

January General Membership Meeting

Meeting Agenda

- 7:00 - 7:05 Open and [December Minutes](#) Approval
- 7:05 - 7:30 County Board Chair Takis Karantonis
- 7:30 - 7:50 Former CB Member John Milliken
- 7:50 - 8:35 Arlington County Fire Chief David Povlitz
- 8:35 - 8:50 Arlington County Police Chief Andy Penn
- 8:50 - 9:00 Open Floor and Adjourn

Location: Hazel Auditorium, Virginia Hospital Center

Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2024 @ 7:00 PM

Invitation: Delegates, Alternate Delegates, others associated with member organizations, and the public are invited to attend this meeting.

Delegates: All requests for delegate swaps with alternates must be submitted to the secretary@civfed.org by **Sunday January 12th** at 12 noon. No exceptions.

Options for attending the meeting:

1. **In-Person** (Delegates, Other Guests): No registration is needed to attend in-person.
2. **Facebook Live** (Other Guests): No registration is needed to watch the live stream which can be found on the [ArlCivFed Facebook page](#).
3. **Zoom** (Delegates): Registration is required ([link](#)) by Monday, January 13 at 12 noon. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. The Zoom passcode is 123456, but if you use the links provided after you register you will not have to enter it.

Keep reading this newsletter for details on Virginia Hospital Center parking and access instructions.

December General Membership Meeting Outbrief

by Matt Gloudeman, ACCF Secretary

ACCF was honored to welcome Arlington County Manager, Mark Schwartz, to our December General Membership meeting. We discussed a range of critical topics from budget and housing to workforce and community engagement. We included time for the audience to ask [questions](#) throughout, with membership involvement in the discussion a priority. Discussion topics included:

1. **Community Trust** - Discussed trust between the County Board & the community.
2. **Workforce Issues** - Discussed potential impacts of federal workforce changes on Arlington County.
3. **Budget** - Discussed the County's 2025 budget and potential impacts to Arlingtonians.
4. **Residential Housing Tracker Resolution** - Discussed the County's strategies for tracking housing development across Arlington.
5. **County Vision** - Discussed updates on the Board's long-term vision for Arlington County.

We also made meaningful progress on two ACCF Committee resolutions. First, we voted on the Housing Committee's **Housing Tracker Resolution**.

- A motion was made to approve the Housing Committee's Housing Tracker Resolution, that was reviewed in the November GM meeting, shared with member organizations, and updated based on ACCF Committee feedback. The motion was moved, and seconded. The Housing Tracker Resolution was approved by acclamation (Yeah = 39, Nay = 1, Abstain = 1). The approved resolution can be found [here](#).

Then, we voted on Legislative Committee's **2025 Legislative Priorities Resolution**.

- After discussion with Committees and Members, we decided the same Legislative Priorities approved in 2024 will apply to 2025. A motion was made to approve the Legislative Committee's 2025 Legislative Priorities Resolution. The motion was moved, and seconded. The 2025 Legislative Priorities Resolution was approved by acclamation (Yeah = 32, Nay = 0, Abstain = 1). The approved resolution can be found [here](#).

Meeting Video Link: [Arlington County Civic Fed \[ACCF\] \(Arlington County Civic Fed \[ACCF\] \(vimeo.com\)\)](#)

Please contact Matt Gloudeman, secretary@civfed.org, with any questions.

Briefing from Arlington County Fire Chief, David Povlitz, at the Jan 14 ACCF Membership Meeting

At the Jan 14 ACCF meeting, Chief Povlitz will join us to give us a briefing on the current status of the Fire Department (ACFD) - the performance, challenges, needs and plans. As part of the briefing, we've asked the Chief to include specifics on staffing size, adequacy of resources, and the ACFD actions that focus on managing and addressing the reported staffing shortages to meet service performance standards and goals. There will be an opportunity for Questions and Answers with members.



David Povlitz has over thirty years of experience in fire, rescue and emergency medical services. He was appointed as the Fire Chief of the Arlington County Fire Department in November 2018. Chief Povlitz's background includes information technology integration, emergency communications, training, and emergency management support. He is an experienced incident commander for large-scale incidents and complex events. He also has special operations experience in hazardous materials, collapsed building and rope rescue, and technical, marine, and dive rescue incidents.

Planning and Zoning Committee General Land Use Plan (GLUP) and Site Plan Subcommittee

Submitted by Jack Spilsbury, GLUP Subcommittee Chair

The Committee will meet Thursday January 30, 7:30 pm. The agenda will feature presentations by CAs to document their Special GLUP, zoning and site plan experiences and discussion on what key priorities for change should be included in developing a CivFed recommendation. Please contact Jack Spilsbury, chair of P&Z GLUPPlus, at glup.sc.chair@civfed.org for additional information.

The registration link is:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/KUsar1XtRoSOJaqTHEeguA>

ACCF Housing Committee

Submitted by Housing Committee Co-chairs, Matt Hall and Anne Bodine

Join us at our next committee meeting on January 23 at 6:30pm. Register here:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/xWKxZtLuRneMaX3FeNIt9w>

Many churches and non-profits in Arlington have faced problems of dwindling memberships and some have even partnered with affordable housing developers to combine forces. We have gained some notable new affordable units in Ballston, Virginia Square, and elsewhere through projects that have involved land use and zoning changes. At the same time, many of these non profits are in low density areas, and redevelopment there poses bigger challenges, including not changing the character of the area or adding density that overpowers existing infrastructure (and doesn't add community space or parks).

The Housing Committee will look at a theoretical redevelopment model for a non-profit, in this case, a church in a low density area of Ashton Heights, where one of our committee members lives so he is familiar with the site.

We are working with a local developer to develop a palatable, financeable model using a local church parking lot, with financing based on the NYC Open Door model. We will be looking to see if a similar model can add density, but also maintain low-medium scale (no more than 36-40 units per acre).

Contact the co-chairs Anne and Matt at housing.chair@civfed.org

Our Commitment to Open Government – Priorities for Arlington County Website Data and Information

Submitted by Jackie Snelling

In January 2009, President Barack Obama issued a “Memorandum on Transparency and Open Government.” (source: National Archives/2009). In the Memo, he stated a commitment to “... work together to ensure the public trust and establish a system of transparency, public participation, and collaboration. Openness will strengthen our democracy and promote efficiency and effectiveness in Government.” The President continued to state his intent “to disclose information rapidly in forms that the public can readily find and use.” And to direct all departments “to harness new technologies to put information about their operations and decisions online and readily available to the public.”

A principal goal of ACCF is to work with the Arlington County leadership and government to create and sustain public trust through working together on our mutual commitment to open government. ACCF leadership highlights this commitment as a principle in all our work with Arlington government leadership.

The Arlington County website is a major source of public information and an area where Arlington County is actively working to improve the information that is available and accessible. We invite all of you to help us work with the County by identifying priorities of “frequent web users” for information for public access and use. Please send your specific and succinct priorities for accessible web data that you would use frequently to bod.orgdev@civfed.org. We will use your comments to identify priorities for discussions with the County.

Weigh In on the Arlington County FY 2026 Budget Through January 8

Each February, the County Manager presents his proposed annual operating budget to the County Board. As he develops his proposed budget, he is asking the community to share their thoughts on how to prioritize spending.

Please take 5-10 minutes to complete this [survey](#) and share your thoughts on the budget by **January 8**.

2024-2025 Board of Directors

Officers

President, [John Ford](#)

Vice President, [Nick Giacobbe](#)

Secretary, [Matt Gloudeman](#)

Treasurer, [Benjamin Watts](#)

Board of Directors

Board Chair, [David Smith](#)

Director at Large, [Allan Gajadhar](#)

Director at Large, [Dave Schutz](#)

Director at Large, [Jackie Snelling](#)

Director at Large, [Jean Hencroth](#)

Director at Large, [Michael McMenamin](#)

Director at Large, [Paul Holland](#)

Director at Large, [Richard McNamara](#)

Director at Large, [Ron Haddox](#)

ACCF PUBLIC INTEREST COMMITTEES

- Arts and Culture – Co-Chairs Tina Worden and Sandi Chesrown
- Diversity – Chair TBD - if interested contact bod.orgdev@civfed.org
- Environmental Affairs – Chair Mary Glass
- Housing – Co-Chairs Anne Bodine and Matt Hall
- Legislation – Chair Paul Holland
- Parks and Recreation – Chair Cory Giacobbe (Parks)
- Planning and Zoning – Chair Brian Harner
- Public Services – Chair John Ford
- Revenues and Expenditures – Chair TBD
- Schools – Chair Todd Truitt
- Transportation – Chair TBD - if interested contact bod.orgdev@civfed.org

Any delegate, alternate delegate, or member of a member organization may participate on any public interest or support committee. Please contact the applicable committee chair, point-of-contact, or President John Ford if you are interested in participating on ACCF committees.

[Link to Committee Website](#)

Interested in being an Arlington County Civic Federation Delegate?

The Arlington County Civic Federation was founded in 1916. Today, it has 80+

member organizations dedicated to advocacy and community involvement. The Federation membership reflects the broad array of interests and talents found in the County and is open and welcoming to all groups within Arlington, firmly believing that a broader range of groups creates better problem-solving outcomes for Arlington and its residents. Our purpose continues to be promoting the general welfare of Arlington County and its vicinity in a non-partisan, non-sectarian, non-sectional, and non-political manner.

Arlington County Civic Federation delegates enjoy the full benefits of participation, voting, and serving in Civic Federation leadership positions. If your organization is a member of the Civic Federation, ask if it has open slots for delegates. If it is not a member organization of the Civic Federation, encourage it to join. Here is a link to our website for more details.

joinus@Civfed.org

[The Civic Federation's Website](#)

CivFed Calendar FY2025

January and February

- 1/6 – Arlington County Board Organizing Meeting
 - 1/14 – ACCF General Membership Meeting
 - 1/22 – ACCF Board Meeting (final meeting date TBD)
 - 1/23 – Housing Committee Meeting
 - 1/30 – Planning and Zoning Committee General Land Use Plan (GLUP) and Site Plan Subcommittee Meeting
 - 2/11 – ACCF General Membership Meeting
 - 2/26 – Annual Work Session with the Arlington County Board (Note: this is moved from original plan of 1/2)
-

Virginia Hospital Center Hazel Auditorium Parking and Access Instructions for General Membership Meetings

Reminder: Parking passes will be provided. Meetings are held in the 'Conference Center' depicted on the map below.

The VHC Director of Security has advised CivFed that we should begin to park in Parking Garage C (map below). You can then walk across to the Oncology entrance and gain admittance until 8 p.m. **After the meeting, you MUST EXIT via the Women's and Infant lobby.**

ENTER (until 8 p.m.): Zone C Ground floor Oncology entrance (only open until 8 pm, Monday-Friday)

- Sign into the visitor kiosks (**need driver's license each time**)
- Get visitor sticker and wear at all times when inside the hospital
- Take a right at the double doors by the visitor kiosks
- Take a right at the single door
- Go to elevators and take to lobby floor
- Exit elevators and go left to hall directly behind welcome desk in lobby
- Take a left at the single door and continue down the hall toward a set of double doors
- Go through double doors and go right
- Conference center auditorium is directly ahead

ENTER or EXIT (24/7): Zone C first floor Women's and Infant lobby entrance (please use this entrance to exit after 8 pm, open 24/7):


- Sign into the visitor kiosks (**need driver's license each time**)
- Get visitor sticker and wear at all times when inside the hospital
- Walk to hall directly behind the welcome desk in the lobby
- Take a left at the single door and continue down the hall toward a set of double doors
- Go through double doors and go right
- Conference center auditorium is directly ahead



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