

The Fairfax County
FEDERATION
of Citizens Associations *Established 1940*

June 2009

THE BULLETIN

Volume 58, Number 9

Federation Membership Picnic



Thursday, June 18, 2009

7:00 p.m.

(please note the earlier start time)

Annandale Community Park

(the park adjacent to the Packard Center
see page six for directions to the parking lot)

4022 Hummer Road, Annandale

The Federation will provide food and drinks.

***If you plan to attend, please rsvp to
Jeffrey Parnes at 703-424-2956 or
FedPres2008@fairfaxfederation.org.***

In case of inclement weather, the picnic will be in
the Packard Center Main Conference Room.

Guest Speaker:

The Honorable Sharon Bulova

Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Topic: "The State of the County"



Membership Reminder

**Please note the Federation membership
does *not* meet in July and August.**

The next membership meeting will be

Thursday, September 17, 2009.

7:30 p.m.

Enjoy a safe and peaceful summer!



Federation Board Meetings

Packard Center Main Conference Room 7:30 p.m.

July 23

August 27



President's Message

This month's meeting is our last before our summer break; it's also our annual picnic. Please come and join us as we install our new officers for 2009-2010 and welcome and listen to the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Sharon Bulova, report on the state of our county.

The picnic will be held at the Annandale Community Park - the same location where we hold our monthly meetings, but instead of meeting in the Packard Center Building, we'll be at the picnic shelter. Rather than bearing right on the entrance road to the Packard Center parking lot, bear left at the split in the road and the picnic shelter will be at the far right of that parking lot. Please RSVP using the link on our home page so we'll have an idea of how many folks will be at the picnic, and if you choose to bring something to share, you can indicate that as well. We always have a great time, so help us celebrate what is almost midsummer's night eve. If it is raining, we will hold the picnic and meeting in the Packard Center.

I'm proud to serve as a member of our new board: myself as President, Tania Hossain as First Vice President, Kahan Dhillion as Second Vice President, Scott Schlegel returning as Treasurer, Patty Parker and Ed Wyse working together as Recording Secretaries, and Esther Ferington as our first Corresponding Secretary in many a year. The new board will concentrate on organizing itself over the summer when we skip the July and August membership meetings. But even though we will not hold membership meetings during the summer months, the Federation will remain busy. We will start reviewing our positions for the upcoming legislative session, and our various committees, such as land use, transportation, education, etc, will be meeting and considering issues that come before them. And speaking about committees, we're still looking for a chair of our Human Services Committee, so if you're interested, drop me a line.

It's been a privilege to have served as the Federation President for these past two years, and an honor to have been chosen to lead this fine organization for a third. Let's make this next year a productive one - let's start with a great picnic - see you there!

Enjoy,

Jeffrey Parnes, President
FedPres2008@FairfaxFederation.org
703-424-2956

**Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations
Membership Meeting of May 21, 2009**

DRAFT MINUTES

(for approval at the June 18, 2009 membership picnic)

The May 20 membership meeting of FCFCA was held at the Packard Center at 7:30 p.m. (Attendance list is attached to file copy.) First Vice President Charles Dane presided. He introduced the first speaker for a "Report from Richmond" on the recent General Assembly session, Delegate David Bulova, and noted that another scheduled speaker, State Senator George Barker, would arrive later. Delegate Bulova reported that he had gotten a call from the third expected speaker, Delegate Mark Sickles, who was stuck in traffic in Delaware and would be unable to attend.

Program

Delegate Bulova noted that a more detailed briefing on the session is available from the Legislative Services office. Unlike Congress, the General Assembly is in session for only 46 days or two months a year (depending on the year) and must get through a large volume of bills in a short time. This year there were 2300 to 2500 bills, fewer than usual because of a new cap in the House of fifteen bills per legislator, excluding resolutions. There is split-second voting on each bill, so legislators rely heavily on subcommittees and committees for guidance. Delegate Bulova serves on the Agriculture and Natural Resources, Education, and General Laws Committees and on several subcommittees.

This year the big issue was the budget. In the past, revenue has usually grown 7 to 9 percent, or 2 to 3 percent in a bad year, but for the first time in recent memory it is decreasing. It was expected that there would be a \$2.9 billion deficit to make up to create a balanced budget, and the governor had made several cuts before the session. During the session, however, it was learned that January and February revenues were even lower than expected, yielding a \$3.7 billion deficit. This would have required deep cuts in core services. A week later, the federal stimulus package was passed, providing some relief. However, cuts of \$2.8 billion were still required even with the stimulus. It just kept things from getting worse.

During the budget process, there were "victories and concerns," he said. Medicaid funding was protected with the help of additional federal stimulus funding; K-12 education cuts were avoided, as were \$230 million in public safety cuts; \$20 million was added to support agricultural best practices related to runoff into the Chesapeake Bay; \$180 million was set aside for the reserve fund. However, concerns included continued cuts to the correction system with a lack of rehabilitation that he believes will boost repeat offenses; cuts to higher education, including higher tuition and greater reliance on out of state students; and, of greatest concern, the area of transportation funding, where the primary source of revenue is the gas tax, which was set almost 25 years ago at 17.5 cents a gallon (not a percentage). Because this revenue is not keeping pace with transportation needs, the state is running out of money for new construction and beginning to take some money out of the maintenance budget as well.

He went on to note that the Climate Change Commission for the governor had led to many bills on energy independence, energy conservation, renewable energy, weatherizing buildings, and related matters. This session also passed the smoking ban in restaurants, but did not pass no-excuse absentee-in-person voting or nonpartisan (bipartisan) redistricting. He carried eleven

bills, including eminent domain reforms, stormwater management, line of duty act for firefighters, and a simplified way for schools to produce records for child custody cases without requiring school administrators to personally testify.

He answered questions on the effect of the federal stimulus package, the rejection of a \$125 million portion of the stimulus related to unemployment benefits, the allocation of the portion slated for regional rail projects and other transportation, protections for home owners associations, the Dillon rule, the housing redevelopment authority, better VRE signage and visibility, VRE extensions, incentives for solar and wind energy, and ways to increase the gas tax or other transportation funding.

(The presentation from Senator George Barker, who arrived after Delegate Bulova's departure, followed the Business Meeting but is listed here for continuity.)

Senator Barker did not recap the same information on the budget, although he noted the smoking ban in restaurants, which passed after the Speaker of the House changed his position on the issue and advocated for it. Given our Virginia history, he said, this was extraordinarily significant. The ban will go into effect in December 2009. Every public restaurant will have a smoke-free environment, although it can have a smoking-permitted room (in addition to the smoke-free space) if it is separately vented.

He also noted the speed with which legislation is considered; he is on four committees, two of which met only once to consider all the bills before them. He favors a 60 day session for both years, rather than a 46 day session every other year. He had 30 bills, counting resolutions. He succeeded with a bill solving a problem with providing health care for children in child support situations, reversing a situation where existing insurance policies can make such insurance unaffordable. He also succeeded with a bill establishing a time table to reduce the waiting list for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities for the Medicaid waiver process over ten years, as reducing the backlog in a single year would be unaffordable. He hopes this can be a model for resolving other long-standing challenges.

(see DRAFT MINUTES - continued on page 3)

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations

4022 Hummer Road, Annandale VA 22003

www.fairfaxfederation.org

2008-2009 President: Jeffrey M. Parnes

Newsletter Editor: Carol A. Hawn

The Bulletin is the newsletter of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations. It is usually published monthly, with the exception of July and August. The purpose is to provide information to member communities, federal, state, and local officials, and other interested persons in Fairfax County. Articles reflect the view of their author and may be reprinted with the use of the following citation: "The Bulletin of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations".

Please contact Carol Hawn at 703-266-6872 or cahawn@verizon.net with name and address changes, comments, or suggestions.

Federation Meeting Cancellation Policy

If either Fairfax County Government or Schools are closed after 12:00 noon the day of a Federation membership meeting or event, or if it is announced that Fairfax County Government or Schools will be closed the day after a scheduled Federation membership meeting or event due to inclement weather or other emergency, the Federation will not hold that event. This does not pertain to regularly scheduled closures. Membership meetings will not be rescheduled, although speakers may be asked to attend an upcoming meeting. We will make every attempt to post the cancellation on www.fairfaxfederation.org or you can call 703-266-6872 for more information.

(DRAFT MINUTES - continued from page 2)

He remains very concerned about transportation funding but also about higher education funding. This year, for example, North Carolina provided three times the funding per in-state student as Virginia did. Other states are also investing more in faculty and research budgets. We are losing ground. He noted that Virginia's institutions of higher education were even funded during the Great Depression. Due to a long pattern of cuts he believes the state is at great risk of losing its standing in higher education.

He answered questions on the best time of year to lobby or communicate with legislators (between March and November), the best way to contact him (letters, which he reads personally; the staff reviews e-mails); general fund spending on K-12 education; ease of attending public committee and subcommittee hearings; and the gas tax.

Business Meeting

a. First Vice President Charles Dane thanked John Jennison, who as immediate past president chaired the Nominating Committee. He then announced the proposed candidate for each position and asked for other nominations from the floor for that position. The candidates proposed by the Nominating Committee were as follows:

President: Jeff Parnes

First Vice President: Tania Hossain

Second Vice President: Kahan Dhillon, Jr.

Treasurer: Scott Schlegel

Recording Secretary (shared): Ed Wyse, Patty Parker

Corresponding Secretary: Esther Ferington

b. No nominations were received from the floor for any position. Bill Hanks moved that nominations be closed and the Secretary instructed to record that a unanimous ballot was cast for the slate presented by the Nominating Committee. Carey Campbell seconded. The motion carried, unanimously.

c. The minutes for the April membership meeting were unanimously approved as amended.

d. First Vice President Charles Dane distributed the Treasurer's Report. There was a discussion of the list of member associations. As Chair of the Membership Committee, he noted that the number of member associations stands at 50, with nine associations having not renewed and nine new associations having joined.

e. John Jennison discussed the budget for the Citizen of the Year award banquet. The Washington Post once again co-sponsored the event, but contributed \$500 instead of the \$1500 contributed in past years. For the first time, SAIC and the Fairfax Chamber of Commerce also co-sponsored the event, each contributing \$500. Two RSVPs were received but not paid for. Certain additional expenses were discussed. On balance, the event produced a \$160 loss.

f. Bill Hanks moved that the Treasurer's Report be received and filed. Carey Campbell seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously on a voice vote.

g. Charles Dane noted that there are as many committee chairs as at any time in the past few years, but that one vacancy remains: Human Services. C. Monique Berry expressed an interest in the position and was asked to talk with him after the meeting. Committee chairs are appointed by the Federation president with approval from the Federation Board.

h. Kosmo Tatalias reported that the Board of Supervisors has unanimously passed a budget. The unusual unanimous vote was a major triumph, he said, and reflected the best compromise that could be achieved. He reported that many of the cuts which the Federation had requested be restored in its resolution on the budget have now been restored. The main difference is that stormwater management funding will be held to a penny of the tax rate, whereas the Federation had supported 1.5 cents. The tax rate was also held to \$1.04 instead of \$1.05, as the Federation had recommended. Some items are being funded by increased user fees. Funding for the affordable housing preservation plan is declining significantly and looks likely to decline further in future years. He noted that next year's budget is expected to be as tight and awful as this year's budget.

i. Charles Dane, as the Education Chair, noted that several county items have an impact on the school budget. For example, the final county budget restored much but not all of the funding for clinic aides and all of the school resource officers. The FCPS budget was to be adopted on May 21, the same night as this meeting.

j. At this point, Senator Barker arrived and gave the presentation described above. Resuming the Business Meeting, Charles Dane noted that the final membership meeting will be on June 18 and will be a picnic. It will be at the outdoor pavilion on the same property as the Packard Center, where the picnic meeting has been held in past years and will begin half an hour earlier than usual, at 7:00 p.m.

k. Don Hinman, Chair of the Association Services Committee presented the bond release brochure he had worked with the county staff to develop. He noted he may be doing the same with a stormwater management brochure since many HOAs must deal with this issue.

l. Fred Costello, Chair of the Land Use Committee, noted he needed to send a letter to the Planning Commission on an issue that the Federation has addressed in the past, and has written similar letters about in the past to the Commission. Charles Dane stated that since our position had been previously approved and has not changed, the Land Use Chair can write and send a letter reaffirming the Federation's position. Fred Costello also reported that he has been working closely with Randy Bartlett, the county's leader on stormwater management and has another meeting scheduled.

m. Charles Dane, as Chair of the Education Committee, reported that the committee had met with a guest from the Advanced Academic Achievement Center (the new designation for what was previously known as the Gifted and Talented Program).

n. He also noted that the current Federation newsletter encourages members to share any suggestions regarding the legislative package to share them now, as it is hoped to get a significantly earlier start on this program to allow for earlier contact with our senators and delegates.

o. Carey Campbell, co-Chair of the Transportation Committee, stated that he wanted to propose a resolution on high-speed rail, better signage about rail (including VRE), and expansion of VRE routes. He agreed that he and Fred Costello would draft such a resolution for the next Board

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(**DRAFT MINUTES** - continued from page 3)
meeting to review.

p. Mount Vernon District Council Representative Karen Pohorylo introduced a delegate from a new member association, Bob Holy from Waynewood in Mount Vernon.

Next Membership Meeting: June 18, 2009. Picnic and "State of the County" from the Honorable Sharon Bulova, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. NOTE: Picnic meeting starts at 7:00, half an hour before the regular time.

Next Board Meeting: June 25, 2009.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

2008 - 2009 End-of-the-Year Federation Committee Reports

Association Services Committee

Don Hinman, Chair

The major accomplishment of the Federation's Association Services Committee (ASC) this year was its role in the April 2009 publication of a new county brochure entitled: *Bond Release Process for New Subdivisions in Fairfax County: An Overview for Homeowners Associations*. The ASC requested and encouraged the publication of this helpful educational document, and also reviewed and provided suggestions for its content. We understand the county is now considering the development of another brochure, for which one of the goals will be to clarify the shared responsibilities for stormwater ponds located within the boundaries of a homeowners association. The ASC will assist and encourage that initiative. We welcome suggestions on how the ASC can serve additional educational roles related to the functions of citizens associations through the county. To view the Bond Release Process Brochure, or to contact the ASC, visit <http://www.fairfaxfederation.org/CitizenAssnServices.htm>.

Budget Committee

Carey Campbell, Charles Hall, and Kosmo Tatalias,
Co-Chairs

The Budget Committee held meetings prior to the release of the County Executive's Advertised Fiscal Year 2010 Fairfax County Budget to plan a new format for the Federation Budget resolution and after the Advertised Budget release in order to draft the resolution. However, most of the work was done via e-mail and telephone conversations, including communications with many others who were not members of the committee.

This year's County budget was presented with many specific proposed cuts, and analysis of these proposals would not have been possible without the expertise of several other people:

- Charlie Dane wrote the Education section and contributed significantly to many other portions of the resolution,

- Tanya Hossain wrote the Human Services section and made several suggestions for other sections, and
- Merrily Pierce and Flint Webb provided input to the Public Services and Environmental sections, respectively.

Also several others shared their expertise in specific areas:

- Jim Colby and others, on the merging the Planning Commission into DPZ, and
- Fred Costello, on the "service area versus utility" issue in stormwater management.

Finally, Esther Ferington scrubbed the draft and approved resolutions thoroughly, adding significantly to the clarity of the language and to the logic of the presentation.

Our apologies if anyone who contributed was not mentioned. The Budget Committee thanks everyone for their assistance.

Next year's County budget promises to be equally challenging.

Education Committee

Charles Dane, Chair

This year, County citizens, our Education Committee, and the Federation were focused on the County and School Budget crisis. Members of the Education Committee participated in a few of the community dialogues and made extensive efforts to understand the four documents needed to evaluate the Superintendent's proposed budget. This assessment was more complicated than usual as (1) the budget was developed for 180 individual programs (like the County's line of business review); (2) the Federal stimulus money, some of which was received through the State and some directly; and (3) the County's transfer to Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) remained the same as last year despite an anticipated increased enrollment of 5,000 students. Our committee developed testimony on both the Superintendent's proposed budget and the School Board's Proposed Adopted Budget which were accepted by the Federation's Board and are posted on the website.

The Education Committee also provided input into the County's budget especially on that part of the County's budget that was related to schools, such as clinic aides, school resource officers, and after-school programs. The committee also had a special meeting to learn more about the Advanced Academic Achievement programs (formerly Gifted and Talented) at Centers and as part of selected elementary schools. This program will be reviewed by the School Board during three sessions in June and July.

In addition to these committee activities, individual committee members participated in various school-related activities. Jeffrey Nolan served as Co-chair of the School Board's Advisory Committee on Students with Disabilities. He also communicated extensively with the transportation office on bus scheduling. Jan Auerbach monitored the

(see **COMMITTEE REPORTS** - continued on page 5)

(COMMITTEE REPORTS - continued from page 4)

work of the joint School Board-Board of Supervisors Smart Service Committee and provided information on areas where the schools and County could become more efficient through coordination of and merger of selected administrative functions. Judy Harbeck continued to serve as Chair of the Mount Vernon District Council's Education Committee, which independently provided budget testimony. Tim Thompson was our contact with the Finance Office and provided us and them with budget explanation insights. Leonard Bumbaca, representative of Fairfax County's Federation of Teacher Association, was more busy than usual in dealing with budget-related teacher issues. And, I served as Co-chair of the School Board's Human Relations Advisory Committee, coordinated with Walt Carlson on PTA Council activities, assessed information in support of proposed FCPS Administrative Consolidation and tried to keep track of the myriad of committee members' activities.

Legislative Committee

Charles Dane, Coordinator

With the untimely death of Sally Ormsby last fall, the Federation was hard pressed to fill the many roles that Sally performed for the Federation including budget and legislative chairs and Citizen of the Year banquet coordinator. I offered to coordinate the preparation of our legislative package, but we did not perform Sally's role in tracking bills and submitting reminders to delegates of the Federation position's when relevant bills were being considered.

In preparing the legislative package, I sent copies of last year's package to the County's and the Fairfax County Public Schools' (FCPS) legislative liaisons, and asked them to advise me of any new initiatives they wished the Federation to consider and of any changes warranted because of legislation that had been enacted to address or partly address the Federation's previous position. The County contact advised us of the changes needed, and the school contact provided the FCPS legislative package. Several of the Federation's committee chairs also introduced new positions. All changes were considered by the Federation's Board at its November 20, 2008 meeting. The draft package was published in our newsletter, and considered, revised, and voted upon at our December 18, 2008 membership meeting. Carol Hawn prepared the final package for distribution to the Fairfax County delegation and Jeff Parnes made the Federation's presentation to these elected officials on January 10, 2009.

After recent discussions with members of the General Assembly, our members now believe that we should begin the process during the summer in order to be more proactive on major agenda issues during the fall. Therefore, if associations have legislative issues that they would like addressed, please send them to Tania Hossain at our Packard Center address.

Membership Committee

Charles Dane, First Vice President

The First Vice President is responsible for membership, and this year your executive board had hoped to build on last year's 50% increase in membership. Although we had nine new associations join the Federation this year, we have nine that have not yet renewed. Efforts are still being made to encourage the South County Federation and the Burke Centre Conservancy to become "umbrella" members. Last year, renewal requests went out in late June with follow-up letters or e-mails in September.

Targeted e-mails and phone calls were made during the fall, and in February and March we began enlisting the District Council representatives to make personal contacts.

Community Revitalization and Reinvestment Advisory Group

John Jennison, Federation Representative to the Group

The Community Revitalization and Reinvestment Advisory Group (CRRAG) was formed by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (Board) to advise the Board and county staff on matters relating to the revitalization and redevelopment of the older commercial areas of Fairfax County. Seven areas have been identified for revitalization: Annandale, Baileys Crossroads/Seven Corners, Lake Anna, McLean, Merrifield, Richmond Highway Corridor and Springfield. Other areas of interest include the Springfield Mall and Tysons Corner areas.

During the present two year term, CRRAG members advised the Board on 16 Principles for Public Investment in Support of Commercial Redevelopment. The principles are created to provide guidance for public investment in designated redevelopment, revitalization and other strategic areas in the county. CRRAG members recently advised the Board on use of Community Development Authority (CDA) and a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) as financial tools for redevelopment. The CDA requires 51% of the land owners to petition the county and it is based on the assessed value of land within a proposed area. The CDA has no impact on general fund or debt unless it is coupled with tax increment financing. On April 27, 2009 the Board created the county's first CDA for the proposed MOSAIC Merrifield Town Center. Other targeted areas are at different stages of the revitalization process. For example, Lake Anna is in the process of organizing the property owners. Design guidelines are being drafted for Annandale. In 2010, the county will unveil a plan for Baileys to the neighbors. A connectivity study is being conducted for Springfield.

At its June 10, 2009 meeting, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors' Sharon Bulova presented her view that changes in types of development are to resolve transportation and environmental problems. The county considers redevelopment as the way to focus and accommodate growth in the 25 activity centers for commerce, residential, educational and recreational facilities in the county, and to utilize a collaborative process with citizens, land owners, developers and county staff. Minutes of this meeting, as well as all previous meetings, are posted on the website of the Office of Community Revitalization and Reinvestment, www.fcrevit.org. If you have any questions, or for more information, please contact me at JennisonJohn@aol.com.

Fairfax County
FEDERATION
of Citizens Associations

4022 Hummer Road
Annandale, VA 22003

Membership Picnic

Thursday,
June 18, 2009

7:00 p.m.

Annandale Community Park

4022 Hummer Road, Annandale
(see directions, below)

Guest Speaker:

The Honorable Sharon Bulova
Chairman, Fairfax County Board of
Supervisors

Topic: 'The State of the County'

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Directions to the

Annandale Community Park and the Packard Center

Take I-495 (Capital Beltway) to Little River Turnpike
(Route 236 - Exit 52B);

go east toward Annandale.

Turn left at the first stop light onto Hummer Road.

Go 200 yards to the entrance of Annandale Community Park on the left.

Take the left after the maintenance facility; park in the large lower lot.

The pavilion is on the right side of the parking lot. **Signs will be posted.**

www.fairfaxfederation.org