

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations
Board Meeting of June 24, 2004
MINUTES

The meeting of the FCFCA board was held at the Packard Center at 7:30 p.m. (Attendance list is attached.)

Business Meeting

- a. President Carol Hawn presented the proposed meeting dates for June 2004 through December 2005, which have been confirmed through December 2004. There was a discussion resulting in some adjustments. She will make the changes and distribute the revised proposed schedule via e-mail to the Board.
- b. President Carol Hawn noted the need to raise the Federation's visibility in the county. Several of the discussion points below relate to this general theme.
 - b. Mike Thompson suggested sponsoring a debate of candidates for Governor for the fall of 2005, following the example of the successful Federation co-sponsored debated on the transportation sales tax referendum a few years ago. It was agreed that Mike will follow up with the potential Republican candidate, Jerry Kilgore, and that John Jennison will follow up with the potential Democratic candidate, Tim Kane, to determine their tentative availability and interest. It was suggested the debate could be co-sponsored with the League of Women Voters or the Chamber of Commerce. The date would depend on the candidates' availability, but mid- to late October of 2005 is preferred. Questioners could be local newspaper columnists. The debate would be in addition to the Federation's regular meetings, would be open to the public, and would be held in a larger space (i.e., not at the Packard Center).
 - c. It was also suggested that the 2005 Emergency Preparedness membership meeting should be held in a larger venue than the Packard Center, perhaps at the Government Center, as part of an effort to raise the Federation's visibility. This would have to be done in coordination with substantial advance publicity.
 - d. Those present agreed that it would be appropriate to establish a new award named for the late Peter Brinitzer, in addition to the existing Citizen of the Year. President Carol Hawn will approach the Brinitzer family regarding this possibility.
 - e. President Carol Hawn shared a proposed schedule of newsletter publication dates including September 7 and November 8 (the latter to include the 2004 legislative package), with additional newsletters as funds permit, again in an effort to increase visibility. It was moved, second, and agreed that John Jennison will pursue the possibility of sponsorship for the newsletter printing and mailing costs by local realtors.
 - f. Treasurer Jeff Parnes was unable to attend, but sent a detailed Treasurer's Report (attached). Taking into account the donations by the Washington Post, which co-sponsored the event, and by Westgroup Properties LLC, which provided the flowers and corsages, the Citizen of the Year banquet resulted in a net profit of \$1054.09. It was noted that Alice Starr, the Federation's long-time contact at the florist, is leaving the area, and that an effort should be made to make a new contact there, ideally before her departure. It was also noted that the Post has indicated its intention to continue to

cosponsor this event. The primary financial goal for next year remains retaining current Federation members and recruiting new ones.

g. It was urged that next year's budget be amended to include printing the Federation brochure. The brochure is now out of print. A figure of \$1000 was suggested.

h. It was noted that Merrily Pearce, Sally Ormsby, and Jeffrey Parnes will be working together toward setting up listservs for Board officers and for Federation members.

h. President Carol Hawn noted she hopes to disseminate the Citizen of the Year nomination forms more broadly next year. It was suggested that, in addition to more conventional distribution, the forms could be submitted to Channel 16 for broadcast.

i. Two alternate dates were chosen for the Citizen of the Year banquet: April 17 and May 1. (It is usual to pick two options to accommodate the guest speaker's schedule).

j. President Carol Hawn stated a goal of coordinating more closely with the District Council chairs, but noted that some of the councils are inactive or seeking new leadership. She also hopes to encourage the Federation committees to follow the example of the Education Committee in having more than one member.

k. Jeffrey Nolan discussed seats on boards, authorities, and commissions now filled or needing to be filled by Federation representatives. Sitting representatives will be asked to provide a 150-word update on their organizations for the September newsletter.

New Business:

Charles Dane reported that he will need to free up some of his time as the chairman of the Federation's own Education Committee in order to serve as the Federation representative on the board of a new 501C3 nonprofit organization, now in the process of formation, that will be part of the Virginia College Access Network.

The VCAN already includes three such city or county organizations, in Tidewater, Alexandria, and Patrick Henry County. These organizations raise substantial sums to support dedicated high-school counselors devoted solely to advising all students on college access, college preparation, and funding sources. They also provide the "last dollar" for some students in need. The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation has offered seed money to establish five additional VCAN organizations and eight groups, including this one, are now applying. The seed money is truly that, consisting of about \$90,000; additional millions will be needed. Several local leaders and institutions are involved, including Jessie Wilson, Chris Brahmie, MCI, Sally Mae, and George Mason University.

Next Board Meeting:

Thursday, July 22, 2004.

Next Membership Meeting:

Thursday, September 23, 2004 (note this is the fourth Thursday of the month)

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.