

## Board Notes

December 3, 2015

The annual dinner meeting of the Board of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations was scheduled to be held at the Fortune Restaurant, Seven Corners Shopping Center. A quorum of eight board members was not attained; therefore this was not an official meeting and decisions requiring votes could not be made. Members present did discuss issues and these notes provide an overview of those discussions, but the notes do not purport to be all inclusive.

### Present:

Bill Barfield | Second Vice President  
Fred Costello | Corresponding  
Secretary; Chair, Land Use  
Committee; and Newsletter Editor  
Morgan Jamison | Co-chair, Human  
Services Committee  
Jeff Parnes | Representative, Sully  
District Council, and Webmaster

Ed Saperstein | Co-chair, Education  
Committee  
Tim Thompson | President  
Ed Wyse | First Vice President and  
Representative, Springfield District  
Council

### Administration:

**The Bulletin (newsletter):** The deadline for articles for the December/January issue is December 26, 2015. *(Note: This deadline was not reported in the meeting, but was recently decided by the president and newsletter editor.)*

**Meeting Minutes:** The minutes of the October board meeting could not be approved due to lack of quorum.

### Discussion:

**Legislative Package:** Bill Barfield reported his discussions with four legislators earlier this evening about the Federation's Legislative Issues.

Our e-mail management service (MailChimp) reports that all 25 legislators that represent Fairfax County received the November 10 message announcing the Federation's Legislative Issues, however only 13 opened the e-mail and only 3 clicked the link to access the actual Legislative Issues document. Clearly there is a problem getting our issues package before the legislators for their consideration.

Discussion proposed this plan for future Federation legislative packages.

- Send the announcement e-mail from a personal account with the document attached rather than sending from an e-mail management system because some legislators' office staffs' discount MailChimp-type messages as general broadcast "spam" rather than as personal correspondence.

- (One person suggested sending one message only per legislator; another person suggested that a single message could be sent to all legislators as long as the greeting indicated intended recipients. Consensus was not attained.)
- Supplement the e-mail messages with paper correspondence.
- In the e-mail message reference the paper letter; in the paper letter reference the e-mail message.
- Send curtesy copies of our legislative package to the 115 non-Fairfax County legislators, whose support and votes would be needed for any suggested legislation.

**April 2015 Citizen of the Year (COY) Awards and Banquet:** Jeff Parnes reported on the COY committee meeting of November 5, including plans to solicit sponsorships and to advertise the nomination process. Jeff asked permission to conclude a contract with a banquet facility. *[Background: In August the board had authorized Jeff to conclude a contract with the Crowne Plaza Tysons Corner-McLean. In September several members stated there were better and less expensive options available and requested an examination of options. Since then, no one has identified a viable alternative venue.]* The seven members of the board present unanimously supported allowing Jeff to conclude a contract that he deemed best.

*[Addendum: On December 4 the president polled all board members by e-mail regarding their support of granting Jeff authority to conclude a contract. By Dec 4 at 5 p.m. the e-mail poll returned an additional nine "yes" votes and zero "no" votes.]*

**Recruiting:** How to gain new members? In June Shaista Keating hosted an open house at her home; the president & vice presidents in September met with the president of the McLean Citizens Association and in November addressed a meeting of the Providence District Council. The president & vice presidents intend to visit other district council meetings. Some on the board expressed uncertainty regarding benefits of the Federation to tout to prospective members. A suggestion was made that Federation board members should reach out to citizens associations by attending their meetings.

**Future Programs:** The suggestion was made that we ought soon to schedule programs for the remainder of this year's membership meetings.

## Next Meetings:

**Board Meeting** – January 28, 2016 at 7:30 pm at the Dunn Loring Center, Room 108 (Entrance 2), 2334 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring, VA 22027

**Membership Meeting** – February 2, 2016 at 7:00 pm at FCPS Gatehouse Administrative Center, 8115 Gatehouse Rd, Falls Church, VA

Notes prepared by Ed Wyse, Secretary Pro Tem