

## **Recap Arlington VA250 Meeting March 12, 2024**

The meeting began with AHS Board members Annette Benbow (AHS VA250 Rep) and Sean Denniston (AHS VP) welcoming everyone and highlighting the three main reasons for the meeting:

1. Provide an update on new online venues for advertising Arlington's VA250 events
2. Outline Arlington VA250 resources and infrastructure now available for helping committees plan and implements events
3. Discuss and build on a proposed way to organize Arlington's committees and get them started on their work.

### **Public-Facing Online Venues**

The Arlington Historical Society website has on its homepage a section devoted to Arlington VA250. There, the public—especially people interested in volunteering to help Arlington's VA250 event planning as well as organizations and volunteers already involved—can see updates on meetings and outcomes, read news coverage, and can click on links to other Arlington VA250 online sites advertising local events.

StayArlington has begun partnering with Arlington VA250 effort to provide a natural webpage on its website specifically for 250<sup>th</sup> events. We are developing a similar mini webpage on the state's 250<sup>th</sup> website so visitors can find Arlington's events and historic sites easily. ArlingtonVA250 has a Facebook site just waiting for a volunteer to post on it regularly.

### **Event Planning Underway Already**

AHS has events planned for this year:

- [Apr 6: Ball-Sellers House "Sounds and Sights"](#)
- [Apr 27: George Washington's Forest Guided History Walk](#)
- [July 11: Revolutionary Arlington](#)

Arlington's Parks and Recreation Department has events planned at Civil War sites for all ages. Remember, July 4, 1776 represents a revolution of ideas such as all men are created equal and the Civil War was fought to get our country to be that ideal.

We have requested the State's VA250 [Mobile Museum](#) at the 2025 County Fair. This state resource will be in high demand so we needed to get on the list.

### **Virtual Workplace for Arlington VA250**

Organizations and volunteers now have access to a Google drive that is intended as a site to work together to plan and conduct events. So far, the folders contain:

- ArlingtonVA250 contact info
- Background Docs
- Committees
- Events
- Meetings
- Press and Social Media News

- VA250 State Commission Info & Resources
  - The meeting highlighted new grants for VA250 events and provided tips on applying for them.

Attendees then discussed a proposed organization.

- **Executive Committee:** Deconflicts and helps coordinate activities among the other committees. Provide written acknowledgement that grant applications are in support of Arlington VA250 activities. Consists of the chairs of each committee and at least two AHS board members.
- **Activity Committee:** Responsible for identifying, planning, and implementing civic, cultural, historical, and educational activities; responsible for developing partnerships in support of activity implementation and success.
- **Fundraising Committee:** Responsible for fundraising in support of Arlington VA 250 events with county, business, or private entities. Tracks spending for reporting to grantors and financial sources.
- **Inclusion Committee:** Responsible for ensuring that a diversity of perspectives, voices, ideas, and insights are invited to participate and inform the effort; responsible for ensuring the effort is implemented in ways that reflect the diversity of Arlington County and intended audience; responsible for ensuring an equitable approach to the effort and associated activities. Responsible for coordinating the effort with appropriate county entities.
- **Marketing and Communications Committee:** Responsible for developing and implementing ideas and initiatives that promote Arlington VA250 efforts and associated activities; responsible for identifying and supporting partnerships and collaborations that advance the public's awareness and support of the effort. Responsible for communicating and coordinating with appropriate organizations and entities inside and outside of the county in support of the effort.
- **Regional Collaboration Committee:** Responsible for coordinating with nearby jurisdictions. Arlington was part of Fairfax County before the American Revolution, then became part of DC along with Alexandria City. Alexandria City and what is now Arlington county were united until 1870. This committee would coordinate with and potentially facilitate partnerships with our historic counterparts.
- **Signature Event Committee:** Responsible for considering the possibility of a major signature event, such as a parade, and planning and implementing such an event.
- **Youth and Family Engagement Committee:** Responsible for ensuring a family and child centered approach to the effort; responsible for coordinating the effort with APS, scouting organizations, PTA's, and other related entities. This committee could include student representation.

## Next Steps

Organizations and individuals were encouraged to sign up for the committee(s) of their choice in the Google drive. As they form, committees will have a first meeting with Annette Benbow and/or Sean Denniston (AHS) who can answer any questions and provide them with additional guidance and information to get started.

State VA250 information comes to the AHS focal point on a regular basis, so participants can look forward to getting at least a monthly email with the latest info. Recipients will get links to the new StayArlington site and Arlington's mini website on the VA250 website as they get set up.

We'll work with organizations, volunteers, and volunteers to plan our next big meeting within the next two to three months.