

**Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations
Summary of Membership Meeting on December 13, 2001 (draft)
Packard Center, 7:30 p.m.**

In attendance: See attached roster

Program: Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness in Fairfax County

County Executive Anthony Griffin, Police Chief Thomas Manger, and Assistant Fire Chief for Operations Mark Wheatley described how the County responded to the attack on the Pentagon and what has been done since September 11 to improve planning, communication and coordination among regional jurisdictions. (See attached copy of presentation graphics.)

They gave a vivid description of how the human and technical resources of Fairfax County provided leadership and support for saving lives at the Pentagon while working with other jurisdictions and government agencies to protect public safety and prevent disruptions to sources of energy, water, and health care.

They explained how the police and fire departments have been re-organized to respond more effectively, and why additional resources are needed for planning, prevention, and preparedness. Some of these resources will be coming from the federal government, and others will be requested in the FY2003 Fairfax County budget.

One benefit of the terrible events on 9/11 has been the strengthening of communication with leaders of the Muslim community for the prevention of hate crimes. Another has been improved planning to solve the communications and coordination problems which were obvious on 9/11 with and among federal, state, and local decision-makers for government agencies, school systems, and businesses.

Anthrax incidents numbering 1065 were responded to since October but there has been no evidence of the presence of anthrax in Fairfax County. The threat, however, has motivated additional training and coordination with health agencies and providers.

After their presentations, the three officials responded to questions about:

- Problems with radio communications
- Decisions to shut down work sites and schools
- Need for a new communications center
- Potential for federal funding to support homeland security
- Effects of periodic "alerts" from the federal level
- Upgraded procedures for dealing with bioterrorism, chemicals, explosives
- Health Department surveillance of admissions to emergency rooms
- Coordinated training for health and public safety personnel
- Rejection of the ACLU request for non-cooperation with FBI interviews
- Reimbursement for deployment of Fairfax personnel on international missions
- FEMA funding of training and equipment for the Fairfax search and rescue team
- Effective sharing of information with the FBI's Washington field office

The officials encouraged association leaders to use County information on emergency preparedness in community newsletters through the News to Use initiative or the materials available at the Fairfax County web site.

President Art Wells expressed the appreciation of all present for the comprehensive information provided to us during this briefing, which increased our confidence in Fairfax County's abilities to prevent and/or respond appropriately to a wide variety of threats to public safety.

Revitalization

Ray Steele called attention to the handout on Revitalization, which is the draft policy plan text prepared in October 2001 for G7 and staff review. A draft statement for consideration by the FCFCA Board of Directors at their meeting on December 27, 2001, has been distributed electronically and is available on the Federation web site for comment.

Virginia Energy Choice

Material (in English and Spanish) from the State Corporation Commission on the initiation of choice among competitive energy providers was distributed for information before consideration of a policy statement at the Board of Directors meeting on December 27, 2001, and the membership meeting on January 17, 2002. Sally Ormsby noted that the League of Women Voters has completed a two-part study of this issue.

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes for the membership meeting on November 15, 2001—available on the Federation web site—were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Charles Dane distributed copies of an updated report showing a balance of \$1671.46. He announced that 1st V.P. Wade Smith has sent letters to 150 associations encouraging them to pay their dues for the current year.

Legislative Program

Art Wells noted with pride that--thanks to the hard work of committee chair Sally Ormsby and the Board of Directors--the Federation's Legislative Program for 2002 was delivered to the Board of Supervisors at their public hearing in November, and has been sent to all members of the Fairfax delegation in the General Assembly. The public hearings by members of the House and Senate's "money committees" will be held on January 5 in Northern Virginia.

Education Committee

Committee Chair Charles Dane announced that Deputy Superintendent Alan Leis and Community Liaison Paul Regnier will present the Superintendents FY2003 Proposed Budget at the membership meeting on January 17, 2002. (Superintendent Domenech must attend a School Board meeting that evening.) The Education Committee, which

met on November 29, 2001, will begin studying the Superintendent's Budget after its release on January 3, 2002. At a committee meeting on November 29, the following priority areas were identified for study and action in 20001-02: the School Bond referendum, the sales tax referendum, the School Operating Budget, alternative approaches to school construction, and procedures for textbook approval and parental challenges to instructional materials. Additional Education Committee members are being recruited to ensure representation from all magisterial districts.

Transportation Committee

Committee Chair George Smith noted that the current proposals for an increase of ½ cent in the sales tax would raise only \$60-90M of the \$800M needed to address critical transportation needs by 2020. He noted the concerns of the Citizen's Advisory Committee that the Transportation Authority for Northern Virginia may not have the ability to overcome the jurisdictional autonomy that has impeded progress.

Mike Thompson expressed concern about the tone of a recent meeting about the Transportation Authority, particularly the Chamber's inflexible position in opposition to having elected officials as members of the Authority. Art Wells asked Mike and George to develop a position on this issue for consideration by the Board of Directors.

New and Improved Federation Web Site

Thanks to Merrily Pierce, the new web site is in operation at www.fairfaxfederation.org. Association officers and district representatives are encouraged to use this valuable resource and to provide feedback on how it can be further improved.

Upcoming Meetings and Programs

Art Wells announced the following agendas:

January 17, 2001	Membership Meeting	7:30 p.m.	Packard Center
Program:	Superintendent's Proposed Budget for FY2003		
Action Items:	Position on Revitalization Position on Energy Choice		
February 21, 2002	Membership Meeting	7:30 p.m.	Packard Center
Program:	Invitation Pending to BOS Chairman Kate Hanley		

Directors meeting will be held one week after each membership meetings to oversee Federation operations and to consider positions for the next membership meeting. The January meeting will be announced by postcard, and a newsletter will be distributed before the February meeting. All meeting agendas and summaries will be posted on the Federation web site.

Vacancies in Committee Chairs

Art Wells solicited help in recruiting committee chairs for Human Services, Public Safety and County Budget.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m