

# *the* Arlingtonian

VOL. LXXXII, NO. 5 JULY/AUGUST 2019



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EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE CENTERS

Arlington, VA

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## 2019 Chamber Board EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Kate Bates, Arlington Chamber Of Commerce  
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Tina Walker, BAE Systems  
Jim Wilmot, Arlington Community Federal Credit Union

\* Liaison, Arlington Public Schools

\*\* Liaison, U.S. Military

## CHAMBER STAFF

Kate Bates, President & CEO  
Mike Rosenow, Membership Director  
Scott Pedowitz, Government Affairs Manager  
Olivia McKay, Operations Coordinator  
Morgan Mentzer, Communications Coordinator  
Miki Gilmore, Communications Associate (Part-Time)

MEMBER: U.S. Chamber of Commerce & Virginia Chamber of Commerce

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# chamber calendar

## JULY

- 1 Monday** **Ambassador Committee Meeting**  
4:00-5:00 p.m.  
Chamber Boardroom
- 9 Tuesday** **Membership Development Committee Meeting**  
2:00-3:00 p.m.  
Conference Call
- 10 Wednesday** **Executive Committee Meeting**  
8:15-9:45 a.m.  
Chamber Boardroom
- 11 Thursday** **Breakfast Connection: Nonprofit Focused**  
7:30-9:00 a.m.  
Holiday Inn Rosslyn
- 12 Friday** **Sustainability Committee Meeting**  
9:00-10:00 a.m.  
Chamber Boardroom
- 17 Wednesday** **Government Affairs & Economic Development Committee Meeting**  
9:00-10:00 a.m.  
Chamber Boardroom
- 18 Thursday** **Business After Business**  
5:00-7:00 p.m.  
Heavy Seas Alehouse
- 22 Monday** **Membership Engagement Committee Meeting**  
4:00-5:00 p.m.  
Chamber Boardroom
- 24 Wednesday** **Small Business Roundtable "Emerging Technologies for Small Businesses"** presented by **John Spalding III of AT&T**  
11:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  
Chamber Boardroom
- 31 Wednesday** **Community Action Committee Meeting**  
9:00-10:00 a.m.  
Chamber Boardroom

Visit the Chamber calendar to stay updated on the latest events.

Register online at [www.arlingtonchamber.org](http://www.arlingtonchamber.org) or call (703) 525-2400

## AUGUST

- 1 Thursday** **SMART Start**  
4:00-5:15 p.m.  
Chamber Boardroom
- 2 Friday** **Sustainability Committee Meeting**  
9:00-10:00 a.m.  
Chamber Boardroom
- 5 Monday** **Ambassador Committee Meeting**  
4:00-5:00 p.m.  
Chamber Boardroom
- 7 Wednesday** **Government Affairs & Economic Development Committee Meeting**  
9:00-10:00 a.m.  
Chamber Boardroom
- 8 Thursday** **Breakfast Connection**  
7:30-9:00 a.m.  
Holiday Inn Rosslyn
- 13 Tuesday** **Membership Development Committee Meeting**  
2:00-3:00 p.m.  
Conference Call
- 14 Wednesday** **Executive Committee Meeting**  
8:15-9:45 a.m.  
Chamber Boardroom
- 15 Thursday** **Business After Business**  
5:00-7:00 p.m.  
Arlington Community Federal Credit Union and ROCKLANDS Barbeque and Grilling Company
- 21 Wednesday** **Government Affairs & Economic Development Committee Meeting**  
9:00-10:00 a.m.  
Chamber Boardroom
- 28 Tuesday** **Small Business Roundtable "Digital Marketing for Small Business: The Five Must Haves"** presented by **Justin Gooderham of Dalton Digital**  
11:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  
Chamber Boardroom

## Questions?

For questions regarding events, contact the Chamber at [events@arlingtonchamber.org](mailto:events@arlingtonchamber.org) or (703) 525-2400.

# CHAIR'S MESSAGE

## Belonging and Gathering

The days of joining a Chamber out of tradition or habit are behind us. According to a report produced by the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE), “chamber membership counts have been declining because of demographic changes affecting associations of all types.” And it’s not a new trend. In 2000, Harvard social scientist Robert Putnam collected vast amounts of data and published his findings, which showed decreasing membership numbers in traditional organizations, like the Lions Club, Boy Scouts and bowling leagues. It’s not a stretch to compare our Chamber, which was founded in 1924, to these kinds of civic institutions.



Greg Hamilton

So does this mean our Chamber will die a slow, painful death as our members abandon us and we fade into irrelevance? Do people no longer have a need to gather and feel a sense of belonging? Putnam was criticized for missing an important trend. While membership in traditional organizations was declining, new kinds of organizations were popping up and teeming with members – kickball leagues, neighborhood associations and young professionals groups. It seems that people are still willing (and eager) to join with others, provided they see the value.

The lesson for our Chamber is that people are not willing to sit through pointless committee meetings or boring board meetings. They want value, purpose and relevance. That’s why our Chamber has been working hard to engage our members through business advocacy, targeted networking opportunities, mission-focused volunteer opportunities, relevant educational opportunities, programs to mentor and engage with youth, and much more.

To that end, we wrapped up work this spring on our most recent strategic plan that takes another leap forward in terms of offering value, purpose and relevance. The process was robust and we are proud of the result. We recruited the CEO of ACCE to be our facilitator because we felt it was important to bring national trends and best practices from Chambers across the country into the discussion. The final plan, which was approved at our May board meeting, has three main pillars – membership, community engagement and operations. Each section of the plan has purposeful, targeted objectives that tie back to specific metrics and goals. I hope you will read it and let us know what you think. Please visit [www.arlingtonchamber.org/strategic-plan.html](http://www.arlingtonchamber.org/strategic-plan.html).

Greg Hamilton  
Arlington Magazine



### SMART START

Maximize your membership at this free info and networking session on meeting new clients and utilizing your member benefits.

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### BREAKFAST CONNECTION

Bring your business to the table. Through roundtable power networking, attendees will exchange business cards, develop prospects, and share an elevator pitch.

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### BUSINESS AFTER BUSINESS

End your busy workday on a high note with food and drinks, mixer-style networking, and the chance to win door prizes, including cash from the jackpot available each month.

can't-miss  
EVENTS

Members can be involved in shaping policy positions through the Government Affairs & Economic Development Committee, which typically meets twice a month in the Chamber Boardroom.

To be added to the committee distribution list, email [chamber@arlingtonchamber.org](mailto:chamber@arlingtonchamber.org).



## Chamber Represents Businesses in Supporting Route 1 Renaming

The Chamber supported a request from the Arlington County Board to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) to rename Route 1 as "Richmond Highway" in Arlington, which is the same name the road uses in Alexandria and Fairfax. The new name will replace the current name of "Jefferson Davis Highway." The Chamber sent a letter to the Virginia Secretary of Transportation, and Government Affairs Manager Scott Pedowitz spoke at a CTB meeting supporting the renaming.

The Chamber's support stemmed from a desire to have the same name as in neighboring jurisdictions for Route 1, problems being caused by Google Maps already using the "Richmond Highway" name, and stories of members that have lost business because of the association of their street address with "Jefferson Davis Highway." To prepare its position, the Chamber reached out to all members on Route 1 for their feedback regarding the proposed name change. An overwhelming majority of these members supported the change, and provided the reasons the Chamber cited.

## Government Affairs and Economic Development Committee Welcome Candidates for General Assembly

The Government Affairs and Economic Development Committee welcomed the four candidates (all Democrats) running in contested primaries for General Assembly: from the 31st Senate District, incumbent Senator Barbara Favola and challenger Nicole Merlene, and from the 49th Delegate District, incumbent Delegate Alfonso Lopez and challenger Julius Spain. The candidates shared their positions on issues that affect the Arlington business community. Topics included growing the economy and creating jobs, housing affordability, transportation and transit, and the environment and green jobs. Members had the chance to ask questions of each candidate, allowing them to make a more informed decision at the ballot box.



Top left: Delegate Alfonso Lopez. Top right: Julius Spain. Bottom left: Senator Barbara Favola. Bottom right: Nicole Merlene.

## Chamber nominees appointed to Arlington County Board of Equalization of Real Estate Assessments

The Arlington County Circuit Court appointed four Chamber nominees to the Arlington County Board of Equalization of Real Estate Assessments for 2019. **Greg Hoffman** of **Rooney Properties** joins the Board, along with reappointed members **Mary Dooley**, **Barnes Lawson**, and **Mark Yates**. The Board of Equalization conducts hearings on property assessment disputes. Their role is to make a fair, impartial decision on all property assessment disputes based on relevant evidence submitted by both property owner and Department of Real Estate Assessments.



HOUSING ARLINGTON

## Chamber to engage as Arlington County plans Phase II of Housing Conservation Districts

Two years ago, Arlington County implemented the first phase of its Housing Conservation District program, which restricted by-right redevelopment of some market rate affordable housing. At the time, the Chamber expressed concern with the restrictions and called for the swift completion of Phase II, the incentives for including affordable housing in redevelopment. Arlington is including Phase II as part of the broader Housing Arlington initiative, which seeks a more inclusive housing community by creating affordable housing, addressing the lack of moderately-priced homes for the middle class, and enhancing multi-level partnerships to enable Arlington to achieve its housing affordability goals. The Chamber will engage with the Housing Arlington program, including Phase II of Housing Conservation Districts, to promote the best outcomes for the whole community.

Chamber staff participated in meetings of the Northern Virginia Transportation Coalition, Plan Lee Highway Working Group, and Economic Development Commission. Staff also attended several policy-related programs, including events hosted by the Arlington Restaurant Initiative, Housing Arlington, Bus Transformation Project, and Community Energy Plan.

## Your Chamber in the Community

In many ways, the success of Arlington is directly tied to the success of its business community, and the success of the Arlington Chamber is directly tied to its membership base. This is why the Chamber's Directors, staff and members are dedicated to supporting community events and happenings. Below are highlights from a sampling of the events that Chamber staff and members of our Board of Directors participated in on behalf of the Chamber.



Good Sweat's ribbon-cutting ceremony

April 19 – Mike Rosenow attended the grand opening ceremony for the **State Department Federal Credit Union's** new branch in Rosslyn.

April 20 – Kate Bates spoke at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for **Good Sweat's** new location in Rosslyn. **Good Sweat** donated proceeds from their opening month to nonprofits including **A-SPAN**, **Doorways for Women and Families**, and **Animal Welfare League of Arlington**.

May 1 – Kate Bates and Mike Rosenow attended **Bridges to Independence's** Black and Gold Bash as guests of **AT&T**. The Chamber connected these two members for a huge community impact.

May 1 – Scott Pedowitz participated in the **Arlington County Police Department's** Arlington Restaurant Initiative Town Hall.

May 8 – Chamber staff held a booth at Arlington Premiere, a reception welcoming all new businesses in Arlington. The Chamber partnered with **Arlington Economic Development** and the **Crystal City BID** on this event.

May 9 – Jennifer Garry and Mike Rosenow attended the **Rosslyn BID's** Annual Meeting, City Social.

May 30 – Kate Bates, Scott Pedowitz, and Mike Rosenow attended **Arlington Magazine's** Best of Arlington Party at **Mercedes-Benz of Arlington**.

June 5 – Scott Pedowitz attended the **Alliance for Housing Solutions' 2019** Leckey Forum.

June 5 – Mike Rosenow gave welcoming remarks at Brunch & Business: BizPride at **Arlington Economic Development**. Morgan Mentzer and Scott Pedowitz also attended. The Chamber partnered with **Arlington Community Federal Credit Union** and **BizLaunch** on this event.



Black and Gold Bash at Bridges to Independence



Morgan Mentzer, Mike Rosenow, and Olivia McKay celebrate Pride Month at Convene's #LGBThankQ celebration

June 5 – Kate Bates spoke at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for **Scout & Molly's Boutique's** new location in **Ballston Quarter**. Mike Rosenow also attended.

June 6 – Kate Bates and Scott Pedowitz attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony for **Aspire! Afterschool Learning's** new learning center.

June 6 – Olivia McKay, Morgan Mentzer, and Mike Rosenow attended **Convene's** Pride Month celebration, #LGBThankQ.

June 6 – Kate Bates, Olivia McKay, Morgan Mentzer, Scott Pedowitz, and Mike Rosenow attended **Hungry Marketplace, Inc.'s** Meet the Chef event at **The View of DC**.

June 7 – Kate Bates and Mike Rosenow attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the **Animal Welfare League of Arlington's** new front office and kickoff to their 75th anniversary celebration.

June 10 – Kate Bates and Scott Pedowitz attended the **Crystal City BID's** Annual Meeting.

June 11 – Kate Bates spoke at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for **Domino's Ballston's** grand opening. Mike Rosenow also attended.

June 15 – Kate Bates and Scott Pedowitz attended the **Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization's** Columbia Pike Blues Festival.

# key upcoming events

Register at [www.arlingtonchamber.org/events](http://www.arlingtonchamber.org/events)



## 14th Annual SCHOLAR'S CUP

Tuesday, September 24 | 3:30-7:00 p.m.  
Upton Hill Regional Park

Register by Wednesday,  
September 18 at 12:00 p.m.

Join us for an afternoon of fun at the **14th Annual Scholar's Cup!** Our most popular family-friendly event, the Scholar's Cup offers fun for all ages, as well as numerous opportunities to mingle and network. This event is an excellent way to gain valuable exposure for your company and create lasting connections with fellow Chamber members and their families!

Attendees will enjoy an exciting afternoon filled with mini-golf, dinner, and music. Register by **Wednesday, September 18 at 12:00 p.m.**

For questions or more information, contact Olivia McKay at [chamber@arlingtonchamber.org](mailto:chamber@arlingtonchamber.org) or (703) 525-2400.

If you're into networking, team-building, client appreciation, or just having fun, then **Cards & Clubs** is for you! This all-inclusive, networking event is your perfect escape from the office for an afternoon to make valuable new connections or bond with colleagues.

The 3rd Annual Cards & Clubs will be held at **TopGolf Alexandria**. For those unfamiliar with TopGolf, its unique format makes it perfect for everyone – no matter your experience level, athletic ability, or even if you're a first-time golfer. For more seasoned or competitive golfers, this event will include a number of challenges and contests to win awards and prizes.

Want to take part in the fun, but skip the golfing? Not a problem! Cards & Clubs will include a **lunch buffet, beer and wine, a silent auction, and plenty of networking.**

## CARDS + CLUBS



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MONUMENT



HOME LOANS

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**WHEN:**

Thursday, October 17  
12:30-4:30 p.m.

**WHERE:**

TopGolf Alexandria

**REGISTRATION:**

Secure a spot by signing up as a sponsor. Opportunities start at \$700 and include a team of four at the event with reserved bay, and more! For questions or more information, contact Olivia McKay at (703) 525-2400 or [chamber@arlingtonchamber.org](mailto:chamber@arlingtonchamber.org).

*Journey with us:*

October 3-11, 2019

# Travel to China



All for just **\$2,599** for members & their guests! Registration deadline is July 12.

**Trip Includes:**

- Departure from Dulles
- ALL Hotel Stays
- ALL Transportation
- ALL Meals
- ALL Guided Tours
- and MORE!

**Member Benefit!**

To receive more information or to register, contact Operations Coordinator Olivia McKay at [chamber@arlingtonchamber.org](mailto:chamber@arlingtonchamber.org) or (703) 525-2400.

## nonprofit forum on data analytics review



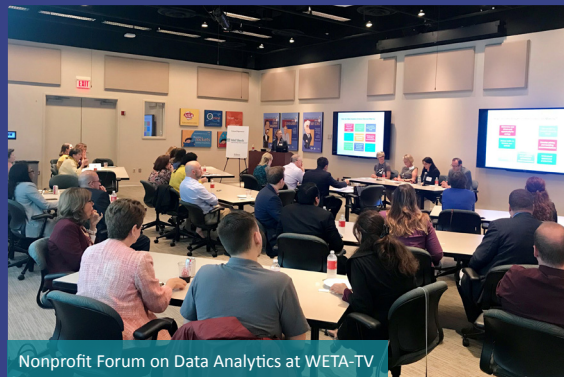
Data analytics is one of the fastest growing and highest priority domains amongst modern enterprises. New technologies continue to push the marketplace forward, and organizations large and small are adopting these tools at an increased rate to remain efficient and keep up with their competition. The **Nonprofit Forum on Data Analytics: Communicating What Counts** focused on providing insights into two important aspects of the topic. First, how to design and harness organizational data to tell a story and further cultivate donors. Second, how to communicate and leverage the information derived from organizational data.

The forum was presented on May 9 at **WETA-TV** by the Chamber's **Community Action Committee**. Four panelists from both the for-profit and nonprofit fields were invited to speak including Marnie Boyer of Compass Pro Bono, **Jennifer Mulchandani** of **Arlington Strategy**, **Kat Williams** of **Animal Welfare League of Arlington**, and **Tim Young** of **Young**

**Marketing Consulting**. During the interactive forum, panelists discussed tips and tools for measuring data analytics for nonprofits, communicating data, and managing donors. The diversity of fields represented, and the subject matter discussed provided every attendee valuable take-aways to apply within their own organizations.



Kat Williams of Animal Welfare League of Arlington, Jennifer Mulchandani of Arlington Strategy, Marnie Boyer of Compass Pro Bono, and Tim Young of Young Marketing Consulting



Nonprofit Forum on Data Analytics at WETA-TV

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Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia, Inc.  
Pure Media Sign Studio  
Residence Inn by Marriott - Arlington Courthouse  
Windows Catering

## Have news to share?

Let us know! Members in the News article submissions must be emailed to Morgan Mentzer, Communications Coordinator, and received by the first of the month prior to the publication month (i.e. April 1 for consideration in the May/June issue of the *Arlingtonian*), in order to be considered for inclusion.

Members should submit a press release or new article, along with photo options, if available.

For questions, contact Morgan at [communications@arlingtonchamber.org](mailto:communications@arlingtonchamber.org) or (703) 525-2400.

*Article inclusion is available on a limited basis and is not guaranteed. Articles printed in this newsletter submitted by members represent their ideas and beliefs and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Arlington Chamber of Commerce.*

# members in the news

LEADERSHIP CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE

## Leadership Center Launches DMV Diversity & Inclusion Institute



The **Leadership Center for Excellence (LCE)** announced that it will launch the Washington Region's first community leadership program focused on diversity and inclusion, sponsored by **Nestlé**. The DMV Diversity & Inclusion Institute is a leadership development and community building program encompassing five days of workshops spread over a five-month period. These workshops are designed to build a productive dialogue about differences and similarities.

"Inclusion is an important contemporary topic in leadership," said **Karen Coltrane, LCE** President and CEO. "And we knew we wanted to help established leaders maximize the benefits of diverse environments. So, we are excited to bring a proven program to the region that will give leaders across the spectrum of corporate, small business, nonprofits and all levels of government more tools and experiences to build better teams and have better outcomes."

The interactive program uses case studies, scenario analyses and group experiences to facilitate deeper understanding of the topic as well as relationship building among the participants. Graduates will become DMV Diversity & Inclusion Fellows and will continue to have involvement with future classes and programming. The program's initial pilot cohort is being recruited now. If successful, the program will become a regular offering of the **Leadership Center for Excellence**.

ROCKLANDS BARBEQUE AND GRILING COMPANY

## ROCKLANDS Supports the Communities in Which They Serve

**ROCKLANDS Barbeque and Grilling Company** recently won The National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation's Restaurant Neighbor State Award (TNRAEF). Each year, the foundation selects several restaurants from around the country that are not only legitimate, successful businesses, but also give back to their communities through service and philanthropy. Judges evaluate each winner on overall philanthropic impact and the duration of their involvement, innovation, and level of support for the community.



**ROCKLANDS** is dedicated to supporting the communities in which they serve. In fact, community is one of the company's five core values. The company serves their community through participating in numerous events such as the Washingtonian's Best of Washington event, which raises money for Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. They also donate over a hundred gift certificates each year to be auctioned by schools and nonprofits to raise money, as well as host in-store events such as the Pig and Oyster Roast, which has raised \$10,000 for **Doorways for Women and Families** in Arlington.





## Aspire! Afterschool Celebrates New Expanded Space with Ribbon Cutting



County Board Chair Christian Dorsey cuts ribbon with Aspire! students

**Aspire! Afterschool Learning** held a celebratory ribbon cutting on June 6 as the nonprofit completed a \$1 million capital campaign and opened its newly expanded space in time for summer camp at the Arlington Mill Community Center in South Arlington. Students in the program and their families joined more than 150 attendees including local community leaders, Aspire! staff and volunteers, project partners, and supporters to mark the project's completion.

**Aspire!** launched the capital campaign in May 2016 for a 7,300 square-foot expansion to meet increasing demand for its afterschool academic and summer enrichment programs for at-risk students. Perkins+Will Architects were the first to join the project as a partner, and their designs helped quickly secure initial anchor funding from the Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, the Philip L. Graham Fund, and the Washington Forrest Foundation.

"Words can't express how thrilled and grateful we are to achieve this amazing feat, thanks to the incredible generosity of our partners, donors, and supporters," said **Aspire!** Board Chair **Steve Manlove**, Managing Principal and VP at **HDR, Inc.** "This truly has been the most amazing public-private partnership between **Aspire!** and Arlington County."

"We've been so inspired by the work **Aspire!** does for the community that it was our pleasure to help create a new home for the vulnerable students they serve," said Thomas Gregory, Senior Project Manager at Perkins+Will. "It's been a delight to see our vision become a reality – and to know that it will serve kids well for a long time to come."



Kedrick Whitmore announced partner-in-charge of Venable's Tysons office

VENABLE LLP - NORTHERN VIRGINIA ZONING AND LAND USE

### Venable Names Kedrick Whitmore Partner-in-Charge of Its Tysons Office

**Venable LLP** announced on May 23 that **Kedrick Whitmore**, a partner in the Real Estate Practice, will assume the position of partner-in-charge of the Tysons office. **Whitmore** is a land use, zoning, and real estate attorney. In his practice he assists some of the nation's most prominent real estate developers in obtaining zoning and land use approvals throughout the D.C. metropolitan region. His experience includes the entitlement of thousands of residential units and millions of square feet of commercial space. **Whitmore** is also a board member of the **Venable** Foundation.

## welcome to our NEW MEMBERS!

### Associations

American College of Radiology

### Attractions

The View of DC

### Business and Professional Services

Formula Running Center

### Government and Education

John Vihstadt

### Hotels

Hilton Crystal City at Washington Reagan National Airport  
WhyHotel

### IT Services

User1st

### Nonprofits

SCAN of Northern Virginia

### Residential Real Estate

The Altaire  
Optime Realty  
Ray Gernhart & Associates  
Shirlington House Apartments  
Verde Pointe

### Retail

Grooming Store  
Roaming Tails LLC

### Restaurants

Domino's Ballston  
McCormick and Schmick's - Crystal City

### Telecommunications

Crown Castle

## STAY CONNECTED

WITH THE CHAMBER IN 3 EASY WAYS:

- 1 Follow us on social media  
 @ArlChamberVA  
 ArlingtonChamberVA  
 Arlington Chamber of Commerce - Virginia
- 2 Visit our website:  
[www.arlingtonchamber.org](http://www.arlingtonchamber.org)
- 3 Subscribe to our weekly e-newsletter by visiting our website

Send your new members referrals to **Mike Rosenow**, Membership Director, at [membership@arlingtonchamber.org](mailto:membership@arlingtonchamber.org) or call (703) 525-2400.

## Thanks to Our Sponsors

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Hungry Marketplace, Inc.  
Rosslyn Business Improvement District  
United Bank

Patron Sponsors  
Awesome Women Entrepreneurs | Ballston BID  
H.D. Vest Investment Services  
Michael Garcia, Agent - State Farm Insurance  
M&T Bank | Segue Technologies | VerticalApps  
WhyHotel

# best business awards review

## The Best in Arlington Business

On May 22, the Chamber celebrated the 33rd Annual Arlington Best Business Awards at the **Key Bridge Marriott Hotel**, with a sold-out audience of 220 business professionals from across the community. The prestigious Best Business Awards are presented to area businesses that consistently deliver exceptional quality of service to their customers, are industry leaders or offer a unique approach to delivery of goods or services, achieve significant growth or stability over the lifetime of their business, display an interest and concern for the success of the Arlington community, and demonstrate a commitment to diversity and inclusion.

Congratulations to the 2019 Best Business Award winners:

**Dalton Digital** - 2019 Home-Based Business of the Year  
**Pentagon Mixed Martial Arts, LLC** - 2019 Service Small Business of the Year  
**Bayou Bakery, Coffee Bar & Eatery** - 2019 Retail Small Business of the Year  
**Hungry Marketplace, Inc.** - 2019 Technology Small Business of the Year  
**Signature Theatre, Inc.** - 2019 Nonprofit of the Year  
**Arlington Community Federal Credit Union** - 2019 Large Business of the Year

Following the presentation of these awards, the Chamber inducted **Giuseppe Cecchi** of **The IDI Group Companies** and **Robert H. Smith** (1928-2009) posthumously into the Arlington Business Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame honors men and women with a connection to Arlington County who have demonstrated a long record of successful management, expertise, and business skills, along with notable achievements, and exceptional civic and community involvement.

Upon accepting the award on behalf of his late grandfather, **Robert H. Smith, Michael Liss** said he felt "very honored." He went on to talk about his grandfather's vision for Crystal City in Arlington, Virginia and his lasting legacy on the area. "My grandfather had so much confidence in his vision for what this area could be... to attract people to both live and work. Now 60 years later, his vision, his taste, his confidence, his perseverance, are not only a part of his legacy but have served as a major contributor to the success of the region. I can only imagine what he's feeling now - looking down - that **Amazon**, one of the most powerful companies in the world chose Crystal City as their second headquarters."

When accepting his award, **Cecchi** thanked the Chamber for bestowing him with this great honor. He began his acceptance speech with a brief history about his move from Milan, Italy to the United States, where he was able to achieve the American dream. As an 89 year old engineer who has had a very prosperous career, **Cecchi** shared important factors for business success. "I believe that a happy family life is an important factor to be successful in business... working hard is another important factor. In my younger years, I was working very hard, and now at 89 years of age, I still go to the office every day. Another very important factor is customer satisfaction which produces repeat business and good reputation. Finally, it is important to be persistent. To be successful in business, one has to solve many problems. Every problem has a solution, you just need to find it."



2019 Best Business Award Winners



2019 Arlington Hall of Fame Inductee, Giuseppe Cecchi



2019 Chamber Chair Greg Hamilton and President & CEO Kate Bates presented the Hall of Fame Inductee Award to Michael Liss on behalf of his grandfather, Robert H. Smith



Photos from the Best Business Awards can be found at [www.facebook.com/ArlingtonChamberVA](https://www.facebook.com/ArlingtonChamberVA)

# state of the county & public safety awards review

## Dorsey Addresses the State of Arlington County, Local Heroes Honored

The Chamber held the State of the County & Public Safety Awards at the **Crowne Plaza Crystal City – Washington D.C.** on June 18, which celebrated Arlington's economic achievements, the community's future, and all who make the area an excellent place to live and work. The event began with an address by the Arlington County Board Chair, Christian Dorsey, who highlighted Arlington's economic status.

"I believe the state of our county is excellent and quite strong!" said Dorsey to a crowd of more than 150 attendees. He explained that "Arlington County has a dynamic economic base with conservative budgeting and close monitoring of expenditures... The County has significantly reduced the number of homeless persons... and consistently earns high marks from Arlington residents on quality of life and safety."

In his remarks, Dorsey discussed key initiatives such as transportation, affordable housing, and equity. Dorsey went on to applaud "Arlington County for closing the largest economic deal in the county's history - bringing **Amazon's** HQ2 to Arlington." Dorsey said, "**Amazon's** presence in Arlington will be transformative... The company's presence and the revenues that will result will ease some of the intense budget pressures that we have experienced over the last few years. This will create new opportunities to address challenges that we have not had the resources to fully tackle."

Following the State of the County address, awards were presented to honor Arlington County's public safety personnel and first responders. Nine honorees were recognized for their courageous, and often lifesaving, actions in the line of duty. Leadership of all respective departments submitted nominations for the honorees, based on their performance over the past year.

These honorees went above and beyond their call of duty to ensure the safety of their community, and in some cases, put themselves at risk for the greater good of the citizens they saved. Stories of their heroic actions include two firefighters rescuing a person trapped inside a vehicle that was fully submerged in water, a detective dismantling a large, local cocaine trafficking organization with limited investigative leads, and a police officer saving two unresponsive passengers in an overturned, burning vehicle on the roadway.

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Arlington County Board Chair Christian Dorsey delivers State of the County address



2019 Public Safety Award honorees and County Board Chair Christian Dorsey

Photos from the State of the County & Public Safety Awards can be found at [www.facebook.com/ArlingtonChamberVA](http://www.facebook.com/ArlingtonChamberVA)

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