

the Arlingtonian

VOL. LXXXVI, NO. 2 MARCH/APRIL 2020



2020 Hospitality Awards

special thanks to
ARLINGTONIAN GRAND SPONSOR


EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE CENTERS

Arlington, VA

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2020 Chamber Board EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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 Greg Hamilton Immediate Past Chair
 Lindsey Rheume, Past Chair
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 Tina Leone, Treasurer
 Beth Borowski, Assistant Treasurer
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 Dulce Carrillo, Arlington Public Schools*
 Nicole Collier, Nestlé
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 David DeCamp, Newmark Knight Frank
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 David Dockendorff, M&T Bank
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 Michael Foster, MTF Architecture, Inc.
 Marty Freeman, JBG SMITH
 Tracy Gabriel, Crystal City Business Improvement District
 John Gallagher, Energesco Mechanical
 Matt Gerber, The Westin Crystal City Hotel
 Donna Hamaker, Buck & Associates Realtors
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 Todd Ihrig, Avantax Investment Services
 Sonia Johnston, John Marshall Bank
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 Tina Leone, Ballston Business Improvement District
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 Pinkie Mayfield, Graham Holdings Company
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 Rick Moore, Washington Gas
 John Murphy, Washington Workplace
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 COL. Kimberly Peeples, Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall**
 Joe Prentice, Monument Home Loans, A Division of Mann Mortgage LLC #2550
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 Robin Robertson, The National Capital Bank of Washington
 David Rowley, Minuteman Press
 Adrian Stanton, Virginia Hospital Center
 Doug Taylor, Bean, Kinney & Korman, P.C.
 Darren Tully, Freedom Bank
 An Vo, Residence Inn by Marriott, Pentagon City
 Kedrick Whitmore, Venable LLP
 Jim Wilmot, Arlington Community Federal Credit Union
 Samuel Wolbert, Animal Welfare League of Arlington
 Todd Yeatts, The Boeing Company

* Liaison, Arlington Public Schools

** Liaison, U.S. Military

CHAMBER STAFF

Kate Bates, President & CEO
 Mike Rosenow, Senior Director of Membership
 Andrea Aiello, Membership Engagement Manager
 Scott Pedowitz, Government Affairs Manager
 Olivia McKay, Operations Manager
 Morgan Mentzer, Communications Coordinator
 Katie Nord, Events Manager
 Kara Caldwell, Events Associate (Part-Time)

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

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Visit the Chamber calendar to stay updated on the latest events. Register online at www.arlingtonchamber.org or call (703) 525-2400.

chamber calendar

MARCH

- 2 Monday** **Ambassador Committee Meeting**
4:00-5:00 p.m.
Arlington Chamber of Commerce - VIDA Fitness Boardroom
- 4 Wednesday** **Government Affairs & Economic Development Committee Meeting**
9:00-10:30 a.m.
Arlington Chamber of Commerce - VIDA Fitness Boardroom
- 5 Thursday** **SMART Start**
4:00-5:15 p.m.
Arlington Chamber of Commerce - VIDA Fitness Boardroom
- 6 Friday** **Sustainability Committee Meeting**
9:00-10:00 a.m.
Arlington Chamber of Commerce - VIDA Fitness Boardroom
- 10 Tuesday** **Membership Development Committee Meeting**
2:00-3:00 p.m.
Conference Call
- 11 Wednesday** **Executive Committee Meeting**
8:00-9:30 a.m.
Arlington Chamber of Commerce - VIDA Fitness Boardroom
- 18 Wednesday** **Government Affairs & Economic Development Committee Meeting**
9:00-10:30 a.m.
Arlington Chamber of Commerce - VIDA Fitness Boardroom
- 19 Thursday** **Ambassador Committee Meeting**
4:00-5:00 p.m.
Arlington Chamber of Commerce - VIDA Fitness Boardroom
- 23 Monday** **Membership Engagement Committee Meeting**
4:00-5:00 p.m.
Arlington Chamber of Commerce - VIDA Fitness Boardroom
- 24 Tuesday** **Education & Workforce Development Committee Meeting**
3:00-4:00 p.m.
Arlington Chamber of Commerce - VIDA Fitness Boardroom
- 25 Wednesday** **Community Action Committee Meeting**
9:00-10:00 a.m.
Arlington Chamber of Commerce - VIDA Fitness Boardroom
- 26 Thursday** **Business After Business**
5:00-7:00 p.m.
The Westin Arlington Gateway - The Commentary
- 27 Friday** **Board of Directors Meeting**
11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
WeWork Ballston
- 30 Monday** **Trip to Vietnam - Free Information Session**
5:30-7:00 p.m.
Arlington Chamber of Commerce - VIDA Fitness Boardroom
- 19 Thursday** **Breakfast Connection: Meet the County Board**
7:30-9:00 a.m.
Residence Inn by Marriott - Rosslyn
- 23 Monday** **Membership Engagement Committee Meeting**
4:00-5:00 p.m.
Arlington Chamber of Commerce - VIDA Fitness Boardroom
- 24 Tuesday** **Education & Workforce Development Committee Meeting**
3:00-4:00 p.m.
Arlington Chamber of Commerce - VIDA Fitness Boardroom
- 25 Wednesday** **Community Action Committee Meeting**
9:00-10:00 a.m.
Arlington Chamber of Commerce - VIDA Fitness Boardroom
- 26 Thursday** **Business After Business**
5:00-7:00 p.m.
The Westin Arlington Gateway - The Commentary
- 27 Friday** **Board of Directors Meeting**
11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
WeWork Ballston
- 30 Monday** **Trip to Vietnam - Free Information Session**
5:30-7:00 p.m.
Arlington Chamber of Commerce - VIDA Fitness Boardroom

APRIL

- 1 Wednesday** **Government Affairs & Economic Development Committee Meeting**
9:00-10:30 a.m.
Arlington Chamber of Commerce - VIDA Fitness Boardroom
- 2 Thursday** **SMART Start**
4:00-5:15 p.m.
Arlington Chamber of Commerce - VIDA Fitness Boardroom
- 3 Friday** **Sustainability Committee Meeting**
9:00-10:00 a.m.
Arlington Chamber of Commerce - VIDA Fitness Boardroom
- 6 Monday** **Ambassador Committee Meeting**
4:00-5:00 p.m.
Arlington Chamber of Commerce - VIDA Fitness Boardroom
- 8 Wednesday** **Executive Committee Meeting**
8:00-9:30 a.m.
Arlington Chamber of Commerce - VIDA Fitness Boardroom
- 14 Tuesday** **Membership Development Committee Meeting**
2:00-3:00 p.m.
Conference Call
- 15 Wednesday** **Government Affairs & Economic Development Committee Meeting**
9:00-10:30 a.m.
Arlington Chamber of Commerce - VIDA Fitness Boardroom
- 16 Thursday** **Breakfast Connection: Spring Home - Residential Real Estate Focused**
7:30-9:00 a.m.
Residence Inn by Marriott - Rosslyn
- 21 Tuesday** **Arlington Chamber Volunteer Day**
12:00-4:00 p.m.
St. Agnes Catholic Church (kickoff)
- 23 Thursday** **Job Shadow Day**
9:00-11:00 a.m.
Various business locations
- 28 Tuesday** **Education & Workforce Development Committee Meeting**
3:00-4:00 p.m.
George Mason University
- 29 Wednesday** **Community Action Committee Meeting**
9:00-10:00 a.m.
Arlington Chamber of Commerce - VIDA Fitness Boardroom
- 30 Thursday** **Business After Business**
5:00-7:00 p.m.
Bean Kinney & Korman P.C.
- 15 Wednesday** **LeadShare Networking Group**
11:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Arlington Chamber of Commerce - VIDA Fitness Boardroom
- 16 Thursday** **Breakfast Connection: Spring Home - Residential Real Estate Focused**
7:30-9:00 a.m.
Residence Inn by Marriott - Rosslyn
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Bean Kinney & Korman P.C.

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

The Champion of Business in the City of Champions

The Arlington Chamber of Commerce's robust **Business Advocacy** efforts serve you well. Each year the Chamber's Board of Directors adopts its Virginia General Assembly Policy Positions and its Local Policy Positions (for activities of the Arlington County Board, the School Board, and Local Officials). The Chamber Board also adopts annual responses to local government positions on matters of interest taken up by the General Assembly.



R. Scott Ritter

Execution of the Chamber's advocacy effort is no small feat. Our policy positions require input from members, action by our Board and staff, member letter writing and calling campaigns, as well as direct interaction with government officials. Chamber President & CEO, Kate Bates, leads this charge along with the Chamber's Government Affairs Manager, Scott Pedowitz. Kate and Scott along with David Kinney, Board Vice Chair for Business Advocacy, stay on top of all relevant issues to ensure that the voice of business is heard.

At the State level, the Chamber advocacy efforts focus appropriately on matters relating to taxation, budget, transportation, infrastructure funding, planning, and economic development. During the 2020 General Assembly Session the Chamber advocated for the defeat of Senate Bill 839 which would have allowed Arlington County to use site plan conditions to impose binding labor agreements on developers. The Chamber argued that it was inappropriate to tie land use policy to labor concerns and that such a link would add uncertainty and higher cost to development efforts. Also, this year a joint effort by the Chamber and Arlington County successfully supported House Bill 62 and Senate Bill 107 to remove a concerning sunset provision in the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) which is vital to Arlington's hotel and tourism business.

Locally the Chamber's efforts are similar but include local logistical and process concerns. These matters reflect the diversity of our membership and the unique opportunities and challenges that we face. In recent years the Chamber has weighed in for business on a variety of issues that notably have included auto towing rules; recycling inspection fees; community energy plans; affordable child care initiatives; housing, land use, site plan, and density matters; the **Virginia Hospital Center** expansion; 5G network development; and **Amazon** headquarters at National Landing.

The Arlington Chamber is advocating for you and all who conduct business in Arlington.

R. Scott Ritter
United Bank



SMART START

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

GRAND SPONSOR
Michael Garcia RICP®, Agent



PREMIER SPONSOR
MONUMENT



A division of Mann Mortgage LLC, NMLS #2550

BREAKFAST CONNECTION

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

GRAND SPONSOR



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

Arlington Chamber Members Participate in Chamber Day at the Capitol



(L-R) Chamber Director Garrett McGuire, Chamber member Scott McGeary, Chamber Director Bismah Ahmed, Chamber Director Nicole Collier, Chamber member Brian Moore and Chamber Government Affairs Manager Scott Pedowitz at Chamber Day at the Capitol in Richmond, Virginia

On January 23, several Arlington Chamber members joined with business leaders from around the Commonwealth for Chamber Day at the Capitol. The day began with a program organized by the Virginia Chamber of Commerce, where General Assembly members discussed the 2020 session. The Arlington Chamber group then met with members of Arlington's General Assembly delegation and their legislative staffs, who each talked about their priorities. The Chamber group advocated for our General Assembly Policy Positions, how we can improve the business climate overall, and projects and bills that are important to Arlington businesses. The day ended with a reception where members networked with business and government leaders from across Virginia.

Site Plan Labor Provision Bill Defeated After Chamber Opposition

A bill that could have allowed Arlington County to use site plan conditions to make developers enter into binding project labor agreements has been defeated by the Virginia Senate's Local Government Committee following concern voiced by the Chamber and several members. Working with other local groups and industry advocates, the Chamber helped Senators understand the risks in the legislation, and as a result, the bill was defeated for the year.

Had the bill passed, it would have extended land use policy tools to labor market regulation. This would have been a wrong application of land use policy as the professionals who set and enforce planning and zoning rules are not labor experts. Additionally, site plan conditions are specific to each project's needs, but labor rules should be mostly the same. Allowing labor regulation to vary from project to project would have added uncertainty to development projects. Uncertainty raises costs as developers would have had to prepare for any requirement that the Arlington County Board (or another local government) might have set for their project.



Chamber President & CEO, Kate Bates, testifies at the Virginia Senate Local Government Committee to oppose the site plan labor provision bill

Chamber Encourages Arlington to Make Signage Easier for Businesses

Many of Arlington's rules for signage are often too rigid and are not focused on helping businesses market themselves effectively. This past fall, the Chamber gathered a pilot group of small businesses to discuss the difficulties and possible solutions. This conversation led to the Chamber writing the County Board to encourage more flexible, simple, and consistent rules for signs and encouraged the Planning staff to ask for input from the business community on this matter. The Chamber has been meeting with Arlington County officials and bringing businesses and government together to find solutions that work. The dialogue on signage rules will continue throughout the year, starting at the March 18 Government Affairs and Economic Development Committee meeting.

The Chamber staff participated in meetings of the Economic Development Commission, Plan Lee Highway Working Group, several General Assembly committee hearings, Arlington Census Complete County Committee, and the Business & Community Stakeholders meeting for the Metro Blue/Orange/Silver Line study. Chamber staff also testified at a County Board meeting, attended the swearing in ceremony for Katie Cristol and Christian Dorsey, as well as the County Board Organizational Meeting and Civic Federation Meeting.

General Assembly Takes Steps to Support Arlington Tourism



The Chamber partnered with Arlington County to advocate for a pair of bills that will extend the funding for **Arlington Convention and Visitors Service (ACVS)**, a part of **Arlington Economic Development**, markets Arlington as a destination for tourists and business travelers. A 0.25% tax surcharge paid by hotel guests funds their work, but only through 2021. Senator Janet Howell and Delegate Patrick Hope introduced bills to eliminate this sunset provision.

Renewing the dedicated transient occupancy tax has been a longstanding Chamber policy position. **ACVS** and the Chamber have a history of collaboration, including a letter of agreement that gives hoteliers input into **ACVS**'s budget and activities. The Chamber supports removing the tax sunset because of the strong relationship between **ACVS** and the hospitality industry.

The Chamber sent letters to both the House and Senate to advocate for the bills and Chris Raines of the **Holiday Inn Rosslyn**, chair of the Chamber's Hotel General Manager's Committee, testified at the General Assembly. The bills passed the Senate and the House with more than 75% of the vote in each chamber.

Chamber's Advocacy Helps Preserve Virginia's Right-to-Work Law

Two bills that could have eliminated Virginia's Right-to-Work law have been defeated in the General Assembly. Retaining Virginia's Right-to-Work law has been a top priority for the Chamber's advocacy this session. The Chamber joined with advocates from across the Commonwealth at a special meeting of the Senate Commerce and Labor Committee to encourage them not to adopt a bill that would have allowed "fair share" fees, requiring workers to pay union fees as a condition of employment and undermining Right-to-Work. The Committee voted 12-3 to pass it by for the year. Similarly, the House Appropriations committee declined to take up a bill that would have repealed Right to Work entirely.



Lee Highway Planning Update



Arlington County is one year into a three-year planning process to design the future for Lee Highway. Several Chamber members, including the **Lee Highway Alliance**, and the Chamber's Government Affairs Manager are participating in the Plan Lee Highway Working Group and Community Forum. Recently, the working group and members of the Arlington community gathered at Washington-Liberty High School for a day-long workshop to review the past year's work and to prepare for the next. Forum participants discussed the existing conditions of Lee Highway and their visions for future development. The Chamber is engaging both to ensure that our current businesses can continue to thrive in a changing environment, and to shape policies that offer the most opportunity for businesses to succeed.

key upcoming events

Register at www.arlingtonchamber.org/events

Arlington Chamber Volunteer Day



Tuesday, April 21, 2020

12:00-12:30 p.m.: Registration & Kickoff at St. Agnes Catholic Church

1:00-4:00 p.m.: Volunteer at various project sites

Give back to the community and connect with local nonprofit organizations as part of **Arlington Chamber Volunteer Day!** Produced annually by the Chamber's Community Action Committee, this tradition pairs members of the business community with rewarding half-day service projects throughout Arlington County.

Volunteers

Volunteer opportunities are available for individuals and groups of all sizes. Register by completing the online form and send it to Events Manager, Katie Nord, at events@arlingtonchamber.org or (703) 525-2400

Nonprofits

Could your organization benefit from volunteer assistance? Register as a nonprofit project site by completing the online form and send it to Events Manager, Katie Nord, at (703) 525-2400 or events@arlingtonchamber.org.

Grand Sponsor



JOURNEY WITH US:

November 8-17, 2020

TRAVEL TO VIETNAM

Starting at only \$2,499 for members & their guests if you register before May 29!

Free Information Session

March 30 | 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Arlington Chamber of Commerce

VIDA Fitness Boardroom

RSVP at <https://tinyurl.com/arlvtravel>

TRIP INCLUDES:
Departure from Dulles, all hotel stays, transportation, meals, guided tours, and more!



For more information or to register, contact Operations Manager, Olivia McKay, at (703) 525-2400 or chamber@arlingtonchamber.org

The Arlington Best Business Awards

Thursday, May 28, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
Key Bridge Marriott Hotel



Join the Chamber as we recognize outstanding community businesses at the prestigious 34th Annual Best Business Awards.

Hall Of Fame Nominations

The **Arlington Business 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, while having notable achievements and exceptional civic and community involvement. To nominate someone for the Hall of Fame, please contact Events Manager, Katie Nord, at events@arlingtonchamber.org or (703) 525-2400.

Grand Sponsor



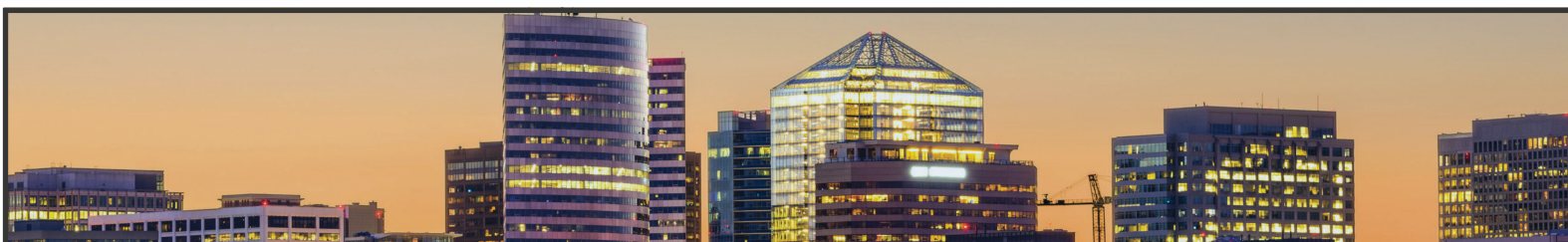
Call For Nominations

Awards are earned by Chamber member businesses located in Arlington that deliver exceptional quality of service to their customers, are industry leaders or offer a unique approach to delivery of goods or services, and display an interest in and concern for the Arlington community. These awards are given to businesses that fall into the following categories: nonprofit organizations; businesses under 50 full-time employees in retail, service, technology, and home-based; and businesses with more than 50 full-time employees.

Nominees must meet the following criteria:

- Be a viable, ongoing, full-time business that has experienced significant growth or stability over its business life.
- Be well-known and respected by customers or clients for consistently delivering exceptional quality or service.
- Be a leader in its industry in Arlington or have a significantly unique approach to delivery of its goods or services.
- Display an interest in and concern for the Arlington community - either corporately or through its owners and/or employees backed by the company.
- Demonstrate a commitment to diversity and inclusion as part of company culture.

To nominate a business, complete and submit the nomination form found online and any supplemental information to Events Manager, Katie Nord, at events@arlingtonchamber.org by **5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 27.**



Free 2020 Arlington County Street Maps Available



Stop by the Chamber to pick up your free 2020 Arlington County Street Maps! To request maps for your business, please call the Chamber at (703) 525-2400 with the number of copies you would like, as well as the date and time you are available to pick them up. Maps can be picked up at the Chamber office Monday through Friday, any time between the standard business hours of 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

To expedite your request, please contact the Chamber with the number of maps needed prior to visiting the Chamber office. The Chamber does not mail maps.

MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES

Chamber Membership



20 Years
Culpepper Garden

15 Years
Nauticon Office Solutions
The Shooshan Company

10 Years
Cardinal Construction & Management
Fire Works Arlington, LLC
EagleBank
Inns of Virginia

5 Years
Neighborhood Real Estate, LLC.
Envescent

members in the news

BEAN, KINNEY & KORMAN P.C.

Bean, Kinney & Korman Named as a 2020 Best Places to Work in Virginia



Jim Korman of Bean, Kinney & Korman P.C. (center) accepts the award from Bernie Niemeir of Virginia Business and Peter Burke of Best Companies Group

Bean, Kinney & Korman P.C. has been named as one of the 2020 Best Places to Work in Virginia. The annual list of the Best Places to Work in Virginia was created by Virginia Business Magazine and Best Companies Group.

This statewide survey and awards program is designed to identify, recognize, and honor the best places of employment in Virginia, benefiting

the state's economy, workforce, and businesses. The 2020 Best Places to Work in Virginia list is made up of 100 companies.

JAY E. REINER CPA, PLLC

Jay E. Reiner CPA, PLLC Interviewed on NBC Nightly News Segment about Taxes

NBC reporter Tom Costello interviewed **Jay Reiner** on Monday, February 17 for a segment covering taxes on NBC Nightly News. During Costello's new series "The Price You Pay," Reiner discussed how one can save money this tax season by being prepared for tax day on April 15. He advised organizing receipts and tax forms before meeting with your CPA and doing your taxes early.



NESTLÉ & ARLINGTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Nestlé Sponsors Child Care Scholarship in Arlington

Arlington County announced a partnership with **Nestlé** and the **Arlington Community Foundation** to create a child care scholarship program. The Shared Prosperity Child Care Scholarship Program is paid for by a \$200,000 donation from **Nestlé**. The scholarship will help low-income families in Arlington gain access to child care.

NORTHWEST FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Northwest Federal Opens First Branch in Arlington County



Northwest Federal Credit Union recently celebrated the grand opening of a new branch in Ballston, Virginia, its ninth public branch and first in Arlington County. Jeff Bentley, President and CEO of **Northwest Federal**, expressed excitement about the new location and the opportunity to work closely with and be more accessible to members, businesses, and charitable organizations in the community.

Northwest Federal has over 8,000 members and business accounts in the Arlington area. The credit union works closely with local community organizations.

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.

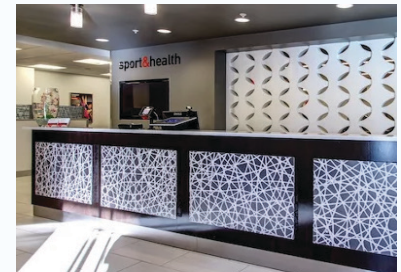
For questions, contact Morgan Mentzer at communications@arlingtonchamber.org or (703) 525-2400.

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.

SPORT & HEALTH CLUBS

US Fitness Announces Expansion & Renovation of Sport&Health Crystal Park in Advance of Amazon Headquarters.

US Fitness Holdings, LLC, has announced that it will expand the **Sport&Health Club at Crystal Park** in conjunction with the **JBG SMITH** development of National Landing. The 8,000 square foot expansion and renovation will elevate all aspects of the club including additional fitness space for strength training, functional turf training areas and expanded studios. **Sport&Health Crystal Park** will be the fitness anchor to the National Landing providing the best value and fitness experience at an affordable price. The expansion and renovation is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2020 and to be complete by the summer of 2020.



CONGRESSIONAL SCHOOL

Congressional School Celebrates 80 Years



This year marks 80 years for **Congressional School**. The school was founded in 1939 as an independent, private primary school with only forty students. Now the school serves more than 350 students, infants through 8th grade, and 2,200 campers annually through its academic and summer programs. The school is accredited by the Virginia Association of Independent Schools placing it among the highest tier of private schools in the state, and in the country. **Congressional School** students are explorers, critical thinkers, and leaders, who graduate confident and well-prepared for high school and beyond.

welcome to our
NEW MEMBERS!

Arts and Entertainment
Pinstripes, Inc.

Business and Professional Services
Hartary Consulting
Malbay Strategic Consulting LLC
PulseIQ!
Strategy for Humanity
Trust Merchant Services

Communications and IT
HPMA Solutions

Financial Services
Capital Bank
Chain Bridge Bank
GEICO NOVA Local Office
Khalisdar Tax
LPL Financial
Mila Lynne Floro- Edward Jones Investments
USI

Government and Education
Chanda Choun

Health and Fitness
Advance Dental Care Center

Arlington/DC Behavior Therapy Institute
VK Pediatric Dentistry

Nonprofit Organizations & Association
Clothesline for Arlington Kids
New Hope Housing, Inc.
St. Charles Catholic Church
Virginia Foundation for Community College

Real Estate
Divaris Real Estate, Inc.
Skanska USA
StageMaster Homes at Keller
Williams Metro Center
The Rixey
Varidesk
WeWork Ballston
WeWork Crystal City

Retail and Restaurants
Malena Boutique
MGI Corporate Gifts LLC
Mothersauce Partners
Ozfecka Catering

Travel and Tourism
Connect
The ROX, Rapid Overland Xpress

STAY CONNECTED

WITH THE CHAMBER IN **3 EASY WAYS:**

- Follow us on social media
@ArlVAChamber
ArlingtonChamberVA
Arlington Chamber of Commerce - Virginia
- Visit our website:
www.arlingtonchamber.org
- Subscribe to our weekly e-newsletter by visiting our website

Send your new members referrals to Mike Rosenow, Senior Director of Membership, at membership@arlingtonchamber.org or call (703) 525-2400.

Your Chamber in the Community

The success of the Arlington Chamber is tied to its membership base. This is why the Chamber's Directors, staff, and members are dedicated to supporting community events and happenings. From January 2019-mid February 2020, your Chamber attended **25 community events!**



January 29: Kate Bates, spoke at ARLnow's 10th anniversary party at Bronson Bier Hall



January 30: Mike Rosenow and Olivia McKay at VIDA Fitness pre-opening at Industrious Ballston



February 2: Scott Pedowitz attended Arlington Food Assistance Center's Empty Bowls fundraiser



February 13: Mike Rosenow spoke at Bright Horizons Ballston ribbon cutting



February 14: Mike Rosenow, Olivia McKay, and Andrea Aiello attended Clarendon Animal Care's five year anniversary party

Below is a sampling of events that Chamber staff participated in during January and February 2020

January 15: Kate Bates spoke at the **Northwest Federal Credit Union** Ballston grand opening. Mike Rosenow and Andrea Aiello also attended the event.

January 15: Kate Bates and Andrea Aiello attended **WhyHotel Pentagon Columbia Pike** grand opening.

January 20: Scott Pedowitz and Olivia McKay participated in the MLK Day of Service organized by **Leadership Center for Excellence**.

January 22: Olivia McKay, Andrea Aiello, and Mike Rosenow attended the **Ballston BID** Sip & Mingle at the Ballston Exchange.

January 23: Kate Bates participated in an **Arlington Public Schools** Superintendent search focus group.

January 27: Mike Rosenow and Andrea Aiello attended **Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization** and **Arlington Economic Development** Launch and Learn.

January 29: The Chamber hosted the Brunch & Business panel "Keeping IT Real" with **Arlington Community Federal Credit Union** and **Arlington Economic Development (AED) BizLaunch**. Mike Rosenow spoke and Andrea Aiello attended the event.

February 11: Scott Pedowitz attended **Alliance for Housing Solutions'** Housing Happy Hour.

February 13: Kate Bates attended the Washington Business Journal's Regional Economic Forecast at **Marymount University**.

Chamber Honors Employees in Arlington Hospitality Industry

The Arlington Chamber of Commerce honored 98 front-line workers in Arlington's hospitality industry at the 16th Annual Hospitality Awards at the **Key Bridge Marriott Hotel** on Tuesday, January 28. These prestigious awards are presented each year to hospitality workers who deliver outstanding customer service, exhibit excellence in their roles, and continuously exceed their job descriptions.

During the ceremony, Chamber President & CEO, Kate Bates, read inspiring testimonials of how each Hospitality Superstar Award winner has displayed integrity and dedication in his or her work, along with examples of how they care for guests above and beyond the call. One winner, Walter "Wally" Bender of the **Crystal City Marriott** is an example of an employee who goes above and beyond his job requirements. Bender has assisted the hotel engineering team troubleshoot major issues with guest rooms and public spaces on multiple occasions. During his second year with the hotel, he single-handedly discovered a problem with the piping in the boiler room and installed a new drain line pipe to ensure the right amount of water was being consumed. Through this action, he helped the hotel save roughly \$100,000. Bender is an excellent problem-solver who consistently goes above the call of duty regarding service expectations.

The ceremony also honored 23 individuals with the Bob Klein Legendary Service Award for their 25 or more years of service in the Arlington hospitality industry. This award was renamed several years ago in honor of Bob Klein, the late General Manager of the Holiday Inn National Airport, who was instrumental in creating the Hospitality Awards program and ensuring its success for the first five years.

Among those awarded the Legendary Service Award, Hattie Jones of the **Army Navy Country Club** has served the hotel for 32 years as both a front desk receptionist and a coat room attendant. She is 100 years old and continues her work with grace and service with a smile. Jones is a favorite among club members and guests who will go out of their way to see her and spend time with her before leaving the club. There were many exceptional stories shared of long-time service and dedication to the hospitality industry.



Esther Alvarenga (center) of the Residence Inn Arlington Ballston accepts her Hospitality Superstar award from Crystal Christmas-Watson of the Crystal City Marriott and Chris Raines of the Holiday Inn Rosslyn



Staff members of the Renaissance Arlington Capital View pose with Hattie Jones (center) of the Army Navy Country Club



A group of the 2020 Hospitality Superstar Award winners and Bob Klein Legendary Service Award winners



A group of award winners and guests pose for a picture at the 2020 Hospitality Awards

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