

October General Membership Meeting Minutes  
Zoom Video Conference  
October 11, 2022, | 7:00 PM

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

Mr. Nick Firth, President of the South County Federation (SCF), called the Monthly Membership meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

**II. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS & OFFICERS REPORT:**

A. Secretary- Ms. Angelina Fuller

Ms. Fuller is on a family leave of absence, resulting in the September Meeting Minutes being approved at the December Membership meeting.

B. Treasurer Report- Keith Shovlin

Mr. Shovlin provided the financial update as follows:

Truist Checking	\$474.90
Nuveen (TIA CREFF) Money Market Account (MMA)	\$6,765.44
Total	\$7,240.34

In addition to providing the above financial breakdown, Mr. Shovlin stated that Truist is adding a \$20 surcharge monthly since the account has been below \$700. He is considering transferring funds from the Nuveen account to the Truist account to get above the \$700 threshold but will discuss this further with Larry Clark, the former treasurer. Mr. Shovlin also reported that the MMA increased by \$27 since last month.

C. South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce Report- Casey Whitmarsh

Mr. Whitmarsh introduced himself and stated that many events are occurring very shortly. The following are the key items shared:

1. The small business spotlight was shone on Chamber member Mary Crispino from Health Market. Health Market focuses on serving life, health, Medicare, and long-term care insurance needs for small businesses, middle-income families, and individuals. Ms. Crispino meets with folks to ensure they understand their needs and provide objective guidance and solutions. She can be contacted for a free consultation via phone at (703)-508-3096 or [online](#).
2. On Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 PM, there will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Lorton Community Center, Library, Park, and the Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC).
3. Also, on Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, in honor of National Fire Prevention Week, the Lorton Volunteer Fire Department is hosting an open house from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. There will be station tours, games, raffles, prizes, and an excellent opportunity to see inside the new fire station up close.
4. The Seventh Annual [Tour De Mount Vernon](#) is scheduled for October 22<sup>nd</sup>, with the start and finish lines at the Workhouse Arts Center. The ride will take a scenic tour of the Mount Vernon District, and riders can ride the entire 38-plus-mile route or a shorter 19-mile route. The ride will begin with a rolling start from 8:30 - 8:45 AM and will end with music, fun, beverages, and famous sweet potato chili from La Prima catering.
5. On November 9<sup>th</sup>, the South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce will host a [Salute to Veterans](#) Networking event, the S.T.I.R. (Socializing, Thriving, Interacting, and Reconnecting), at the Laurel Hill Golf Club. The Chamber invites members, local business owners, and community leaders to participate. This year, the Chamber is partnering with Boots to Suits, a nonprofit organization that assist veterans transitioning to civilian careers. Donations of gently used or new men's and women's clothing that are interview appropriate are most welcomed. Donations can be dropped off at Mr. Whitmarsh's [office](#) or the golf club.

6. Mr. Whitmarsh's office (State Farm) partnered with the Emma Jordan Kids Fighting Cancer Foundation last month. As a result of social media likes, shares, and new followers, they were able to donate \$1000 to the foundation. Mr. Whitmarsh acknowledged that the donation could not happen without community support and sincerely thanked everyone.

III. **SUPERVISORS REPORT:**

A. Supervisor Dan Storck

Supervisor Storck greeted the membership and began to deliver his update as follows.

1. During the Board of Supervisor's meeting earlier today, some consideration items for the fourth quarter carryover were passed, such as improvement to an access trail and getting a sidewalk built by Hybla Valley Elementary School, although it's in the Franconia-Lee district. Kids really have very poor access to Huntley Meadows Park, whether it's from that school or Groveton, so this is a positive.
2. Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, we are celebrating the open house of the Lorton Library and Community Center, the park, and all the playgrounds. They are wonderful facilities, and it has been a long time coming. The ribbon-cutting ceremony will begin at 1:00 PM and will feature several speakers. Still, more importantly, people will have an opportunity to go in and explore the new facilities for themselves. However, there are two hitches; one is that the supply chain is still making it difficult for us to get all the equipment, furniture, and items that we ordered, and the second is that when the gym floor was installed, it was installed incorrectly. Therefore, the gym floor must be reinstalled, making the gym unavailable for the next few months. Also, as part of the facility, there is a Senior Center and a Teen Center. The new facility also features a student aftercare (SAC) program. The Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC) has offices and a food pantry in the community center too. As part of the open house, the LCAC staff is asking everyone to bring a non-perishable food item with them, be it cereal, canned soup, or any food item that can be stored would be greatly welcomed by the staff. While you're there, you will see precisely the kind of facilities they have for dispensing and providing food and other types of support to the community. To help with the celebration, the South County HS Band will be playing, and the South County Cares church will provide hot dogs, hamburgers, drinks, and other things to make this a grand celebration.
3. October 22<sup>nd</sup> is the Seventh Annual [Tour De Mount Vernon](#). We are starting and ending at the Workhouse Arts Center. You can ride either 20 or 40 miles, depending on the bike journey you want. Last year, there were over 300 riders, and there will probably be at least 300 to 400 riders this year. The ride is dedicated to Supervisor Storck's good friend, Dave Evans. Volunteers are always welcome so please sign-up.
4. The Supervisor's office is looking for feedback regarding the South County Police Station and Animal Shelter names. The name recommendations are the Lorton Police Station and the South County Animal Shelter. The police like to name their local facility by a local name, in this case, Lorton District Police Station. Since this is a county animal shelter, it would be the Fairfax County Animal Shelter on the Lorton campus.
5. Overlook Ridge Park completion and opening; we continue to have some delays, but we are still committed. I'm still comfortable that we will open the park as I've committed novel times in early 2025. There are still some draft agreements that we're working through, but we do expect those to be completed and have some internal review in the next few weeks. Most importantly, staff will meet and present to South County Federation at the November meeting.
6. Alpine-X is also slowed down a bit. They have a traffic study they've shared with the South County Federation. Like the Community Center and library, they're having supply chain and market issues that have slowed them down. They're still focusing on getting the development entitlements done, which they now believe they will be bringing something forward in the first quarter of 2023. There's still a lot of community engagement that'll happen around those, and they are focusing on making sure that facility is as carbon neutral as possible. And they have many models in Europe and

other places to help them figure that out. They currently have an office in the Workhouse Arts Center, and you can drop by anytime. There are several pictures and charts, and you can get a good idea of what they're looking at and how they're trying to move forward.

7. The Board of Supervisors approved a Proclamation to recognize and honor the 10th Anniversary of the South County Middle School.

8. There is a Take A Moment campaign, which is a public safety pedestrian, bike, and driver safety program. Please take a moment at an intersection or as you're driving down the highway to look and make sure that you are reducing the risk of somebody being hurt, whether they are riding, walking, or driving.

9. The West Springfield police station is hosting a Scout night tomorrow evening, October 12<sup>th</sup>, at the West Springfield police station. A den or troop can visit the police station and speak with officers.

10. Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, the Fire Rescue department is holding an open house at each of their fire stations.

#### Supervisor Storck Q & A:

Q1: Mr. Larry Clark- Regarding the bathrooms at the Lorton Common Greens, we were under the impression that the restrooms were fully funded and forthcoming. They have now been delayed, and the funds have apparently been shifted elsewhere. Why and how were the funds removed, and are there any specific requirements involved when shifting funds which have been approved by a bond?

Q2: Mr. Larry Clark- The 2nd item we'd like to address involves funding from the settlement with AAA Auto on Route 1, just short of the CSX underpass. The penalty funds were brought to us with a proposal to use the funds on an already underway stream and storm-water restoration project below the USAR site on Mordor Road. We made it clear that we were not in favor of using the funds to complete an already funded project and preferred that the funds be spent on another project in our South County area. After some time, the staff suddenly went silent, and we were never provided an explanation of where the funds were actually spent. We'd like to know what the eventual use of the funding was.

A1&2: Mr. Linwood Gorham- The bathrooms are scheduled to open this spring. The funding for the mitigation for the AAA auto settlement is being used to help do the garden plots there at the Nike site.

Q3: Mr. Dale Rumberger- Dan, it's my understanding the money was taken from the fields that were going to be used next to the Bartlett house, and that was used to complete the renovations at the Mt Vernon rec center. Do we understand when those monies come back onto bond to put those fields back into play for construction? Do we have a timeline for any of that?

A3: Mr. Linwood Gorham- It should be the next bond cycle because those particular fields have an equity element, and I want to ensure it gets done as quickly as possible.

Q4: Mr. Dale Rumberger- Do we know when that bond cycle is; 2023 or 2024?

A4: Mr. Linwood Gorham- I think it's actually 2026.

Q5: Mr. Dale Rumberger- Is there a set process written someplace when you must reallocate funds from one project to another? Is that a vote of the Park Authority board? Is that reviewed by staff? Is that reviewed by the Board of Supervisors? I think that bond for the fields was 2018, I don't think it was 2020, and to now hear it would be 2026, which means passage and then construction not happening until after, that's a 10-year delay to me seems excessive.

A5: Mr. Linwood Gorham- The decision was done by the Park Authority. To also answer your question, I think you're alluding to does everything get put back in the bond cycle in the same order that it was taken out, and the answer to that question is no because over time when things are spread out this long, priorities change. But it remains with me, and I think everybody at the park authorities' highest priority that the two big projects that were taken out and used for the rec center, which include the two fields that you're talking about and also the museum storage facility near the workhouse are absolutely top priorities for the park authority, so I anticipate that they will move up in the priority if anything changes.

Q6: Ms. Wendy Henley- Supervisor Storck, do you have a tentative date as to when the 2040 Lorton Visioning Committee will re-engage?

A6: Supervisor Storck- I'll ask Nick Rinehart if he has a more specific time. We weren't satisfied with the last group that we're working with us, so we have a couple of other consultants that are being considered, not to start us over from square one, but to pick up with all the public education, the information, and the data that we've collected, and to offer more creative, innovative ways of just taking another look at the Lorton community and how do we truly put together something that's I think all of us could join and find a consensus to move forward.

A6: Nick Rinehart- It should be as early as November. I know that I just participated in a meeting with county staff to answer any questions that consultants interested in answering the RFP may have, and the RFP deadline for them is October 21<sup>st</sup>. So, at the very latest, by the end of the year, we should have clearer next steps on what the timeline will be.

B. Supervisor Pat Herrity

Supervisor Herrity was not in attendance nor represented in the meeting.

C. Mount Vernon District School Board Representative- Karen Corbett-Sanders

Ms. Corbett-Sanders greeted the membership and presented the following:

1. As of September 8<sup>th</sup>, Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) enrollment is up almost 1000 students from a year ago, totaling 179,122 students.
2. There are still employee vacancies in the classroom, but FCPS is addressing those concerns by taking people out of the central office so that every student has a qualified teacher in their classroom.
3. FCPS continues to work towards recruiting the best and retaining the brightest teachers, and that includes paying competitive salaries. Last year, a 4.2% raise was given, and a substantial raise is expected to happen this coming year. Also, in November, FCPS will offer a \$1000 bonus for the full-time staff and a \$500 bonus for those who are part-time.
4. Exciting things are happening in our schools with the SAT scores coming out. Fairfax County had a mean score of 1185, which outpaced the state score of 1124, and 1050 in the nation.
5. FCPS graduation rates are also up. Ms. Corbett-Sanders gave a big shout-out to South County High School, which had the third-highest graduation rate of any high school in the county. The only schools that outpaced South County were Thomas Jefferson, with a 100% graduation rate, and Langley, with a 99.4% graduation rate. The South County graduation rate was 99.1%. Hayfield, with a graduation rate of 98.6%, also outpaced the county's graduation rate of 94.2%. All the schools mentioned above outpaced the state graduation rate.
6. All the FCPS schools in South County are fully accredited. Although the schools are fully accredited, learning loss or learning delays are acknowledged and will be addressed. A significant focus on literacy and hands-on math and sciences will be implemented, especially in Elementary and Middle schools. The fact that our students are excelling in the arts and on the fields has not gone unnoticed. Moreover, the South County HS Chamber Orchestra will perform at the Virginia Music Educators Association conference on November 17<sup>th</sup> at the Greater Richmond Convention Center. On November 15<sup>th</sup>, they will give a pre-concert at the Hilton Performing Arts Center.
7. On October 27<sup>th</sup>, there will be an event to commemorate the 10th anniversary of South County Middle School. Ms. Corbett-Sanders will be joined by the Springfield District School Board Representative, Ms. Laura Jane Cohen, and their colleagues from the Board of Supervisors, including Chairman McKay, Supervisor Storck, and Supervisor Herrity.
8. On Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, there will be a homecoming parade before the big homecoming competition on Friday, and Ms. Corbett-Sanders and Ms. Cohen will share a car in the parade.

D. Springfield District School Board Representative- Laura Jane Cohen

Ms. Cohen expressed gratitude for being able to deliver updates to the SCF meeting attendees. She presented the following:

1. On September 21<sup>st</sup>, there was a community meeting with FCPS Superintendent Dr. Michelle Reid at South County HS. The event was very well attended, and people asked terrific questions. Dr. Reid provided excellent responses and outstanding feedback about how the year is going for their students. She also gave terrific feedback about Dr. Khoshaba, the new Principal at South County HS, and people feel like he's doing an outstanding job.
2. November is Take Your Legislator to Work / School month. Ms. Cohen and Ms. Corbett-Sanders plan to be in the community with different legislators to highlight some of the great schools, with South County first and foremost on that list.
3. Ms. Cohen thanked Michelle Toby, a Student School Board Representative and a senior at South County HS. Michelle has been working with students to hear their voices and talk a lot about student agency in decision-making.
4. Work is continuous regarding the Strategic Plan. A great deal of community engagement is anticipated and welcomed. The first budget fiscal forecast happened today, so the work begins on next year's budget.
5. Coming soon will be Calendar Conversations, input to the school year calendar. So, if anyone with children in the school districts has thoughts about the school year calendar, please feel free to pass that along to Ms. Cohen or Ms. Corbett-Sanders. They will incorporate it into their conversations as they navigate the calendar's composition.

E. Fairfax County Park Authority- Linwood Gorham

Mr. Gorham acknowledged that several items in his report were already discussed. The remaining items follow.

1. The Mount Vernon magisterial district remains the number one Pickleball area in all of the Fairfax County Park Authority. There's a ribbon cutting ceremony this Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 AM, at the George Washington rec center revitalized tennis courts.
2. Met with the new Planning and Development Division Director, Brendon Hanafin, on October 10<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Hanafin comes to Fairfax County from Prince William County with a wealth of experience.

**IV. LEGISLATIVE UPDATES:**

F. State Delegate Kathy Tran- presented by Ben Hermerding

Mr. Hermerding greeted the members and acknowledged his office's new intern, Ms. Taylor Bush. Ms. Bush joined the call outside of her regular hours to become familiar with the South County region.

1. Delegate Tran was at Gunston Hall on Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, for their annual Board of Regents meeting.
2. Delegate Tran was at the Amtrak Auto Train meeting that the South County Federation put together. Traffic keeps backing up on Lorton Rd because of the auto train. We're looking for a solution, and we're happy to be part of those conversations.
3. Delegate Tran also met with Rob Rutland-Brown, the new Executive Director of the Lorton Community Action Center. They immediately started talking about projects that they could work on together.
4. We met with Fairfax County, both the School Board and the Board of Supervisors. We brought the Fairfax delegation together to talk about school safety and background checks. There have been some incidents, including Fairfax and some down in southern Virginia, with how background checks are run on teachers when they're done; what data is captured. As an entire delegation of Fairfax to the General Assembly, we're working on some sort of solution to get that done soon as possible.

5. Delegate Tran will join Ms. Corbett-Sanders and Ms. Cohen for the Take Your Legislators to School Day. She will join them at South County HS.
6. The House of Delegates and the State Senate Page programs are open. If you have kids who are in the 8th and 9th grades who are interested in coming to Richmond, being pages, and seeing the legislative process up close, the deadline for that the State Senate is October 17<sup>th</sup>, and the House program's deadline is October 31<sup>st</sup>.
7. You should have a deposit from the Commonwealth of Virginia in your bank accounts by now as part of the biennial budget that was passed during the last special session back in June. The General Assembly authorized \$250 tax rebates to individual filers and \$500 to joint filers, so everybody should have received a deposit or mail depending on how you paid your taxes this year.
8. Early voting has started, so regardless of whom you're voting for or support, early voting has started. The list of voting locations is available on the [county's website](#), and we always encourage everybody and anybody to get out and vote.
9. Contact information: (703) 539-2066 and [delktran@house.virginia.gov](mailto:delktran@house.virginia.gov)

## V. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

### A. Transportation- Peter Weyland, Chair

Mr. Weyland greeted the members and summarized the following background actions that precipitated the Lorton Auto Train meetings. As many of you know, the Lorton auto train departs daily and often creates a traffic issue on Lorton Rd. Every day, cars line up in the afternoon between 11:00 AM and 3:00 PM to depart southbound to Sanford, FL. Occasionally, if a northbound train is delayed, it causes additional issues that spill out onto Lorton Rd.

1. We met with Amtrak in July, which Congressman Don Byer's office took the initiative to set up the initial meeting with Amtrak on July 20<sup>th</sup>. Amtrak understood that this is a serious issue, and they also have a similar issue in Sanford, FL. There were about 24 people that attended the July 20th meeting, which was very well attended both locally with our politicians and representatives of Kathy Tran, Don Byers, and Jerry Connolly offices, as well as several members from the South County Federation. Amtrak sent their A-team. We had the Vice President of Government Relations, Superintendent of Customer Service, Deputy Police Chief, Director of Government Affairs, and Senior Government Affairs Specialist. I recite all these names to give you the idea that they consider this a very serious issue and priority.
2. A follow-up meeting was held on September 19th at the Lorton auto train office. We had a brief site tour, and we were presented with a proposed revised layout by their senior engineer of how Amtrak plans a temporary solution. A long-term solution is still down the road and may include acquiring additional real estate to set up an outbound queue for vehicles. (Mr. Weyland displayed a slide presentation that he discussed in detail with the members.)
3. Mr. Weyland also reiterated that the meetings with the offices mentioned above were a collective effort led by Noah Simon with Don Byer's office. We also had help from Kathy Tran's office with Ben Hermerding and Gerry Conley's office with Marlon Dubuisson. The meeting we had on September 19<sup>th</sup>, now with three weeks almost four weeks ago. Shortly they will be testing this short-term solution, it's going to change the layout and how they operate. Amtrak will keep us attuned as to how their experiment works.

### B. Public Safety- Jonathan Kiell, Chair

Mr. Kiell gave the following update.

1. October 20<sup>th</sup> is the Great American Shakeout, an earthquake training and drill. Learn how to prepare for and respond during an Earthquake – it's not complicated, but if you haven't considered how to respond, take a few minutes to look at the [website](#); share with your family.
2. October is also Fire Safety month, and as previously mentioned, the fire stations are having open houses. I would encourage folks who have not looked at earthquake preparedness or fire safety to look at the website.

C. Land Use- Nick Firth and Keith Shovlin, Co-Chairs

Mr. Firth presented the following.

1. The one application that came through this month is for a childcare center up at Liberty. Mr. Firth also displayed a drawing of the buildings as he discussed the application. The applicant is looking for an amendment to permit up to 200 children. The original permit was for up to 100 children, but they didn't have an applicant in mind. We did request research to see if that is normal for the area. There were about three different facilities in the area within a five-mile radius that allowed up to that number of children. There is also sufficient parking in the area. It's a 5500 square foot outdoor play area with the play area being closed so the children cannot escape it. Jack Perkins is here representing Elm Street and from happy to answer any questions anybody might have.

a) Elm Street- Jack Perkins and Rhian Allvin

Mr. Perkins thanked South Couth Federation for them at the land use committee meeting two weeks ago. With Mr. Perkins is Ms. Rhian Allvin, the operator of Bryn Moore, and asked if anyone had questions.

Q: Ms. Corbett- Sanders- I do have a question about the extent of the programming that will take place in that childcare facility. Will this be only before and after-school programming, or are you all also looking at some early childhood education programming?

A: Ms. Rhian Allvin- It is all diversified, so children from six weeks to five years of age.

Q: Ms. Corbett-Sanders- Will there be some early childhood education programming for the 2 1/2 to 5-year-olds?

A: Ms. Rhian Allvin- Absolutely, our intent is to be accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children and will fall under the curriculum and assessment standards of the Virginia Department of Education as part of the programming, so it will all be developmentally appropriate programming for the children in the program. We intend to use the HighScope curriculum, which is out of Ypsilanti, Michigan and was based on decades of research. So the intent is for it to be an early education and preschool program.

Q: Mr. JW Fenton- How many employees will be onsite?

A: Ms. Rhian Allvin- The range will be between 30 and 37 depending upon the enrollment numbers when we open, but at maximum, it'll be 37.

Q: Mr. Frye- When do you plan to open?

A: Ms. Rhian Allvin- If all goes well with the zoning opportunity, as well as the Virginia historic review and the architectural review, we are hoping to open by the end of next summer in alignment with the fall back to school season.

Mr. Firth made a motion to approve the Resolution as shown on the screen. Mr. Clark seconded the motion, and the motion was favored by a show of hands. There was no opposition to the motion, and the motion was passed.

D. Environmental & Parks- Larry Clark and Dale Rumberger, Co-Chairs

Northern Virginia Releaf – Tree Initiative, presented by Mr. Shovlin

1. Mr. Shovlin referred to an article in inside Nova about the one-year anniversary of a county program to spur more tree plantings in the area. It was linked to Fairfax Releaf as being the local organization that you can partner with. Fairfax Releaf will provide free trees to any organization, community, business, school, church, and scouts. They posted the available trees, so on their website, you can see the list if you click on [free trees](#).

E. Education- Wendy Henley, Chair

Ms. Henley had nothing further to add to what Ms. Corbett-Sanders and Ms. Cohen presented.

**VI. ACTIONS & PENDING ISSUES:**

**VII. NEW BUSINESS:**

**NEXT MEETING:** November 8<sup>th</sup>, December 13<sup>th</sup>