President’s Message

A New Decade

2019 is coming to a close, and a new decade is about to begin! It’s time for us to reflect on the past year and look ahead to the next.

Thanks to our members, volunteers, supporters, and friends like you, ANV had another successful year. We’ve increased our organizational capacity, added and improved services, and most important nurtured our village and its members. We are proud of the progress we’ve made in just over five years since we opened our doors. We could not have done it without you, and we hope you share our pride in what we’ve achieved.

I have had the pleasure of serving as ANV’s President for the past two years. What a rewarding experience. The opportunity to work with such a talented and dedicated Board, staff, and volunteer corps has been a highpoint for me. I have had the opportunity to meet many of our members and volunteers and share with them my gratitude for all that they contribute to ANV. As many of you know, I am a Board member, a volunteer and an ANV member. As a member, volunteers take me to doctor appointments, the grocery store, summer time Farmers Markets, ANV events, and help fix “things” around my house that just decide for no apparent reason to break! As a volunteer, I serve on many ANV committees working to bring new and improved services to ANV members, to host our special events for our members who are over 80 years old, and to pick new restaurants to try out in our monthly Dine Arous.

Together we have shared our interests, meals, and laughter. We have also helped each other through tough times. We are so grateful for you—and of the community of neighbors and friends we have built together. Please help us continue to make a difference in the lives of older adults by supporting Arlington Neighborhood Village.

The ANV Board will be welcoming new members in 2020 and also electing a new slate of officers. We will keep you informed of these changes after the new year. I will continue to serve on the Board and look forward to continuing to make my contributions to ANV as we enter the new year and decade.

Please enjoy the Holidays and New Year and keep in touch.

With gratitude and warm wishes for the Holiday Season.

Donna Pastore
President
When the Weather Outside is Frightful

Winter time always brings uncertainty – Will it really snow? Be careful on the ice (yikes)! Is the Community Center or Doctor’s office open? Will my volunteer driver be able to get to me? Is the ANV office open?

There are a couple of guidelines to keep handy, but the most important one is that, if you have a ride or other service request scheduled on a snow day, volunteers should reach out to the member and determine if the request is still needed. No member or volunteer should risk injury in dangerous conditions.

Detailed weather guidance is on our website at https://arlnvil.org/join/inclement-weather-policy/.

Member Spotlight: Daena Kluegel

A regular series spotlighting ANV members and volunteers.

How long have you been a member or volunteer?
I joined shortly after my husband’s death...January 2016.

Tell me about yourself.
I am a retired Montessori teacher (Arlington Public Schools). I enjoy storytelling in the schools and am a member of Spellbinders, a national storytelling organization. It’s my way of working with children again. I sing in the Rock Spring Church choir and the Encore Chorale (where singers are all over the age of 55). This accounts for my excellent lung capacity (110% according to my doctor). I’m also a member of my neighborhood book club, Barefoot Babes. I have two children, five grandchildren, and a dog named Beckett.

Describe your involvement with ANV.
In short, ANV changed my life. I took advantage of the free home assessment visit to find out what changes I needed to make my home accommodate me as I grew older. I got many safety suggestions for my 1950s rambler and have put these in place (railings, grab bars, etc.). I was also given ideas for reconfiguring my main floor to accommodate a handicap-accessible bathroom. After that “spark,” I contacted Sun Design and we worked out a great adaptive floor plan for my life and needs. The work started and finished on time and I am delighted by the results. I will be having knee replacement surgery soon so I’m glad I made these modifications before I needed them. After the operation, I will start relying on ANV-provided rides to physical therapy and grocery shopping. Once my knee is back in shape, I look forward to Dine-Arounds and the weekly Coffee & Conversation presentations.

What is your favorite thing about ANV?
Mary Lee Byrd. She was the aging-in-place consultant who gave me the ideas that triggered the renovation of my house. The peace of mind that comes with a well-adapted home is priceless.

What’s one thing people would be surprised to know about you?
The unusual spelling of my first name, Daena, came about because my parents wanted to call me Dana, whether I was a boy or a girl. Once I was born, my father decided to spell it with “ae” that in Latin designates a female. Unfortunately, most people don’t know Latin and just think I’m spelling my name wrong.

If Hollywood made a movie of your life, who would you like to see play you?
Meryl Streep. Why? Because she can play anybody!

What are 3 words you’d use to describe ANV?
Mary-Lee-Byrd. She personifies everything ANV stands for: an organization of volunteers that help members stay in their home and thrive.
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

We wish all of our members, volunteers, friends and partners a very merry and joyful Holiday Season. We had 93 guests at our Thanksgiving Potluck; there was so much conversation in the room that we almost couldn't get people's attention to enjoy the wonderful food that was contributed by our ANV chefs. December brings our annual Holiday Party and Gift Exchange, and later in the month, our Cookie Exchange. Please share our best wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Are You Among the One in Four Virginians With Unclaimed Property?
Virginia Department of Treasury’s Unclaimed Property Division May Have It!

Have you ever lost something, and had no idea where to even look for it? The Virginia Department of the Treasury’s Unclaimed Property division works to keep that from happening with your money. This division receives funds and properties from companies all over the state when they’ve lost track of the rightful owner. The funds then stay with the state until that rightful owner or their heirs come forward to claim it.

Since its inception more than 50 years ago, the Virginia Treasurer has returned millions of dollars back to citizens. In the last fiscal year alone, they returned $87.1 million, and they hope to beat that number again this year.

Unclaimed property can come from any account that a person has opened with any business. Common funds turned over to the state include security deposits, security shares, safe deposit box contents, dividends, credit balances and more. On average, one in four Virginians has missing money that belongs to them.

Checking for missing money is easy! Anyone can go to vaMoneySearch.org and check their name in the system. If any property is found, the website will prompt the user to begin a claim and mail in their supporting documents. The agency also sets up at various events where staff members check the system and if a property is a match, they will scan in the needed documents on the spot to expedite the claim.

If you think you may have unclaimed property, the Virginia Department of the Treasury encourages you to check your name at vaMoneySearch.org. All you have to do is Click and Claim!

ANV Volunteer Finds Lost Money!

One of our members went online in October and found that she had some “lost money” likely from utility companies and credit balances. She was able to quickly find the needed documents to prove that she was the rightful owner, sent them to the State Treasurer and within weeks received a check for $180!

ANV plans an event in the new year to make it easy for our members and volunteers to explore if they have unclaimed funds. Stay posted.
There are several ways that you can support ANV:

DONATE!
Donate online at www.arlnvil.org/donate
Mail a check to ANV at 2666 Military Road, Arlington VA 22207.
If you are over 70 ½ and taking required minimum distributions from certain retirement accounts, you may be able to get favorable tax treatment by making a “qualified charitable distribution” to ANV. Go to our website to learn more.

VOLUNTEER!
You will find the camaraderie and work to be incredibly rewarding. Learn more and find an application at www.arlnvil.org/volunteer

REFER A NEW MEMBER!
Information on our website at www.arlnvil.org/join
However you may be able to help us, please know that your support is incredibly important to ANV, and deeply appreciated.

Please Consider ANV in Your Year-End Giving!

A gift to Arlington Neighborhood Village (ANV) is a gift to a neighbor in need! Your donation can help older Arlingtonians access the direct services and social connections that are vital to allowing them to age in place.

ANV helps seniors who need more support to remain safely and independently at home as the daily challenges of living grow more difficult. Activities that used to be simple—driving, going to the doctor, getting groceries, changing a ceiling light bulb—become tricky, or even hazardous, to do alone. Social isolation for this group can lead to illness, cognitive decline, financial exploitation and early death.

ANV is a community-based group of neighbors helping neighbors. Our 200+ volunteers provide direct services to our 220 members to help them age safely in their homes - driving them to destinations, helping them with tasks, and more. We also provide many opportunities for members to socialize, stay active and have fun – from a friendly visit or walking buddy, to weekly “Coffee and Conversations,” engaging field trips and more.

2019 The Year in Review

Glenstone Museum Tour

ACFD with ANV Bocce Players

Nats Park

Five Year Celebration

Five Year Celebration

Office Support

SAIL Class

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