



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Agenda, March 8, 2010

Hope you will be able to come to the exciting discussion that will take place at the March 8, Monday, Vision 2020 Diversity Task Group Meeting. The meeting is at 7:30pm at our regular location, the Jefferson Cutter House, lower level (enter through the parking lot).

Diversity Task Group
 Arlington Vision 2020

Monday, March 8, 2010, 7:30 p.m.

Jefferson Cutter House, Lower Level, Arlington Center (Enter through parking lot behind house)

Focus for this meeting is brainstorming an outreach and action plan to increase the diversity among Town Meeting Members – now and in the future.

Agenda

1. Updates/Reports:

- March 9 Diversity Coffee Social for professional staff in the Arlington Public Schools. (Feb. 10 event was postponed because of predicted snow storm).
- Collaboration of the DTG and the Sudanese Education Fund
- Stand Against Racism event in Arlington on April 30 (or May 1 or 2).

2. Planning for the **Second Annual Diversity/Disability Job Fair**

in collaboration with the Disability Commission. April 8, 11:00am to 2:00pm, Arlington Town Hall

3. **Brainstorming our new project: Increasing the Diversity among Town Meeting Members.**

- **Discussion of strategies** proposed by informal initial brainstorming meetings among the Arlington League of Women Voters; the Governance and Diversity Task Groups of Vision 2020; the Arlington African American Society.
- **Action Plan for the next weeks leading up to the April 10 Arlington Election for Town Meeting members.** Focus is on recruiting people as write in candidates who can bring diverse voices and perspectives to Town Meeting. Often write-in candidates can win a Town Meeting Seat with just 3 or 4 votes (including a vote for themselves).
- **What has been done so far**
- **What needs to be done**, including distributing posters around town and possibly in Arlington churches, outreach to people who might be interested in running and assisting them with the logistics, and others.
- **Who will do what?**

- **Creation of a longer-range public education, outreach and action plan.** Some questions to consider:

- Who are our target audiences?
- How do we reach them?
- What other groups may have an interest in the project and in collaborating with it?

4. Should we meet monthly from now through June to work on the Increasing the Diversity Among Town Meeting Members project? (We decided a while ago to meet every other month).

5. Other Business

For more information or suggestions, please feel free to contact:
Gregg Ames, Chair, at 781-777-1156 or gpames63@yahoo.com
Miriam Stein at 781-648-0255 or miriam.stein@comcast.net

The goal of the Diversity Task Group, set by Town Meeting, is: "We value the diversity of our population. Our Town's mix of ethnic, religious and cultural backgrounds, as well as economic and personal circumstances, enriches us all. We will be known for the warm welcome and respect we extend to all."

We'd appreciate if you would let us know if you plan to attend the March 8 Diversity Task Group meeting. Please email miriam.stein@comcast.net or phone Miriam at 781-648-0255.

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Gregg Ames, Chair, at 781-777-1156 or gpames63@yahoo.com