

ARLINGTON COUNTY
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
June 11, 2015 Women of Vision
Event Summary

On Thursday, June 11 the Arlington Commission on the Status of Women honored three dynamic leaders of the Arlington Community with the 2015 Women of Vision Awards. This year's awards recognized women across the government, business, and non-profit sectors:

GOVERNMENT: Honorable Karen Darner, former member of the Virginia House of Delegates, has been a distinguished community leader and advocate for women and families throughout the Commonwealth for more than three decades. Darner, who served in the House of Delegates from 1991-2004, was one of very few women in the House at the time. She was the chief patron of bills to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. She was appointed by Governor Mark Warner to chair the Virginia Council on the Status of Women. She served on Arlington's Commission on the Status of Women and the Planning Commission. She was the first co-coordinator of Arlington's Rape Victim Companion Program and has held leadership positions with the Arlington League of Women Voters and the American Association of University Women's Arlington brand.

BUSINESS: Mary-Claire Burick, president of the Rosslyn Business Improvement District, is a well-respected businesswoman and community leader. Burick's philanthropic efforts include committee involvement, pro-bono work and board service, resulting in improvements in efficiency, engagement of key stakeholders and improved effectiveness in communicating mission and vision. Burick rose from an entry-level job in television operations to join the team that launched the Fox News Channel in 1998, where she became Operations Manager of the Washington Bureau. In 2009, she launched MC Strategy, LLC, a management consulting firm. She was appointed President of the Rosslyn Business Improvement District in 2013.

NONPROFIT: Sarah Summerville is an attorney specializing in the areas of employment, labor and civil rights law. She currently is the Asst. Dir. Of the Office of Minority and Women Inclusion with the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission. A prominent community activist, Summerville founded, and still leads, the African American Leadership Council of Arlington in 1977. The organization provides a forum for information sharing among Arlington's African American community. She also served on the board of the Bonder and Amanda Johnson Community Development Corporation that partnered with Macedonia Baptist Church to build 36 units of dedicated affordable housing in one of the County's first public/private/non-profit cooperative ventures.

Caroline Romano, Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women, served as emcee for the event.

Traci DeShazor, President of the Northern Virginia Urban League, provided keynote remarks on the importance of integrity, determination, and leadership at the local level. County Board Members John Vihstadt and Libby Garvey recognized the winners for their enormous contributions to the Arlington Community.

Summary approved: July 9, 2015