

"Federation Corner" column
The Montgomery Sentinel - May 25, 2006

Annual Awards Banquet

MCCF held its annual awards banquet on May 12 to present its three regular awards and a special award. The awards and those who received them are identified below.

The **Sentinel Award** is presented annually to an individual or group who makes a significant contribution to good government at the local level. The winner for 2006 was the **Clarksburg Town Center Advisory Committee (CTAC)** and bestowed on the six main individuals within this group: Amy Presley, Kim Shiley, Carol Smith, Lynn Fantle, Tim DeArros, and Kathie Hulley). This extraordinary group of civic leaders has waged a determined campaign to discover and publicize numerous violations in the construction of the Clarksburg Town Center, as well as failures in County government interpretation and enforcement of approved plans, laws and regulations. As a result, they have achieved, not only some redress in Clarksburg but also progress toward much needed reform of the entire planning process in Montgomery County. Lynn and Bernie Kapiloff, owners of the Sentinel newspaper, along with Delegate Jean B. Cryor, District 15, presented the award. District 15 Delegates Cryor and Brian Feldman also presented a House of Delegates certificate to the CTAC. District 15 Senator Rob Garagiola presented a certificate from the State Senate.

The **Gazette Award** is presented annually to an individual or group who demonstrates outstanding public service to the people of Montgomery County. This 2006 award was presented to the **Save Seven Locks School Coalition**, representing eight civic associations that have worked together with the local Parent-Teacher Associations. The Coalition leaders who were honored were Cyril Draffin, Jr.; Ginny Barnes; George Barnes; Barbara Boykin; Carl Koenig; David Tiktinsky; and Jay Weinstein, working with Harlivleen Gill, Seven Locks PTA president. The 6000-family coalition has fought for over two years to save their local school and community center. That campaign, still underway, has underscored larger questions, reflected in a critical report by the County Inspector General, about the accountability of the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) and the County School Board to the County Council and local citizens. A representative of the Gazette newspaper, along with Councilmember Howard A. Denis, presented the award. District 15 Delegates Cryor and Feldman also presented a House of Delegates certificate to the Coalition.

The **Federation Special Recognition Award** paid special tribute to an individual who has made longstanding contributions to the Civic Federation and other local entities. The awardee was **Luella Mast**, Treasurer of the Civic Federation for four years and a member of the By-laws Committee for three years. In addition, Luella has enjoyed a long and illustrious career of civic activism - ranging from the Greater Colesville Citizens' Association and the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County, to the Montgomery County Council of PTAs, the Business Education Connection, Montgomery County Career Connections, and countless other organizations. Fernando Bren, MCCF former President and current Public Safety Committee Chair, presented the award.

The **Star Cup** is awarded annually "to a MCCF committee or delegate for outstanding public service to Montgomery County." The Star Cup award was given to MCCF in 1927 by the Washington Star newspaper. This year the Federation presented the Star Cup to **Dan Wilhelm**, President of the Federation from 2004 to 2006. Dan has championed change in the culture of the Civic Federation by encouraging broader participation, delegation of responsibility to committees, civil discourse, teamwork, and realistic solutions. That leadership style has helped the Civic Federation achieve major impact on key Montgomery County concerns from improved land use policy, to increased responsiveness of the County Government to citizens. He has drawn on his expertise in the telecommunication field and

earlier service as chairman of the MCCF Transportation Committee to help highlight new options for solving the County's growing traffic challenges. He leaves a legacy of increased commitment to accountability and good governance in Montgomery County. Council Vice President Marilyn Praisner presented the award and Senators Rona Kramer, District 14 and Ida Ruben, District 20, assisted.