

**AT LAST A NAME  
FOR THE NO NAME GROUP**

By William Nicoson

The legendary No Name Group has at last found a name. It will henceforth be known as the Coalition of Reston Organizational Leadership or COROL.

The No Name Group got together some years ago to coordinate activities of Reston organizations. Members were the chief executive and chairperson of each organization represented, including Reston Association, Reston Community Center, Reston Citizens Association, Reston Historic Trust, Reston Town Center Association, the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce, Reston Interfaith, the Greater Reston Arts Center, the Reston YMCA, and LINK.

Yes, there are a lot of Reston organizations, and if I've omitted one or two, send me a letter. The Hunter Mill Supervisor, Cathy Hudgins, has recently been invited to attend meetings or send her Chief of Staff.

Meetings were, and still are, scheduled roughly every other month. Special meetings have been scheduled to plan specific events. Meeting locations vary among the organizations represented.

Attendance has been uneven, but RA, RCC and GRCC have usually sent at least one representative to all meetings. It is rumored that RCA has seldom, if ever, attended a No Name meeting.

I doubt that the official name-change will increase attendance. "Coalition of Reston Organizational Leadership" doesn't really grab me. I liked "No Name Group" because it promised nothing and resonated as a shadowy, informal gathering. That's as it should be since the group never had, and has not now, the slightest authority to do anything. Its sole function was, and remains, liaison among its members.

On the other hand I like the acronym COROL, which suggests "rolling together." The meetings aren't exactly rollicking, of course, but members do seem to want to roll forward together. The discussions have been valuable, at least for me.

And more than the name has been changed. At its most recent meeting, COROL approved a mission statement and charter. The mission "is to provide a forum where leadership of major Reston community service organizations can come together to assess ways in which they can have an impact on issues of community or organizational mutual importance." If that has a slightly bureaucratic ring, its stated purpose is "to make Reston a better place to live, work and play." I'll sign on for that.

The Charter will in fact be executed by leaders of all represented organizations at COROL's next meeting (July 17). Will this be the dawning of a new age for Reston? Let's not get carried away. But it's certainly true that each of the many and various Reston public-service organizations will serve the community better by learning in an orderly way what all the others are doing.

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