



PRESENTED BY
THE GEORGIA COMMITTEE FOR
TOWN MEETING

MAY 1978

**TOWN MEETING
PURPOSE**

The Town Meeting concept was developed in response to the disintegration which has taken place not only in city centers throughout the nation, but also in rural communities which are struggling for their existence as a result of agricultural mechanization and urbanization. The aim of Town Meeting is to provide local citizens in these communities with a method which they can use to unite themselves and find ways to recreate their own communities in light of these changes.

**PROGRAM
BACKGROUND**

Town Meeting was developed by the Institute of Cultural Affairs and was first introduced during the Bicentennial as an officially recognized program of the American Revolutionary Bicentennial Administration. At that time, Town Meeting was held largely in major cities around the country and usually involved large numbers of citizens in a full-day workshop and celebration. Since that time, locally organized groups of volunteers in every state have taken it upon themselves to continue the program and to introduce it in smaller towns. The format of the workshop has been streamlined so that it can be completed in one evening.

**PROGRAM
DESCRIPTION**

Town Meeting: Georgia is a contemporary recasting of the Town Meetings in the early days of this country. At those meetings, citizens gathered to discuss the challenges facing their community, create proposals to deal with them, and to organize themselves to implement the decisions they made. Town Meeting: Georgia is designed to recapture the vitality and enthusiasm of those early town meetings and thereby rekindle the spirit of citizen participation and community pride.

**MEETING
FORMAT**

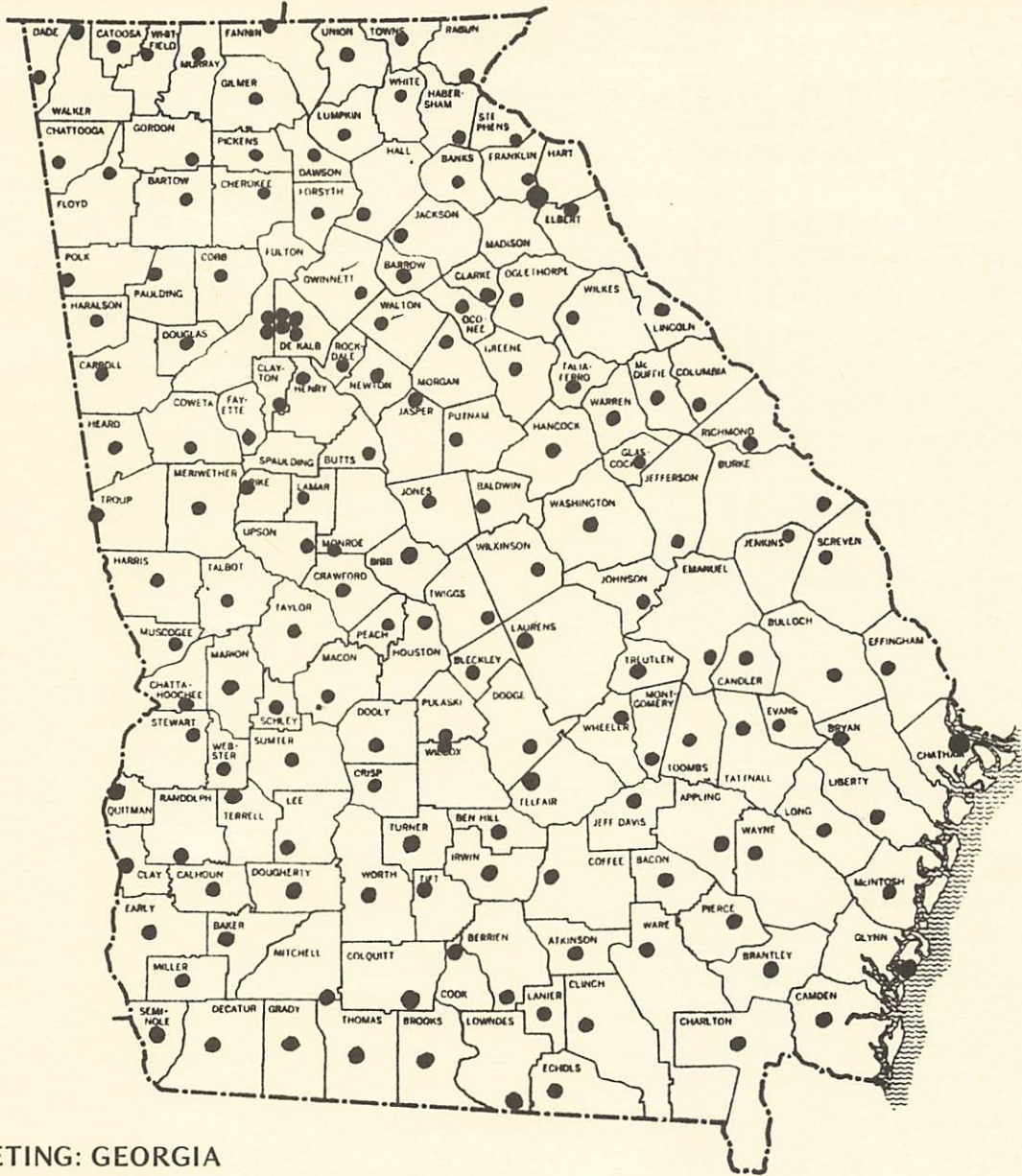
The agenda of each town meeting is made up of five basic elements:

- welcome and introduction
- challenges workshop
- song, story and symbol creation
- proposals workshop
- reports and closing

The content of each section is dependent entirely upon the issues raised by local citizens and their own proposals for ways they can deal with them.

**APRIL-MAY
CAMPAIGN**

In April and May of 1978, a group of volunteers held a demonstration Town Meeting in each county in Georgia. The Meetings ranged in size from 250 people to living-room presentations with small groups. Groups which participated in the meetings include mayors and city councils, interested citizens, youth groups, senior citizens groups, churches and other special interest groups. In each case, one or two Town Meeting volunteers led the workshop and completed a report for all who participated in the meetings. The objective of this phase of the program was to introduce Town Meeting in smaller towns throughout the state.



TOWN MEETING: GEORGIA

May, 1978

APPLING, Surrency; ATKINSON, Pearson; BACON, Alma; BAKER, Elmore; BALDWIN, Brown's Crossing; BANKS, Homer; BARROW, Winder; BARTOW, White; BEN HILL, Fitzgerald; BERRIEN, Ray City; BIBB, Macon; BLECKLEY, Cochran; BRANTLEY, Nahunta; BROOKS, Quitman; BRYAN, Groveland; BULLOCH, Brooklet; BURKE, Girard; BUTTS, Flovilla; CALHOUN, Morgan; CAMDEN, Woodbine; CANDLER, Metter; CARROLL, Mount Zion; CATOOSA, Ringgold; CHARLTON, Homeland; CHATHAM, Savannah; CHATTAHOOCHEE, Cusseta; CHATTOOGA, Lyerly; CHEROKEE, Ball Ground; CLARKE, Winterville; CLAY, Ft. Gaines; CLAYTON, Lovejoy; CLINCH, DuPont; COBB, Marietta; COFFEE, Ambrose; COLQUITT, Berlin; COLUMBIA, Harlem; COOK, Lenox; COWETA, Moreland; CRAWFORD, Roberta; CRISP, Cordele; DADE, Rising Fawn; DAWSON, Dawsonville; DECATUR, Bainbridge; DEKALB, East Lake (4); DODGE, Chauncey; DOOLY, Vienna; DOUGHERTY, Albany; DOUGLAS, Douglasville; EARLY, Blakely; ECHOLS, Statenville; EFFINGHAM, Guyton; ELBERT, Bowman; EMANUEL, Stillmore; EVANS, Hagan; FANNIN, McCaysville; FAYETTE, Brooks; FLOYD, Caye Springs; FORSETH, Cumming; FRANKLIN, Canon; GILMER, E. Ellijay; GLASCOCK, Gibson; GLYNN, St. Simons I.; GORDON, Fairmount; GRADY, Cairo; GREENE, Greensboro; GWINNETT, Grayson; HABERSHAM, Mount Airy; HALL, Flowery Branch; HANCOCK, Sparta; HARALSON, Buchanan; HARRIS, Hamilton; HART, Royston; HEARD, Franklin; HENRY, Stockbridge; HOUSTON, Warner Robins; IRWIN, Ocala; JASPER, Farrar; JEFF DAVIS, Hazlehurst; JEFFERSON, Wadley; JENKINS, Perkins; JOHNSON, Kite; JONES, Round Oak; LAMAR, Milner; LANIER, Lakeland; LAURENS, Montrose; LEE, Byne Crossroads; LIBERTY, Midway; LINCOLN, Lincolnton; LONG, Ludowici; LOWNDES, Lake Park; LUMPKIN, Dahlonega; MACON, Oglethorpe; MADISON, Royston; MARION, Buena Vista; MCDUFFIE, Thomson; MCINTOSH, Eulonia; MERIWETHER, Greenville; MILLER, Greenville; MITCHELL, Santa Claus; MONROE, Culloden; MONTGOMERY, Uvalda; MORGAN, Bostwick; MURRAY, Eton; MUSCOGEE, Midland; NEWTON, Covington; OCONEE, Watkinsville; OGLETHORPE, Crawford; PAULDING, Braswell; PEACH, Powersville; PICKENS, Jasper; PIERCE, Patterson; PIKE, Hollonville; POLK, Esom Hill; PULASKI, Finleyson; PUTNAM, Willard; QUITMAN, Georgetown; RABUN, Tallulah Falls; RANDOLPH, Carnegie; RICHMOND, Hepzibah; ROCKDALE, Conyers; SCHLEY, Ellaville; SCREVEN, Hiltonia; SEMINOLE, Donalsonville; SPAULDING, Sunnyside; STEPHENS, Martin; STEWART, Brooklyn; SUMTER, Americus; TALBOT, Talbotton; TALIAFERRO, Crawfordville; TATTNALL, Collins; TAYLOR, Taylor County; TELFAIR, Milan; TERRELL, Parrot; THOMAS, Thomasville; TIFT, Chula; TOOMBS, Santa Claus; TOWNS, Hiawassee; TREUTLEN, Soperton; TROUP, Evansville; TURNER, Ashburn; TWIGGS, Danville; UNION, Union County; UPSON, Yatesville; WALKER, Lookout Mtn.; WALTON, Between; WARE, Talmo; WARREN, Warrenton; WASHINGTON, Sandersville; WAYNE, Odum; WEBSTER, Preston; WHEELER, Glenwood; WHITE, Helen; WHITFIELD, Varnell; WILCOX, Pineview; WILKES, Rayle; WILKINSON, Toomsboro; WORTH, Sylvester.

The Challenges

AS LOCAL COMMUNITIES OF GEORGIA EXAMINE THEIR PRESENT ISSUES

In the arena of ECONOMIC SUPPORT:

- Attracting new industry.
- Financing sewerage and water systems.
- Making available traditional land holdings.
- Re-organizing the tax structure.
- Reversing welfare dependence.
- Keeping local businesses alive.
- Getting good prices for farm products.

In the arena of POLITICAL ORDER:

- Organizing emergency protection.
- Coping with unsightly public areas.
- Correcting traffic congestion.
- Dealing with government red tape.
- Putting our town on the map.

In the arena of CULTURAL LIFE:

- Meeting youth recreation demands.
- Balancing growth with improved quality of life.
- Motivating citizen participation.
- Revitalizing family responsibility.
- Creating unity of vision and purpose.
- Stopping the decline in school standards.
- Restoring community self-confidence.
- Overcoming crippling individualism.
- Caring for isolated senior citizens.

These most frequently mentioned challenges represent the underlying concerns of local citizens as they face the issues that block their hopes and dreams for the future.

The Proposals

AS LOCAL COMMUNITIES OF GEORGIA EXPRESS THEIR FUTURE HOPES

In the arena of ECONOMIC SUPPORT:

- Advertise our town through signs, media and brochure.
- Research and apply for 100% grants.
- Promote private financing of water and sewerage system.
- Create local employment agency.
- Erect modest medical center.
- Restore downtown buildings.
- Build farmers market.
- Hold craft fair.
- Organize Chamber of Commerce.
- Apply for C. E. T. A. salaries.
- Make feasibility study.
- Restore historical site to attract tourists.

In the arena of POLITICAL ORDER:

- Encourage citizen representation at town council meetings.
- Hold voter education drive.
- Erect traffic signs.
- Incorporate the town.
- Create local planning commission.

In the arena of CULTURAL LIFE:

- Hold community festivals, celebrations, barbecues and rallies.
- Organize community beautification work day.
- Publish community newsletter.
- Conduct honorary days for youth and elders.
- Sponsor school essay contests on citizenship.
- Build up PTA's.
- Open community center.
- Put up welcome signs to community.
- Hold regular town meetings.
- Give youth responsible roles in fire department and other services.

These sample proposals represent local citizens' solutions to their issues through plans of action that meet the challenges.

PHASES OF TOWN MEETING: GEORGIA				
1	2	3	4	5
1974-5	1975-6	1976-7	1977-8	1978-9
PILOT PROJECT	PROGRAM INITIATION	SELECTED EXPANSION	STATEWIDE DEMONSTRATION (one per county)	REGIONAL INTENSIFICATION
1 meeting	2 meetings	8 meetings	159 meetings	_____ meetings

REGIONAL INTENSIFICATION will be doing many Town Meetings within a delimited geographical area followed by Town Meeting Assemblies that pull together the challenges and proposals of the area.

SELECTED GROUPS, agencies or organizations using the Town Meeting methods to explore effective planning techniques.

SPECIAL EMPHASIS MEETINGS to provide consultation type town meetings that are concerned with particular issues, such as, law enforcement, education or other special regional or statewide issues.

URBAN EXPERIMENTATION will provide the Town Meeting methods to various groupings within the city to help locate and maximize the efforts of the many caring networks within the city.

The Five Programs of the ICA

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS in more than 24 locations across the globe have been initiated by the ICA at the invitation of local residents. These Projects are catalyzed by a week-long Consultation involving residents, volunteer consultants from various fields of expertise and experienced ICA staff. Depth human problems are discerned and programs are designed to be implemented. *The gift of this program is that the work to be accomplished is initiated during the Consultation.* All programs are implemented within a two year period.

TOWN MEETING allows citizens to participate in the decision-making process of their communities. Using innovative problem-solving methods, they discern the challenges facing their community and propose practical solutions for them. During the meeting they produce a detailed document of their plans. *More than 4,000 Town Meetings have been held in the U. S.* Enthusiastic letters from mayors, city officials and citizens testify that this program strikes at the root of our nation's need.

GLOBAL WOMEN'S FORUM is a program designed to maximize women's involvement in the world. *The Forum affirms the burst of consciousness and creativity of women everywhere* and it explores woman's vast potential in shaping priorities for the future. It has been held in the U. S., Europe, Asia, Africa and India.

COMMUNITY YOUTH FORUM is an opportunity for youth to *reflect on vocation and responsibility as they envision the world in light of its emerging trends and needs.* Designed and taught by ICA Student Center counselors and older youth, this workshop has been acclaimed by high schools and youth groups.

METHODS CONSULTATIONS are available for corporations, agencies and organizations to analyze their situations and build systems for effective operation. These training labs concentrate on *model building, tactical planning, consensus building and group motivation.* ICA staff and business professionals who have tested these methods in companies conduct the consultations.

The ICA is a not-for-profit organization working in 100 locations in over 30 nations around the world. It is a research, training and demonstration group concerned with the human factor in world development. *It is a unique network of more than 5,000 volunteers – business and professional men and women – who give of their time, hard work and services to local communities.* The ICA is supported by foundations, corporations, concerned individuals and governmental agencies.

The ICA is convinced that the keys to rapid local development are the honoring of cultural values and diversity, increasing citizen participation and the developing of resources at the local level. Citizens working with both the public and private sectors *can achieve economic self-sufficiency, social self-reliance and human self-confidence.* The ICA provides methods, training and tools to assist a community in fulfilling its vision of the future.



IN COOPERATION WITH
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Warner Robbins

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Corporations and institutions are listed for identification purposes only.

CONTRIBUTORS TO TOWN MEETING: GEORGIA

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ARMOUR & CO., Atlanta
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BANKERS BOX CO., Atlanta
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