

TOWN MEETING: SOUTH CAROLINA



REPORT

MAY 1978



State of South Carolina

JAMES B. EDWARDS
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
POST OFFICE BOX 11450
COLUMBIA 29211

June 2, 1978

Dear Town Meeting Participant:

I personally wanted to commend you on your efforts to come together through the Town Meeting forums to discuss the various achievements and concerns of your community. Forty-six Town Meetings have been held in South Carolina, representing a sincere interest from people, such as yourself, in getting involved in making your community a better place for all.

Your participation with your local officials is essential in understanding the various challenges in your community and in developing sound directions to meet those challenges. We have grown strong by doing things for ourselves and for each other in our own communities, and it is the full involvement of all of us that will fulfill our hopes for our communities and South Carolina.

Again, thank you for your interest and support.

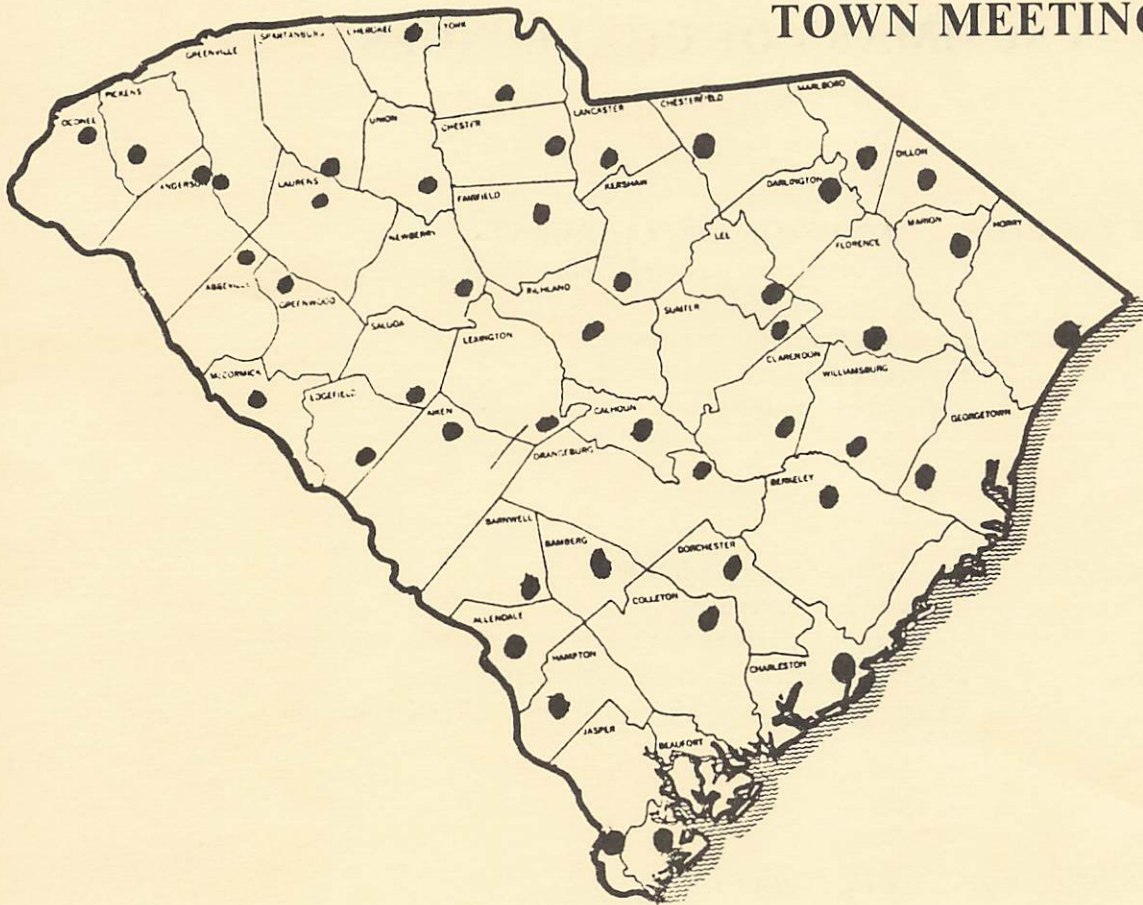
With warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James B. Edwards".

James B. Edwards

JBE/ge

TOWN MEETINGS HELD



TOWN MEETING: SOUTH CAROLINA was initiated during the Bicentennial with Town Meetings held in Blacksburg (Cherokee County), Columbia (Richland County), and Charleston (Charleston County). After the Bicentennial, work was done to shorten the Town Meeting format to an evening meeting in order to make Town Meetings available to the smaller communities of South Carolina.

In May, 1978 a demonstration of the Town Meeting method was held in communities in each of the remaining 43 counties of the State. Presentations were made to a variety of groups: local elected officials, industrial management personnel, community clubs, customers at country stores, to senior citizens programs, and at special public meetings hosted by mayors and city councils. In this way the methods used in Town Meeting: South Carolina were shared with local communities in every part of the State.

ABBEVILLE Due West, **AIKEN** Perry, **ALLENDALE** Allendale, **ANDERSON** West Pelzer, **BAMBERG** Olar, **BARNWELL** Hilda, **BEAUFORT** Bluffton, **BERKELEY** St. Stephen, **CALHOUN** Cameron, **CHARLESTON** Charleston, **CHEROKEE** Blacksburg, **CHESTER** Fort Lawn, **CHESTERFIELD** Jefferson, **CLARENDON** Turbeville, **COLLETON** Cottageville, **DARLINGTON** Society Hill, **DILLON** Dillon, **DORCHESTER** Ridgeville, **EDGEFIELD** Trenton, **FAIRFIELD** White Oak, **FLORENCE** Coward, **GEORGETOWN** Andrews, **GREENWOOD** Ninety-Six, **GREENVILLE** Piedmont District, **HAMPTON** Gifford, **HORRY** Atlantic Beach, **JASPER** Hardeeville, **KERSHAW** Elgin, **LANCASTER** Heath Springs, **LAURENS** Gray Court, **LEE** Lynchburg, **LEXINGTON** Swansea, **MARION** Nichols, **MARLBORO** Blenheim, **MCCORMICK** McCormick, **NEWBERRY** Little Mountain, **OCONEE** Salem, **ORANGEBURG** Santee, **PICKENS** Norris, **RICHLAND** Columbia, **SALUDA** Ridge Springs, **SPARTANBURG** Enoree, **SUMTER** Mayesville, **UNION** Carlisle, **WILLIAMSBURG** Lane, **YORK** Newport.

A SUMMARY OF CHALLENGES

IN THE ARENA OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Creating community support for industrial development
- Financing sewer systems
- Re-establishing local businesses
- Preserving good agricultural land
- Making land available for housing and industry

IN THE ARENA OF POLITICAL ORDER

- Involving new leadership
- Handling financial paperwork involved in major community services
- Deciding the necessary priorities of city government
- Encouraging youth participation in community work activities

IN THE ARENA OF CULTURAL LIFE

- Healing friction among factions of the community
- Retaining young people in the community
- Creating an organizational focus for community life
- Increasing participation in community life
- Making medical services available locally

**A CHALLENGE IS an
underlying issue that blocks
the hopes and dreams
of the people . . .**

A SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSALS

IN ORDER TO CREATE ECONOMIC SELF-SUSTENANCE:

- Create community brochure
- Organize vocational training center
- Create community sewing room
- Begin a Community Development Board with everyone participating
- Hold Job Fair at the school
- Host an Industry Day
- Purchase-A-Brick campaign for community facilities

IN ORDER TO CREATE POLITICAL SELF-RELIANCE

- Start a Willing Workers Club
- Hold joint meeting of all the civic groups
- Organize neighborhood watch to reduce crime
- Quarterly supper meetings for entire town
- Hold annual Outstanding Citizens Day
- Door to door invitation to community events
- Host government events speaker on funding sources

IN ORDER TO CREATE CULTURAL SELF CONFIDENCE

- Hold community suppers
- Start a beautification campaign
- Have a community field day
- Organize community outings
- Renovate old railroad depot as a community center
- Hold a Family Day
- Create a community bulletin board
- Invite clubs to march in July 4th parade
- Hold *Beautify Our Town* poster contest
- School carpentry shop class to make community entrance signs

**A PROPOSAL IS a plan
of action that deals with
the challenge**

| THE FOUR PHASES OF TOWN MEETING: SOUTH CAROLINA | | | |
|---|-----------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Initiation | Bicentennial | Demonstration | Expansion |
| 1 Town Meeting | 2 Town Meetings | 1 Per County | Several Per County |

NEXT STEPS

TOWN MEETING: SOUTH CAROLINA will continue to hold Town Meetings in communities across the State on request. Volunteers from Town Meeting communities who wish to participate in leading workshops in other towns will assist.

Town Meetings with a *Special Focus* will also be held. Senior citizens groups, youth organizations, businesses, churches, crime prevention agencies and other concerned civic groups have already held Town Meetings to focus on a particular issue.

The follow-up to Town Meetings is being explored in the Gibson Human Development project in Gibson, North Carolina, located at the North Carolina-South Carolina State Line just north of Marlboro County South Carolina. The project will provide a laboratory to demonstrate how communities in the Carolinas can meet the economic, political and cultural challenges they face with the resources available to them.

With the assistance and training of on-site volunteer-consultants of the Institute of Cultural Affairs, the community is engaged in a two year demonstration project, initiated on June 18, 1978 with a week-long consult. The planning process for the consult is similar to that of a Town Meeting but because of its length, allows for a great deal more data analysis and future planning by the community. Consult participants include Gibson residents as well as volunteer consultants from the Carolinas.

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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