

TOWN MEETING OHIO ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES

TOWN
76
MEETING



PROCLAIMING THE TOWN MEETING MOVEMENT IN OHIO

JUNE 4, 1977

- 9:30 Gathering for Coffee and Donuts
- 10:00 Welcome: Richard F. Celeste, Lt. Governor, State of Ohio
- 10:15 Parade of Town Meeting Communities
- 10:30 Responce: C. William O'Neill, Chief Justice, Ohio Supreme Court
- 10:45 Workshop: What are the key proposals, by size and type of community
- 12:00 Luncheon Theater
- 12:45 Delegation Reports on what happens after the Town Meeting
- 1:30 Workshop A: How to involve the whole town in the Meeting
- Workshop B: Ways to sustain practical citizen involvement after the
Town Meeting
- Workshop C: Statewide support of the Town Meeting movement
- Workshop D: New Town Meeting symbols for Ohio
- 2:30 Closing Reports and Toasts for the Future



**TOWN
MEETING
OHIO**

Look Back

BECAUSE
WE CARE

LIVE FORWARD

A NEW
DAY

TOWN MEETING OHIO SONG

Tune: Stout-hearted Men

We see the past — but we go forward fast —
We have seen that the Lone Ranger's dead.
Brand new awareness, a spirit of "share"ness
Our methods become people's bread...Oh!
Even the kids have been greasing the skids
As they find that we hear what they've said ...

When you honor everyone
You've found the way, we know!
And Town Meeting's built
To help Ohio's future grow.

You'll miss a bet, if you ever forget,
That the Town Meeting concept's alive.
New, or a vet, you ain't seen nothin' yet —
Eighty-eight's just the start of our drive!
So — shoulder to shoulder, grow bolder and bolder,
Renewing our towns by the score ...

Then — alive with countless folks
Whose apathy is o'er
We will show the world
Ohio's moving to the fore!

In every town there are still folk around,
Who will work to create links of care.
Start us with three, with a vision to see
And we'll soon have a thousand to share.
Hope for today is tomorrow's new way,
That all men can create a new day ...

We can build a brand new nation
With Ohio's plan —
With Town Meeting NOW
We'll work together hand in hand!

TOWN MEETING OHIO

PARTICIPATING COMMUNITIES

RURAL	URBAN NEIGHBORHOOD	SMALL CITY	SUBURBAN
Ada Butler Caldwell Hillsboro Lebanon Logan London Martinsville New Carlisle Oak Hill Perrysville Shawnee Hills Washington Court House	Akron Avondale Capital University Central (Cleveland) Columbus Education East Lake Garfield Heights Heindold Jaycee Arms Midwest (Cleveland) Mt. Auburn Mt. Pleasant Near West (Cleveland) South Linden (Columbus) Toledo University Circle Walnut Hills Walnut Hills CIF Walnut Hills Youth West End	Ashtabula Bowling Green Brunswick Bucyrus Chillicothe Coshocton Fairfield Fremont Galion Hamilton Heath Ironton Lancaster Mt. Vernon Norwood Painesville Portsmouth Shelby Sidney Tiffin Upper Sandusky Wilmington	Beaver Creek Brecksville Cincinnati Colerain Elyria Harrison Township Mason Milford Mt. Airy Mt. Healthy Shaker Heights Sharonville Springdale Vandalia Wayne Township Westwood Wickliffe Wyoming Perry Township

RURAL RECOMMENDATIONS

We the representatives of rural town meeting communities in Ohio recommend a study of the activity of the county commissioners as critical to local community development. Some illustrations of the proposed action are:

- 1.) list responsibilities
- 2.) size of county and population
- 3.) increase growth

This local action would begin to deal effectively with the underlying challenge of a group of three or more to work with community meetings to study their needs.

We the representatives of rural town meeting communities in Ohio recommend coordinated and informed citizen involvement, integrating efforts of various community organizations (churches, service clubs, government officials) as critical to local community development.

Some illustrations of the proposed action are:

- 1.) community advisory council
- 2.) citizen information league
- 3.) task force to coordinate group action.

This local action would begin to deal effectively with the underlying challenge of apathy among citizens due to government unresponsiveness to the needs of community and a breakdown of communications among citizen groups and between citizens and government.

We the representatives of rural town meeting communities in Ohio recommend planning for a community center as critical to local community development.

Some illustrations of the proposed action are:

- 1.) small group discussions
- 2.) create list of specific needs of center
- 3.) write proposal for State and Federal Funds to assist local funding

This local action would begin to deal effectively with the underlying challenge of community involvement in jobs, activities, and community centers.

We the representatives of rural town meeting communities in Ohio recommend retaining community identity while cooperating with county programs and planning as critical to local community development.

Some illustrations of the proposed action are:

- 1.) application for state and federal funds for local community development, recreation, etc., through county-wide planning
- 2.) better communication in local community and in county, through publication of public meeting times and agendas, and acquainting citizens with public officials

This local action would begin to deal effectively with the underlying challenge of county-wide unity.

RURAL RECOMMENDATIONS, CONT.

We the representatives of rural town meeting communities in Ohio recommend establishing a county planning board made of representatives of each community as a key factor for effective local development. This local action is illustrated by

- 1.) establish community economic objectives through town meetings
- 2.) establish a board with a representative from each community
- 3.) the board works out a plan so that each community's needs are met
- 4.) the plan for this board should then be presented to county commissioners for official endorsement

The need for this board is best illustrated by the underlying challenges which are

- 1.) large numbers of people on welfare
- 2.) low median incomes

We the representatives of rural town meeting communities in Ohio recommend a community planning council as critical to local community development. Some illustrations of the proposed action arenas are:

- 1.) a committee for scheduling events to prevent overlapping
- 2.) a human services committee
- 3.) establish short and long range proposals for action

This local action would begin to deal effectively with the underlying challenge of improving communication and coordination.

URBAN RECOMMENDATIONS

We the representatives of urban town meeting communities in Ohio recommend an internal and external process that will promote human relations awareness that will inform, educate, and promote cooperation, understanding for the total communication, as critical to local community development.

Some illustrations of the proposed action arena are:

- 1.) involving community in education problems
- 2.) students and faculty forum
- 3.) pursuit of goals in education.

This local action would begin to deal effectively with the underlying challenge of a lack of interaction and communication.

We the representatives of urban town meeting communities in Ohio recommend family education and activity as critical to local community development.

Some illustrations of the proposed action arena are:

- 1.) sponsoring family-oriented community activity
- 2.) teaching family living in public education

This local action would begin to deal effectively with the underlying challenge of family breakdown.

We the representatives of urban town meeting communities in Ohio recommend centers for neighborhood pride programs and neighborhood pride education as critical to local community development.

Some illustrations of the proposed action arena are:

- 1.) central location to assemble and disseminate information
- 2.) promoting pride in a caring community
- 3.) neighborhood center groups

This local action would begin to deal effectively with the underlying challenge of apathy toward our neighborhoods.

We the representatives of urban town meeting communities in Ohio recommend a citizen board that plans and reviews proposed community action programs as critical to local community development.

Some illustrations of the proposed action arena are:

- 1.) forming a town council
- 2.) forming neighborhood areas
- 3.) citizen or student representation on all committees

This local action would begin to deal effectively with the underlying challenge of lack of citizen involvement.

URBAN RECOMMENDATIONS

We the representatives of urban town meeting communities in Ohio recommend equitable financial distribution as critical to local community development.

Some illustrations of the proposed action arena are:

- 1.) legislative control of monopolies
- 2.) stimulus (tax-wise or other) for small business
- 3.) stabilization of higher education costs.

This local action would begin to deal effectively with the underlying challenge of an American economic emphasis rather than a human emphasis.

We the representatives of urban town meeting communities in Ohio recommend co-op self help programs as critical to local community development.

Some illustrations of the proposed action arena are:

- 1.) development of youth job opportunities
- 2.) establishment of a co-op for home repairs
- 3.) formation of a community development corporation.

This local action would begin to deal effectively with the underlying challenge of the common responsibility in economic affairs.

We the representatives of urban town meeting communities in Ohio recommend voters' education as critical to local community development.

Some illustrations of the proposed action arena are:

- 1.) community training
- 2.) local action to increase communication

This local action would begin to deal effectively with the underlying challenge of the lack of communication in the community.

We the representatives of urban town meeting communities in Ohio recommend public awareness and creative problem solving as critical to local community development. Some illustrations of the proposed action arena are:

- 1.) meetings with public officials
- 2.) community workshops
- 3.) a second newspaper

This local action would begin to deal effectively with the underlying challenge of authentic citizen involvement.

We the representatives of urban town meeting communities in Ohio recommend better quality protection as critical to local community development.

Some illustrations of the proposed action arena are:

- 1.) promotion of crime prevention
- 2.) more protection against crime

This local action would begin to deal effectively with the underlying challenge of the lack of enough funds for proper protection, respect for citizens' property, and encouraging citizens' awareness of the action around them.

SMALL CITIES RECOMMENDATIONS

We the representatives of small cities of Ohio
recommend broader citizen involvement in community affairs
as critical to local community development.

Some illustrations of this proposed action are:

- 1.) a citizens' action committee to formulate plans
- 2.) more people involvement in government through education of public and encouragement of candidates
- 3.) increased participation in future town meetings

The local action would begin to deal effectively with the underlying challenge of improving the political, economic, and cultural atmosphere for our community.

We the representatives of small cities of Ohio
recommend determining comprehensive community growth plan to equate human needs
with economic growth as critical to local community development.

Some illustrations of this proposed action are:

- 1.) master plan for development, ecology, jobs, tax base with regard to human needs
- 2.) more rational zoning and planning
- 3.) total community poll to determine needs and services

The local action would begin to deal effectively with the underlying challenge of numerous existing organizations and interest groups doing their own planning according to their budget and values.

We the representatives of small cities in Ohio
recommend community economic awareness as critical to local community development.

Some illustrations of this proposed action are:

- 1.) better education of free enterprise system
- 2.) demonstrate commonality of all sectors of community, labor, management, family
- 3.) more organized use of media for local coverage

The local action would begin to deal effectively with the underlying challenge of fragmentation of the community.

We the representatives of small cities in Ohio
recommend education for life as critical to local community development.

Some illustrations of this proposed action are:

- 1.) show voters we are making proper use of tax money
- 2.) challenge parents and teachers to attend meetings
- 3.) use of cooperative training so students see and apply their education on the job
- 4.) use of schools as community education centers

The local action would begin to deal effectively with the underlying challenge of making good use of our present resources.

SMALL CITIES RECOMMENDATIONS

We the representatives of small cities in Ohio recommend sharing cultural exchange as critical to local community development.

Some illustrations of this proposed action are:

- 1.) cultural exchange with all community sectors
- 2.) local festivals to recover tradition

This local action would begin to deal effectively with the underlying challenge of capturing the best from the past and holding it as an example for the future.

We the representatives of small cities in Ohio recommend increased voter participation and citizen involvement in local government

Some illustrations of this proposed action are:

- 1.) universal voter registration by mail
- 2.) town meeting as a catalyst for city government cooperation
- 3.) 75% voter turnout

This local action would begin to deal effectively with the underlying challenge of lack of communication between the government and its citizens.

SUBURBAN RECOMMENDATIONS

We the representatives of suburban town meeting communities in Ohio recommend utilizing all community services and resources as critical to local community development. Some illustrations of this proposed action are:

- 1.) incorporate a practical restoration program for discharged prisoners
- 2.) committee to train leadership for local organizations

This local action would begin to deal effectively with the underlying challenge of the common response, "Let George do it."

We the representatives of suburban town meeting communities in Ohio recommend election law changes as critical to local community development.

Some illustrations of this proposed action are:

- 1.) all tax laws subject to vote
- 2.) public hearings on major issues

This local action would begin to deal effectively with the underlying challenge of citizens don't have voice in making of laws.

We the representatives of suburban town meeting communities in Ohio recommend total community celebrations as critical to local community development.

Some illustrations of this proposed action are:

- 1.) a festival committee
- 2.) a yearly community day
- 3.) year-round recreation facilities

This local action would begin to deal effectively with the underlying challenge of people's vision of community being limited to the small groups to which they belong.

We the representatives of suburban town meeting communities in Ohio recommend reexamination of government and community structures as critical to local community development. Some illustrations of this proposed action are:

- 1.) an assembly to investigate a best form of government for community
- 2.) reexamine long term priorities by a study

This local action would begin to deal effectively with the underlying challenge of fear of change.

We the representatives of suburban town meeting communities in Ohio recommend the development of communications methods as critical to local community development. Some illustrations of this proposed action are:

- 1.) community newsletter
- 2.) directory of community activities
- 3.) community awareness week
- 4.) community communications task force
- 5.) neighborhood watch program

This local action would begin to deal effectively with the underlying challenge of making people aware of what's going on in the community.

SUBURBAN RECOMMENDATIONS, CONT.

We the representatives of suburban town meeting communities in Ohio recommend education of the community leaders about their local needs as critical to local community development. Some illustrations of this proposed action are:

- 1.) a public relation campaign to revitalize the community
 - 2.) educate students about economics of the local situation in community
- This local action would begin to deal effectively with the underlying challenge of "Let George do it."

We the representatives of suburban town meeting communities in Ohio recommend creating a community forum as critical to local community development. Some illustrations of this proposed action are:

- 1.) peoples lobby
 - 2.) council of organizations
 - 3.) volunteer intercommunication committee
- This local action would begin to deal effectively with the underlying challenge of lack of communication between citizen and local government.

We the representatives of suburban town meeting communities in Ohio recommend insuring media responsibility as critical to local community development. Some illustrations of this proposed action are:

- 1.) accurate and unbiased reporting
 - 2.) accountability to citizens
- This local action would begin to deal effectively with the underlying challenge of the media feeling responsibility only to the media rather than to citizens.

TOWN MEETING OHIO ASSEMBLY DELEGATES

Carol Alexander Kettering, Ohio	Ruth Blake Ashtabula, Ohio	Ron Downey Mt. Airy, Cincinnati
Clark S. Alexander Chillicothe, Ohio	Martha Bowling Portsmouth, Ohio	John Dowling Fremont, Ohio
Robert Alexander Kettering, Ohio	Molly Bradfield Galion, Ohio	Phyllis Erley Cincinnati, Ohio
Linda Allen Martinsville	J. Wm. Bradfield Galion, Ohio	Chris Eversole London, Ohio
Jane Arthur Wilmington, Ohio	Jesse Carter Milford, Ohio	Carol Fleishman Cleveland, Ohio
William Arthur Wilmington, Ohio	Jean Carson Hillsboro, Ohio	Grace Nelson Toledo, Ohio
Rev. Grayson Atha Norwood, Ohio	John Carson Hillsboro, Ohio	Phale Hale Columbus, Ohio
Jeanne Bateman New Carlisle, Ohio	Lt. Gov. Richard Celeste Columbus, Ohio	Evans S. Hand, Jr. Logan, Ohio
Robert Bateman New Carlisle, Ohio	Robert Chace Mason, Ohio	Mrs. Evans Hand Logan, Ohio
Andy Batchelor Lancaster, Ohio	George Cholmondeley Mason, Ohio	Franklin Hilchman Butler, Ohio
Bob Battershell Painesville, Ohio	Sophia Cholmondeley Mason, Ohio	Sybil Jones Central, Ohio
Thenna Battershell Painesville, Ohio	Gloria Cole Mason, Ohio	Selmon Bowman Kind Central, Ohio
Ed Berg Cincinnati, Ohio	Thomas Cole Mason, Ohio	Fred Kramer Capital University
Sally Berg Cincinnati, Ohio	Chris Copley Toledo, Ohio	Calvin Lackore Brunswick, Ohio
Helen Bonnar Galion, Ohio	Lyle Darnauer Capital University	Mary Ann Lampe Hamilton, Ohio
J. Gerald Bonnar Galion, Ohio	Betty Davis Mason, Ohio	Walter McAuley Perrysville, Ohio
Sharon Bowman Butler, Ohio	Pat Davis Martinsville, Ohio	Lee Mc Farlin Perrysville, Ohio

TOWN MEETING OHIO ASSEMBLY DELEGATES

Emma Melton
Cleveland, Ohio

Mary Ellen Meshgenpoosh
Garfield Heights, Ohio

LaVonne Moore
Bucyrus, Ohio

Chief Justice William O'Neill
Columbus, Ohio

Ralph M. Off
Heath, Ohio

Elaine Oswalt
Bucyrus, Ohio

Terry Paquin
Brunswick, Ohio

Ed Pfeiffer
Capital University

Don Prues
Norwood, Ohio

Mary Frances Rauch
Heath, Ohio

Lois Reeves
Cleveland, Ohio

Don Richert
Cincinnati, Ohio

Joy Richert
Cincinnati, Ohio

Cora E. Robinson
Columbus, Ohio

Dan Romanello
Norwood, Ohio

Luella Schroeder
Fairfield, Ohio

Jack Sebring
Painesville, Ohio

Glenn Shock
Butler, Ohio

Glorene Shock
Butler, Ohio

Stephen E. Smith
London, Ohio

Phyllis Thompson
Upper Sandusky, Ohio

Jack Thompson
Upper Sandusky, Ohio

Pat Wehner
Martinsville, Ohio

Callie Young
Cincinnati, Ohio

David Strand
Cleveland, Ohio

Dianne Morrison
Columbus, Ohio

Mary Yacso
Coshocton, Ohio

Jay Antenen
Hamilton, Ohio

TOWN MEETING OHIO CONTRIBUTORS

Addressograph - Multigraph Corp.	Huber Homes
Anchor Hocking	Huntington National Bank
Antenen Construction	IBM of Cincinnati
Audio Craft	Industrial Electric Motors
Barbershop Bandwagons	Instant Print Service
Beckett Paper	Intermedia
Berg-Berry Assoc.	Krogers
CAP Councils	McDonalds
Capital University	Mead Paper
Central Trust Company	Mt. Vernon Town Meeting Steering Committee
Champion Paper	Nationwide
Chatfield Paper	Pease Corporation
Cincinnati Cordage	Peerless Printing
Cincinnati Post	Postal Instant Press
Cleveland Foundation	Printing Service Company
Conchemco	Priscilla Lindsay
Copco Papers, Inc.	Sabin and Robbins Paper Co.
Diem & Wing	Standard Publishing
Episcopal Archdiocese	Sterling Paper
Frisch's Restaurants	Superfoods
Gestetner Corporation	SuperRx
Hennegan	Typo-Set
Holiday Inns of Ohio	United Auto Workers
Hospitality Motor Inns of Ohio	Zerox

KEY ELEMENTS FOR PROPOSAL IMPLEMENTATION

In order to prioritize proposals and promote concerned leadership in urban-suburban communities,

we recommend a follow-up meeting of concerned town meeting participants as a key factor for effective town meeting proposal implementation.

This can be put into action by:

- 1.) publicizing the proposals of town meeting and the planned follow-up meeting
- 2.) contacting service groups, churches, city officials, concerned people, etc. personally to participate in the follow-up meeting
- 3.) pulling the raw proposal data through a structured strategy

This is best illustrated by:

- 1.) contacting the new media; newspaper, radio, TV, etc. to publicize the follow-up meeting
- 2.) flyers to groups, contacting local organization heads and local schools
- 3.) using the ICA structure to brainstorm and prioritize the proposals

In order to counteract the apathy and despair of people's power to effect change in small cities and rural communities,

we recommend implementing early a visible and easily attainable project as a key factor for effective town meeting proposal implementation.

This can be put into action by:

- 1.) challenging service organizations to be involved
- 2.) have lots of celebrations and festivals
- 3.) as many involved as possible

This is best illustrated by:

- 1.) bike paths
- 2.) senior citizens benches
- 3.) coordinated community calendar
- 4.) garden center planting, starting arboretum
- 5.) action line in local paper
- 6.) community planning project committee
- 7.) task force to work with schools for levy, more involvement
- 8.) splinter groups off town meeting task force to complete town meeting proposals.

In order to create more leadership, expand and sustain involvement in rural communities or small cities,

we recommend that goals be set as a key factor for effective town meeting proposal implementation. This can be put into action by

- 1.) regroup soon after town meeting
- 2.) make specific assignments
- 3.) cross section of community involved

This is best illustrated by:

- 1.) getting people involved who have needs
- 2.) getting young people involved (16 year-old workshop leaders)
- 3.) more town meetings

KEY ELEMENTS FOR PROPOSAL IMPLEMENTATION

In order to involve the total community in urban-suburban communities we recommend communication with every citizen as a key factor for effective town meeting proposal implementation.

This can be put into action by:

- 1.) contacting organizations
- 2.) contacting individuals
- 3.) contacting the media

This is best illustrated by:

- 1.) personal visits with organization presidents
- 2.) "block" meetings held by Town Meeting participants
- 3.) telephone blitz
- 4.) newsletters/flyers
- 5.) good media coverage

In order to create grassroots participation in urban-suburban communities we recommend a communal-cross sectional affirmative action committee as a key factor for effective town meeting proposal implementation.

This can be put into action by:

- 1.) group to research data towards implementation of proposals
- 2.) creating speak-out forums

This is best illustrated by:

- 1.) town meeting model
- 2.) mayors-citizens advisory committee
- 3.) neighborhood block parties and forums

In order to develop an awareness that leads to action in urban-suburban communities we recommend communication as a key factor for effective town meeting proposal implementation. This can be put into action by:

- 1.) approaching media coverage
- 2.) group participation
- 3.) commercial coverage

This is best illustrated by:

- 1.) public relations task force responsible for distribution of communication
- 2.) task force that creates communication model including various segments of the community organizations.

KEY ELEMENTS FOR PROPOSAL IMPLEMENTATION

In order to maintain effective community involvement and action in small communities,

we recommend we plan with a purpose as a key factor for effective town meeting proposal implementation. This can be put into action by:

- 1.) setting specific goals and deadlines and assigning responsibilities for action
- 2.) broad based community involvement including opportunities for all ages to participate
- 3.) maintaining enthusiasm by celebrating and providing feedback on progress on master plan

This is best illustrated by:

- 1.) town meeting planning and implementation
- 2.) youth spearheading bike trail improvement and seniors spearheading clean-up drive
- 3.) maintaining awareness and support of community through newsletters and media coverage.

In order to implement the major proposals from town meeting in rural communities and small cities,

we recommend sharing results and responsibility with citizens, community organizations and government as a key factor for effective town meeting proposal implementation. This can be put into action by:

- 1.) publication, newsletters and flyers
- 2.) presenting results of town meetings at council meetings proposing legislation to implement proposals
- 3.) speaking at meetings of community organizations
- 4.) inviting these people to attend the town meeting

This is best illustrated by:

- 1.) in Martinsville, flyers and newspaper articles and a mayor's proclamation resulted in a town clean up
- 2.) in Portsmouth, the county commissioners attended the town meeting and decided to use the town meeting as a vehicle to implement economic renewal in Scioto County
- 3.) in London, city government officials attended the town meeting and as a result three active issues are being worked on

KEY ELEMENTS FOR PROPOSAL IMPLEMENTATION

In order to give people a continuing sense of power and control over their lives and to keep America American, we recommend engagement of all age groups as the key factor for effective town meeting proposal implementation. This key factor can be improved by:

- 1.) keeping decision making corporate
- 2.) expanding leadership roles
- 3.) assigning specific responsibilities and time lines

This is best illustrated by:

- 1.) Martinsville's youth planning village clean up
- 2.) retired school teachers working with public school children on community improvement projects
- 3.) the people in workshop at Hillsboro listing themselves as those responsible for implementing their proposals

In order to motivate interest and gain support in all communities we recommend continuous information flow as a key factor for effective town meeting proposal implementation. This can be put into action by:

- 1.) stress use of layman language in reports to citizens
- 2.) initiating a hot line concept for media use
- 3.) pool of community skills (speaker bureau)

This is best illustrated by:

- 1.) publish reports in such a fashion for there to be no doubt about the intent of what you want said
- 2.) unanswered questions about what department in the city can solve the problem asked by citizens
- 3.) involved participation in all age groups and intellects for "brain-picking" to advance the community

REPRODUCED BY THE GESTETNER PROCESS

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
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