

*TOWN MEETINGS  
IN  
WEST VIRGINIA*





STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
CHARLESTON 25305

JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER IV  
GOVERNOR

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

I am very pleased to welcome you to the Conference on Town Meetings.

The Institute of Cultural Affairs has been instrumental in sponsoring and organizing town meetings in West Virginia and across the United States. To date, over 1,800 communities and neighborhoods have participated in ICA meetings.

I am a strong believer in the town meeting system of communications. I want to encourage more of our citizens to assume greater responsibilities for the future of their local communities.

The recent White House Conference on Balanced National Growth emphasized that planning should begin at the local level and not at the federal level of government. I feel that through participation in town meetings this theme is being carried out.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John D. Rockefeller IV".

John D. Rockefeller IV



#### INSUFFICIENT FINANCIAL RESOURCES

In the arena of public and private funding, the fact that there is an inequitable tax structure, absentee ownership, isolated pockets of population and lack of community awareness of need for physical and cultural amenities, indicates that the underlying contradiction is insufficient financial resources within public and private sectors. This contradiction is illustrated by 1) delaying business districts; 2) lack of recreational facilities; 3) rejection of school bond issues.

#### COMMUNITY INTERDEPENDENCE

In the arena of management, the fact that people resist change, indicates that the underlying contradiction is a failure to recognize our interdependence. This contradiction is illustrated by the failure of the TRIF program, and the longing for local schools in the face of effective districting.

#### RESISTANCE TO CHANGE

In the arena of political process, the fact that individualism, uninformed persons, and power groups exist, indicates that the underlying contradiction is resistance to change. This contradiction is illustrated by B & O tax, resistance to incorporation, and leaks in fuel service lines.

#### USEFULNESS OF EXISTING VALUE SYSTEMS

In the arena of culture, the fact that we have identified "problems" within the areas of participation, diminished vision, local schools, and values, indicates that the underlying contradiction is the usefulness of the central components of our value systems to solve local problems. This contradiction is illustrated by 1) more taxes into roads, fewer roads get fixed, 2) the consolidation of schools to improve the quality of education yet conflict over the degree of success. Individualism can divide people rather than unite them.



#### RIGHT OF PASSAGE

We the citizens of West Virginia in order to promote change in community attitudes propose to promote community heritage week through 1) a high school program showing youth opportunities and responsibilities in community, 2) a play stressing historical background of community, in showing role of civil disobedience, survival of fittest in its development, 3) a Founders Day Celebration.

#### EXAMINATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

We the citizens of West Virginia, in order to create public understanding, maximize return of tax dollars, propose examination of local governmental budgets and data on assessments and sale value of property, through 1) appointing citizens group to do research, 2) assess ways youth and others source can contribute, 3) publish report and distribute.

#### ATTRACT INDUSTRY AND TOURISM

We the citizens of West Virginia in order to create job opportunities propose to attract light industry, encourage tourism, and take advantage of available resources from the public sector such as CETA, etc. through 1) contacting the state DEED, OECI, 2) developing cooperation with local development organizations (Chamber of Commerce).

#### COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

We the citizens of West Virginia in order to create interaction situations for eventual creation of community organization, propose bringing people together on the basis of common interests, through 1) decision of place, date, and time of meeting, 2) invitation through paper, church, telephone, bulletin boards, 3) examples of similar projects, 4) meeting procedures: brainstorm and small group discussion and sharing discussion with the larger group.

#### GATHERING COMMUNITY DATA

We the citizens of West Virginia in order to improve public information and education in an effort to achieve equitable distribution of resources, and enhance the climate for change, propose boiling down and centralizing data on community skills, quantifications, events and past achievements, through use of print, media, and broad range of in-person "hearings" to give a community a commonly acknowledged data bank and newsletters and directories, etc. which context the community's unique dynamic in relation to the whole.



February 16, 1978

Nelson Stover  
700 South Park Road.  
Charleston, W.Va. 25304

Dear Mr. Stover;

I am very sorry we will not be represented at Saturday's meeting, but up here on the mountaintop, we have grown accustomed to being isolated the first two or three months of the year and fear traveling very far from home.

Our little community received a shot of revitalization when we held our Town Meeting in November. We discovered quite a few people had the same hopes and fears for the town. At the close of the meeting, we decided to hold another in April or May and continue onward and upward with the town.

In January the Chessie System got word to Jerry Ash, an organizer of the Town Meeting, and told him Chessie planned to bring an excursion train to our little community from Pittsburg. The Amtrack passenger cars is to be pulled by the Steam engine that pulled the Freedom Train during the Bi-Centennial. There may be 1000 people on the train and that many more come to town to see the locomotive and watch it turn around on our "Y".

We have formed a committee consisting of one member from every club in town and other interested people. Believe it or not, we have about 22 people actually working on the committee. We have to have available meals for the people on the ~~the~~ train and also for other tourists to buy if they want to eat before returning home. We also planning a Street Fair with clubs and local artisans having booths. A local square dance group will demonstrate their dancing and we plan an old fashion auction.

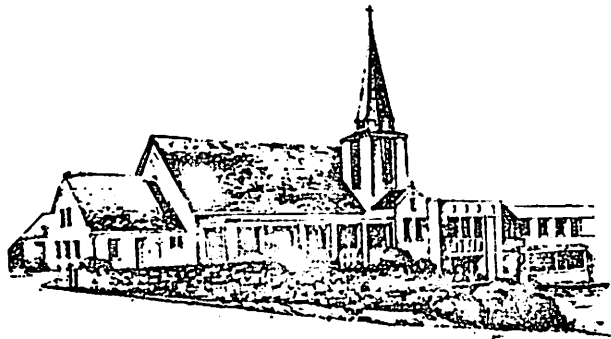
Could all this have been possible without the Town Meeting's shot in the arm? We hope that the committee that is working on the Chessie project will become a permanent fixture and promote the town in other projects too.

Sincerely,

*Jo Ann Teets*

Jo Ann Teets

Member of Terra Alta Town Meeting Committee



# Gauley Bridge Baptist Church

P. O. Box 566  
GAULEY BRIDGE, WEST VIRGINIA 25085  
CHURCH OFFICE PHONE 304-632-1226

Rev. Wesley B. Anderson,

Parsonage Phone 304-632-2175

February 13, 1978

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

I feel that I must write this letter of recommendation for the work, effort, and results accomplished by the TOWN MEETING team that just conducted a TOWN MEETING at our church for our community this past Saturday.

I must confess that I had personal reservations about our church sponsoring the TOWN MEETING, as well as several members of my church, because of several "Hot issues" in the area, and also because of our total unfamiliarity with TOWN MEETING.

I cannot commend the TOWN MEETING Team highly enough for the splendid way that they conducted the sessions, including the "hot issues" that were brought up by our town people, and the creative way that these issues were channeled. There was not one negative criticism from any of the participants, and everyone that I have contacted following the meeting has expressed total appreciation for what was done, and for what has been started in our community.

There never has been expressed such a feeling of, "Come on, let's get going!" in any project suggested before in our town, but 1978 promises to be the start of a new spirit in Gauley Bridge because of TOWN MEETING.

Should anyone desire further information on what happened at the GAULEY BRIDGE TOWN MEETING, please feel free to call me at either of the above phone numbers.

Gratefully yours,

*Wesley B. Anderson*  
Rev. Wesley B. Anderson





COMMUNITIES FROM WHICH  
RESIDENTS HAVE PARTICIPATED IN  
TOWN MEETINGS IN WEST VIRGINIA

<u>County</u>	<u>Community</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Community</u>
Barbour	<i>Belington</i>	Mineral	<i>Elk District</i>
Berkeley	<i>Martinsburg</i>	Mingo	<i>Gilbert</i>
Boone	<i>Danville</i>	Monongalia	<i>Blacksville</i>
Braxton	<i>Burnsville</i>	Monroe	<i>Union</i>
Brooke	<i>Short Creek</i>	Morgan	<i>Paw Paw</i>
Cabell	<i>Huntington</i>	Nicholas	<i>Richwood</i>
Calhoun	<i>Grantsville</i>	Ohio	<i>Dallas</i>
Clay	<i>Clay</i>	Pendleton	<i>North Fork</i>
Doddridge	<i>West Union</i>	Pleasants	<i>St. Mary's</i>
Fayette	<i>Gauley Bridge</i>	Pocahontas	<i>Marlington</i>
Gilmer	<i>Glenville</i>	Preston	<i>Terra Alta</i>
Grant	<i>Petersburg</i>	Putnam	<i>Bancroft</i>
Greenbrier	<i>Renick</i>	Raleigh	<i>Lester</i>
Hampshire	<i>Romney</i>	Randolph	<i>Huttonsville</i>
Hancock	<i>New Manchester</i>	Ritchie	<i>Ellenboro</i>
Hardy	<i>Moorefield</i>	Roane	<i>Walton</i>
Harrison	<i>Clarksburg</i>	Summers	<i>Hinton</i>
Jackson	<i>Murraysville</i>	Taylor	<i>Flemington</i>
Jefferson	<i>Summit Point</i>	Tucker	<i>Thomas</i>
Kanawha	<i>Institute &amp; Charleston</i>	Tyler	<i>Friendly</i>
Lewis	<i>Weston</i>	Upshur	<i>Hodgesville</i>
Lincoln	<i>Alkol-Woodville</i>	Wayne	<i>Wayne</i>
Logan	<i>Man</i>	Webster	<i>Webster Springs</i>
Marion	<i>Fairmont</i>	Wetzel	<i>Wileyville</i>
Marshall	<i>Moundsville</i>	Wirt	<i>Elizabeth</i>
Mason	<i>Plantation Road-Jerry's Run</i>	Wood	<i>Waverly</i>
McDowell	<i>Iaeger</i>	Wyoming	<i>Hanover Ikes Fork</i>
Mercer	<i>Athens</i>		

## CONTRIBUTORS

A partial list of corporations and foundations whose support, through cash contributions and donations of goods and services, have made TOWN MEETINGS in WEST VIRGINIA possible.

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Holiday Inn  
Hotel Aracoma  
Kanawha Manufacturing  
McDonald's Corporation  
S. S. Moore's Stationary  
Ramada Inn  
Service Office Supplies  
Shoney's Big Boy  
Tradewell Markets  
Union Mission  
United Methodist Church --  
West Virginia  
Wendy's Restaurants  
West Virginia Telephone Company  
Xerox

The TOWN MEETINGS in WEST VIRGINIA ASSEMBLY in being conducted with the support of a grant from The Committee for Humanities and Public Policy in West Virginia, a state--based program of the National Endowment for the Humanities.



Committee for  
Humanities and Public Policy  
in West Virginia



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