



A Call for Achievement in the Bicentennial Era

The Nation's Bicentennial

Many national leaders are voicing the need for citizens to participate in rethinking the nation's purpose on the occasion of our Bicentennial. A group of distinguished citizens has called for a Bicentennial Era as the beginning of a *second* American Revolution, 'a revolution not of violence, but of fulfillment, of fresh purposes, and of new directions.' The Bicentennial celebration is the time for a great resurgence of the American spirit and a great period of achievement, nationally and in every community.

A Call for Achievement

The American Revolution Bicentennial Administration has called for active citizen involvement in local planning and decision-making as a major aspect of the *Horizons '76* program. This is the opportunity for five thousand communities to respond to ARBA's 'Call for Achievement' by beginning the process of building our common destiny in local community forums.

Five Thousand Town Meetings

Town Meeting '76 is officially recognized by ARBA as part of the National Bicentennial program in support of the 'Call for Achievement.' It is a locally sponsored one-day community forum in five thousand cities, villages, and

towns across the nation. In a contemporary recasting of the traditional town meeting, two to four hundred people of all ages, persuasions, and backgrounds spend a full day in a community 'think tank' designed to identify the basic issues of the local community and the underlying challenges of America's third century. Using innovative problem-solving methods, they then propose practical steps toward meeting these challenges. Local man can thus participate directly in deciding America's destiny. **Town Meeting '76** is grass-roots democracy at work.

A New National Vision

Town Meeting '76 is the shaping of a new national vision. The results of the five thousand town meetings will be summarized and published as a set of inclusive proposals representing the consensus of one million people on the nation's future direction. Locally, the town meeting engages citizens in reformulating their own human environment. Their practical proposals provide a starting point for concrete, cooperative action. Challenging citizens to invest themselves in a new quality of life, **Town Meeting '76** is an experience of the revolutionary spirit which gave birth to America: a new burst of self-confidence, a new sense of responsibility, and a new, realistic hope in the future.





Five Thousand Communities Celebrating America

The Town Meeting Format

Beginning at nine o'clock with coffee and doughnuts, **Town Meeting '76** includes morning and afternoon workshop sessions, each introduced by a brief presentation. Working in small groups, the participants analyze the major issues they have identified in order to discern the underlying challenges. A noontime interlude features a buffet lunch highlighted by local entertainment and community singing. Three of the workshop groups then create practical proposals for meeting the challenges stated in the morning workshop, while a fourth group creates a new story, song, symbol, and slogan of the American people. The results of the workshops are reported at a closing plenary, and at five o'clock the participants return home with the published results of the day's work.

The Program Consultant

Town Meeting '76 was developed for the American people by the Institute of Cultural Affairs, a research, training, and demonstration group concerned with the human factor in world development. The ICA has worked for twelve years in community development in the United States and abroad. Its extensive research into effective methods of tactical planning, corporate operation, and human motivity led to the refining and initial testing of the

Town Meeting '76 format in thirty-six diverse community settings in 1974. The response of some three thousand participants to the pilot program demonstrated the power of the format to elicit enthusiastic citizen participation. As a research and program consultant for **Town Meeting '76**, the ICA supplies program materials, trains the volunteer leadership, assists in determining appropriate locations, compiles the resulting proposals, and offers follow-up services. Headquartered in Chicago, and chartered as a not-for-profit corporation in Illinois, the ICA serves local sponsors through its offices in forty-seven American cities and a network of trained community leaders.

The Local Sponsors

Local sponsors are service clubs, civic associations, Bicentennial committees, local businesses, community agencies, and individuals who assume responsibility for **Town Meeting '76** in their community in cooperation with the ICA. Sponsors create a broad base of community support, ensuring that a minimum of two hundred people attend the town meeting through effective community-wide promotion. The participation of *all* community leaders is the key to involving a broad cross-section of citizens. Sponsors make practical arrangements for food, facilities, finances, set-up, supplies, entertainment, and hosting.

ca's Third Century

The National Network

Town Meeting '76 is an expression of local initiative in celebrating the Bicentennial. A growing number of national service organizations, voluntary associations, and professional groups operate as an informal network to assist their local affiliates in sponsoring **Town Meeting '76**. Endorsed by numerous state and local Bicentennial commissions, **Town Meeting '76** is officially recognized by ARBA as part of the National Bicentennial program.

The Town Meeting Schedule

Town Meeting '76 is scheduled in three phases. During the initiation phase more than fifty town meetings were scheduled nationally before July, 1975. In the year-long replication phase, one thousand town meetings will involve a representative cross-section of the American people. The acceleration phase will make **Town Meeting '76** available in any local community, with anticipated requests for four thousand or more town meetings.

The Leadership Team

Town Meeting '76 is jointly staffed by the ICA and local sponsors. The ICA assigns four trained workshop leaders to each town meeting and two national staff members thoroughly trained in coordinating all aspects of the program.

Local sponsors provide a master of ceremonies, a coordinator of arrangements, and a volunteer staff to enable the day.

The Program Cost

Town Meeting '76 can be supported by the resources available in any community. The ICA will raise funds to cover all national and regional costs. Local sponsors underwrite a budget of approximately \$1,000 for a town meeting of two hundred persons. Of this amount, \$600 covers the cost of staff travel and training, participant materials, basic decor, and local consultation, while \$400 covers the cost of local promotion, facilities, food, entertainment, and supplies.

The Practical Results

Town Meeting '76 bridges the gap between the individual, the community, and the nation. The resulting proposals are a concrete resource of local wisdom that is essential to government of, by, and for the people. **Town Meeting '76** is a call for achievement in every community, a practical vision of what is both necessary and possible to fulfill the promise of the *second* American revolution. As one million citizens follow up the town meetings by taking their own local initiatives to meet the challenges of the Bicentennial Era, America may become a sign of the future to the nations of the world.



TOWN MEETING '76 PROJECT SUPPORT

National Recognition

American Revolution Bicentennial Administration

Representative State Endorsements

- Arizona Bicentennial Commission
Colorado Centennial-Bicentennial Commission
Iowa American Revolution Bicentennial Commission
Kansas American Revolution Bicentennial Commission
Maryland Bicentennial Commission
Michigan American Revolution Bicentennial Commission
Minnesota American Revolution Bicentennial Commission
Missouri American Revolution Bicentennial Commission
New Mexico American Revolution Bicentennial Commission
New York State American Revolution Bicentennial Commission
North Dakota American Revolution Bicentennial Commission
Oklahoma Bicentennial Commission
Rhode Island Bicentennial Commission
South Dakota American Revolution Bicentennial Commission
Washington State American Revolution Bicentennial Commission



RECOGNIZED BY AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL ADMINISTRATION

Representative Local Endorsements

- Community of Bartlesville Bicentennial Committee
Detroit Bicentennial Commission
Nashville Bicentennial Commission
New Orleans Bicentennial Commission
Philadelphia '76, Inc.

Representative Local Sponsors

- Civitan Club
Kiwanis Club
Lions Club
Rotary Club
PTA Council
Jaycees
Urban League

- Ada Bicentennial Committee
American Association of University Women
Baltimore City Bicentennial Commission
Boulder Centennial-Bicentennial Commission
Business and Professional Women
D.C. Federation of Civic Associations, Inc.
Third Century, USA, Greater Miami

- American Legion
Chamber of Commerce
Church Women United
League of Women Voters
VFW
YMCA
YWCA

Representative Local Contributors

- A.B. Dick Company
A & P
Bayview Savings & Loan
Bell Telephone
Burger King Corporation
Checker Taxi Company
Coca-Cola Bottlers
Continental Oil Company
Dunkin' Doughnuts

- Gestetner Corporation
Gino's, Inc.
Good Humor Corporation
Holiday Inns, Inc.
IBM Corporation
McDonald's Corporation
The National Guard
Pepperidge Farm, Inc.
Phillips Petroleum Company

- Ramada Inns, Inc.
Royal Typewriter Company
Safeway Stores
7-Eleven Food Stores
Sheraton Hotel
United Brands Company
University of Pennsylvania
F.W. Woolworth Company
Yellow Cab Company

Program Consultant

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WHAT IS TOWN MEETING SEVENTY-SIX?

TOWN MEETING seventy-six is a single program of five thousand one-day town meetings, to be held in five thousand geographically dispersed localities for one million Americans, one percent of the adult population. **TOWN MEETING seventy-six** is a part of the Bicentennial celebration of the American Revolution. The intent of the program is to provide a forum in which the American people may participate in re-thinking the nation's purpose for the next hundred years.

Each town meeting involves a sponsoring locality in a day of visioning, planning, and celebrating. Talks on *The Times and the Bicentennial Era* and *The Future and the American Citizen* orient participants to the possibilities of a global tomorrow. Morning and afternoon think-tanks engage participants in systematic, corporate reflection on the current challenges facing the American people and in creating the practical proposals to meet those challenges. A special highlight of the day is the enrichment of the American tradition through creating a story of the part each locality has played in American history, writing new national songs, and working on slogans and symbols for the Bicentennial era. The plenary sessions—the welcome by local officials at the opening, a festive interlude at lunchtime featuring local entertainment and a grand reporting session at the end of the day—adds drama and excitement to a day which deeply honors the American way of government by the people.

The anticipated results of **TOWN MEETING Seventy-six** based on a trial run of thirty-nine town meetings in June, 1974, include the creation of thousands of practical proposals for the American future and the subsequent analysis and publication of these proposals; the creation of new American stories and songs; and the training of thousands of grassroots leaders in methodologies of corporateness and problem-solving. The final result will be the motivation of citizens in five thousand localities to take the initiative in improving the quality of American life.

What makes **TOWN MEETING seventy-six** distinctive in the multitude of activities that will constitute the Bicentennial celebration? First of all, it is one of the few nationwide Bicentennial programs. **TOWN MEETING seventy-six** will penetrate the life of large metropolitan centers and will extend to the small towns and villages that cover the American landscape. The program will be representative of the American people including participants of all ages, races, and economic levels. Secondly, **TOWN MEETING seventy-six** is a future-oriented celebration: it contemporizes the vital role of each individual in shaping his country's future. Thirdly, **TOWN MEETING seventy-six** focuses on bridging the gaps between the citizen, his community, and the nation. **TOWN MEETING seventy-six** demonstrates the possibility of re-vitalized local polity as it introduces analytic and decision-making methods that enable a community to create new solutions to challenges rather than intensify debate on current choices.

TOWN MEETING seventy-six is a program which has been submitted for approval to the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration in Washington, D. C. The development of the program has been the responsibility of the Institute of Cultural Affairs, a research and training center in community development based in Chicago, Illinois. The Institute of Cultural Affairs is a not-for-profit corporation noted for its work with the Fifth City community program in Chicago. The staff of the Institute in each of its forty-six metropolitan centers will play a role in the town meeting program by training leaders, consulting with local officials on how to set up a town meeting and coordinating the over-all operation of the program.

The cost of **TOWN MEETING seventy-six** is six dollars per participant. Thus the cost of a town meeting for each sponsoring locality is \$1,200 for 200 participants. Each community arranges its own funding for its meetings. Generally two dollars of the six will come from governmental sources, two dollars from local private sources, and two dollars from the participants.

TOWN MEETING seventy-six is a product of American ingenuity. It is vast in scope. It honors the greatness of past Americans by carrying the ideals they fought for into the call of the future. It is a practical approach to overwhelming challenges initiated by enterprising citizens who are answering the call of the future with "We can!" **TOWN MEETING seventy-six** promises to be a crucial part of the Bicentennial Celebration of the American Revolution helping to make evident the claim that this nation has...*"A Past to Remember/A Future to Mold."*