

AFTER TOWN MEETING - WHAT HAPPENED ?

A representative selection of happenings and events following Town Meeting :

EASTERN STATES:

MASPETH, QUEENS, NEW YORK CITY: Fifteen community organizations are actively working together for the first time in their history. They have created the United Organizations of Maspeth to foster "responsible leadership directed towards the future".

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK: Citizens reacted quickly to the community's concern over their dirty, dying Downtown area. Twenty organizations held a Downtown Clean-up Day, where citizens swept the streets, washed the windows, cleaned out vacant storefronts, and put up public service displays in the empty windows. One local merchant was so inspired that he bought some paint and got the rusty old railroad bridge, which runs through the center of town, repainted in bright blue and red, with the insignia, "Welcome to Schenectady" emblazoned on it.

WASHINGTON, D.C.: Residents followed up their Town Meeting by filling potholes in the neighborhood streets as part of a Clean-up Campaign.

SOUTH END HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT: A Community Visitation Day to engage families in the community was held, Over 350 families were contacted.

MAPLEWOOD, ROCHESTER, NEW YORK: Eight months after the Town Meeting, a "Discover Your Community" evening was posted by Town Meeting participants and sponsors, to create a broad citizen interest in the community.

COLONIE, ALBANY, NEW YORK: Seventy five people came to the first follow-up meeting, proposing to work on implementing the proposals.

EAST HANOVER, NEW JERSEY: The Town Meeting participants have taken responsibility for distributing and implementing their Town Meeting's proposals, and also for setting up Town Meetings in neighboring communities.

BROCKTON, MASSACHUSETTS: J.J. Lyons, City Clerk, reports that the Mayor and City Council are working closely with the Town Meeting Steering Committee to implement the proposals, from the People's Town Meeting.

LOWER EAST SIDE, NEW YORK CITY: Town Meeting participants work on a 13 week program of leadership training among existing groups in the Spanish speaking community.

SEAFORD, LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK: Have recently held their third Town Meeting. An interim group works on proposals between Town Meetings

UNION CITY, PENNSYLVANIA: Mayor Frank Habel announced the first tangible results of the Town Meeting will be a clean-up day . "The people are banding together on May 21st to clean up vacant lots, help others clear the junk out of their back yards - all of this coupled with a picnic in the park and a street dance that evening."

MID WESTERN STATES

SHELBY, OHIO: The Town Meeting motivated citizens to launch a fund raising campaign to build a long-needed new community center. When pledges topped the \$1.6 million needed for construction, they held a parade to celebrate.

YORKVILLE, ILLINOIS: Town Meeting participants created a Human Resources Bank of people willing to help their neighbors with many types of needs.

JACKSON, MICHIGAN: Town Meeting participants form an ongoing Citizens' Council to address the needs of the community, and become a pilot group for the launching of the Lt. Governor's Citizen Involvement Council.

BRILLION, WISCONSIN: After the Town Meeting, High School students called everyone in town before the election - it was the highest voter turnout ever.

QUINCY, ILLINOIS: The City Government responded directly to a Town Meeting proposal by putting police officers back on the beat.

PAPILLION, NEBRASKA: The new Community Symbol

created at the Town Meeting, was placed on the sign welcoming people into town.

MT. AIRY, CHINCINNATI, OHIO: One of the proposals led to the formation of an Educational Commission joining PTA's and public and parochial school administrations. Their first proposal is to reinstate crossing guards, for which the Commission has raised over \$1,000 in case the City is unable to fund it.

DULUTH, WISCONSIN: Two hundred citizens turned out for the first in a series of "Mobile" City Council meetings. The idea arose from a Town Meeting proposal calling for regular City Council meetings in neighborhood settings four times a year.

EAST ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI: The "Help Save Your City" Campaign was organized as a result of the Community Issues Forum Town Meeting.

WHITTIER, MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA: Since its first Town Meeting two years ago, this inner city community has undergone a major shift in its image of itself. The Whittier Community Organization, created out of a Town Meeting, sponsors a yearly community festival, attended this year by 8,000 people. "Whittier is a great place to be alive."

OMAHA, NEBRASKA: Rat and roach sources were eliminated by combined citizen effort, and for the first time, the city rat control agency could do an effective job.

MUNDELEIN, ILLINOIS: An elementary school principal of this bedroom community near Chicago, has her social studies staff use the town meeting format as a way to do real community and social education.

PORTSMOUTH, OHIO: Portsmouth divided the Town Meeting proposals among five Task Force Teams, made up of the 200 participants at the Town Meeting.

FRIDELY, MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA: Six months after their first Town Meeting, Fridely held a three hour Town Meeting to check on implementation of the proposals. Yearly Town Meetings are being planned.

RALSTON, NEBRASKA: Several hundred people met in each of four local workshops following the Town Meeting to write two bond issues for the Community Center and the Fire Department.

MADISON HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN: Two proposed projects, a model neighborhood council and a community clean-up day were planned and implemented.

WAUSAU, WISCONSIN: Inspired by the creation of a Town Meeting symbol, a county flag contest was held. Two thousand people at the county fair cast their votes. The winning design was officially adopted by the county board as the County Flag, along with the Town Meeting song, which is now the official County song.

ASTABULA, OHIO: Since its first Town Meeting, the town has built the new arts center and repaired the bridges of the town as well as having a second Town Meeting.

MARATHON COUNTY, WISCONSIN: Eight townships in the County accepted the Town Meeting challenge to be pace-setters in increasing voter turnout by 10% in the National elections. The results were impressive. Marathon County as a whole, had a record 81% turnout for the election, as against a national turnout of 55%.

WESTERN STATES:

PICO UNION, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA: The first immunization clinic ever held in the district gave over 1,000 shots in a single day as a result of a Town Meeting proposal.

PAYSON, UTAH: Immediately implemented was a proposal for a community economic course at the local High School, taught by the town's businessmen.

THE MISSION DISTRICT, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA: A group of elders now run their own fresh fruit and vegetable co-operative so that senior citizens can get fresh produce at prices they can afford.

RENTON, WASHINGTON: The City Council and Mayor De Laurenti chartered the Town Meeting Follow-up Group as

the Renton Horizons '76 Committee. This committee was charged to plan co-ordinate, and implement the proposals of the people of Renton.

NAPA, CALIFORNIA: A councilman, concerned that Napa continue to expand citizen participation begun at Town Meeting '76, proposed to the City Council the organization of neighborhood advisory groups, to study issues and make recommendations to the council.

NOB HILL, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA: Town Meeting participants responded to Town Meeting proposals and organized a Saturday "Survival Revival" and a community newsletter to increase community awareness of the many services and opportunities available to city residents.

GLENDIVE, MONTANA: The community decided to hire a person to co-ordinate community organizations towards functioning as one effort.

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA: Interested participants from seven San Francisco Town Meetings got together and sponsored twelve more, making a total of nineteen Town Meetings held in the city of San Francisco.

SPENARD, ANCHORAGE, ALASKA: The Steering Committee is scheduling another Town Meeting and co-ordinating community organizations to improve services..

EAST HELENA, MONTANA: A continuing citizens' forum sponsored a "get acquainted with your candidate" program.

DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA: Town Meeting brings forth new community leadership as twelve participants assist with district meetings at which forty new people volunteer to work on follow-up and plans for the 1977 city wide Town Meeting.

BUTTE, MONTANA: Town Meeting brought together labor, management, and business groups who decided to continue to work together to comprehensively plan Butte's economic future.

WILLISTON, NORTH DAKOTA: A senior citizens' transit system resulted from a Town Meeting proposal.

WEST COVINA, CALIFORNIA: A monthly newspaper created as a result of Town Meeting to answer the need for better community communications, has been so successful that plans are underway to publish it weekly.

SOUTHERN STATES:

ADA, OKLAHOMA: People had been talking about the health care needs of their large Indian population for years. After their Town Meeting, they were able to mobilize their Town's resources, secure government funding, and will start building a twelve million dollar Indian hospital designed by an Indian architect, this year.

TROUP, TEXAS: Citizens are planning a new community center and are discussing which city parcel of land would be best to put it on.

DE PEW, OKLAHOMA: A burial service was held for George of "Let George do it" fame . "He died from exhaustion and it's now up to us", was the theme of the funeral, which was followed by a citizens' clean up the town day.

SUMTER COUNTY, GEORGIA: The Town Meeting sparked citizen interest in a county wide clean up campaign in the historical society's restoration of a landmark hotel, and in establishing a county-wide advisory group to plan for the future of the county.

LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA: A community-wide Town Meeting catalyzed seven neighborhood Town Meetings with 500 participating.

OLD FORT, NORTH CAROLINA: A citizens' committee, co-operating with the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen, implemented a three part proposal to deal with a serious, school safety problem.

LAWTON, OKLAHOMA: The Chamber of Commerce

created a **Permanent Committee of the Chamber** composed of Town Meeting participants, to make sure the proposals of the day were implemented.

ATLANTA, GEORGIA: A leadership Town Meeting group subsequently produced a **Declaration of Interdependence** for the metropolitan community.

SHAMROCK, OKLAHOMA: Citizens planted flowers in the park. Work has begun on the school, park and sewer proposal.

MINEOLA, TEXAS: "We have a larger number of candidates running for City Council, and people attribute it to Town Meeting."

MUSKOGEE, OKLAHOMA: A Town Meeting held for the High School youth was so enthusiastically received that a similar Town Meeting is being planned for the whole community.

ST. BERNARD PARISH, LOUISIANA: A Community Citizens' League was formed to develop better government in their community, and solicit improved voter participation.

TONKAWA, OKLAHOMA: The Community Town Meeting decides that the Tonkawa youth should have a Town Meeting.

COMMENTS FROM TOWN MEETING PARTICIPANTS.

Too often we give lip service to the ideals of grassroots democracy. Today was a great opportunity to participate in such a process.

Principal of Culver City High School., California.

A miracle happened in Independence last Saturday. People got together and created the future.

Mary Hahn, Independence, Missouri.

The singing of our song "Hello Jackson" was the icing on the cake in concluding an exciting day as we in Jackson County began our move into the third century. Our future certainly depends upon us.

Co-ordinator, Jackson, Michigan.

It happened I. One hundred and fifty people of all ages and races participated in a meeting unprecedented in the history of Bremerton.

Participant, Bremerton, Washington.

Town Meeting creates communities. During the day, cynical residents became concerned citizens.

Participant, North Syracuse, New York.

This has been the greatest day of my political life. To be perfectly honest, this is probably the best day I have ever spent in my life.

Mayor Harold Easton, Tecumseh, Michigan.

We pay twenty or thirty thousand dollars for outside consultants to do just what we did for ourselves today.

First Selectman, Cromwell, Connecticut.

Having lived in Midland for fourteen years, and having attended hundreds of meetings, this was my first experience at observing white-collar, blue-collar, wealthy people and poor people, community leaders and non-leaders all participating together to build a better community.

Lowell G. Thomas, Midland, Michigan.

I am convinced Eldridge will benefit for many years to come. There is a community spirit showing around, which will cause things to happen, which will make this community a finer place to live and raise a family.

James R. Tank, Eldridge, Iowa.

Town Meeting - people who never spoke up before (maybe because they were never asked before) are offering their ideas to one another. As the swamp-dwelling cartoon character Pogo once noted "We have found the enemy and he is us."

Editor, Nevada Appeal, Carson City, Nevada.

QUOTES FROM PARTICIPANTS
in the
EXPERIMENTAL TOWN MEETINGS
conducted by
the Institute of Cultural Affairs
June 8, 1974

These methods are just what was needed today; people could get out issues and talk about them with each other without obliterating the other party.

Jerry Armans
Human Relations Department
San Jose, California

I know of the ICA and its work and I highly endorse their methods. The city council is interested in what you do here and I am anxious to see what ideas you have for action in this community.

Rosendo Gutierrez
City Councilman
Phoenix, Arizona

I came here to be uplifted... Anchorage, with its gifts, will become an example of a global city.

Lawrence Weiford
City Manager
Anchorage, Alaska

I'm impressed with the effectiveness of these methods in allowing us to deal with concrete issues in a comprehensive context.

Ernesto Rubio
Model Cities Employee
San Antonio, Texas

People in East Lake community have tried very hard to solve their problems. Today a group of two hundred met at an elementary school and worked without outside help to look at their problems from the inside, and they will do it.

TV News Commentator
Atlanta, Georgia

We're glad you're doing this. This is the kind of thing the city needs.

Frank Cobo
Mayor's Assistant
Miami, Florida

This is the first time I have seen elders and youth work so well together.

Emilio Mora
Mayor's Assistant
Miami, Florida

I'm amazed at the kind of spirit these methods are able to generate.

Robert Osborn
Mayor's Assistant
St. Louis, Missouri

Thank you for having this meeting in Indianapolis; we have needed a new dynamism for a long time.

Richard Lugar
Mayor
Indianapolis, Indiana

This group of local residents demonstrated the revival of the town meeting, a form of local responsibility which has not been used in our city for over one hundred years.

TV News Commentator
Cincinnati, Ohio

Where else in Washington do you plan to do this thing? I have contacts and I'll be glad to help you.

Dr. William Robinson
Ward Councilman
Washington, D.C.

I never thought people from such diverse backgrounds—socially and culturally—could sit down and do this kind of work together.

Paul Wood
Model Cities Director
Highland Park, Michigan

I've been working with LEAP [local poverty agency] for eight years and this is the first time I felt I could really be effective.

Sleatha Jacobs
Local Resident
Phoenix, Arizona

This is the first time I've received this kind of method of discerning and analysis and practical steps for moving ahead. Is there any way this could be done during the week so employees could participate?

Ortis Jordan
Federal Agency Director
Anchorage, Alaska

I have never seen so much work get done within a short period of time.

Head Start Director
Miami, Florida

First time anything serious has happened in this community.

Local Businessman
Boston, Massachusetts

1. "I know of the ICA and its work and I highly endorse their methods. The city council is interested in what you do here and I am anxious to see what ideas you have for action in this community."
--statement of a city councilman, elected at large for his city
2. "There are all these different kinds of people here and yet there is a sense of community like the Indians used to have."
--paraphrase of statement by a 73 yr. old Indian woman.
3. "This place is unbelievable. Next time you have one of these I intend to be able to participate."
--manager of community center
4. "Well if it works here why can't it work for society?"
--in reference to the Chicano-Anglo tension
5. "People in (this) community have tried very hard to solve their problems. Today a group of 200 met at an Elementary School and worked without outside help to look at their problems from the inside, and they will do it."
--TV news commentator
6. "What I really want to report about is what happened to me. After today I want to get involved in this community."
--A young housewife in giving a report to the convocation on her group's work.
7. "My City Council one and one half years ago commissioned a group of people to come up with a city symbol, slogan, a song because we felt this was needed. This group used all the tools available in terms of surveys, etc., to get ahold of what was needed here. A marketing class at the University (which probably saved the thing) was also used. Finally this was turned over to advertising artists. What they came up with was very similar to what two people here working for 40 minutes came up with (symbol, river image, slogan-future oriented). We spent \$15,000. I'm just amazed."
--Paraphrase of statement by a city councilman
8. "This group of local residents demonstrated the revival of the town meeting, a form of local responsibility which has not been used in our city for over 100 years."
--TV coverage
9. "I'm sorry more from the community were not here but when I go back and tell them about the kind of work we did, the many different backgrounds that were represented here, and the way we worked without bickering and fighting, we'll fill up the next one."
--participant
10. "This gathering was absolutely necessary if this community is to survive. I'm going to re-establish my block club immediately so that this work can spread."
--A Black resident of 57 years in the community
11. "This is the first time I've seen a way to open the future to a community."
--a Black community worker
12. "Where else (here) do you plan to do this thing? I have contacts and I'll be glad to help you."
--Ward Councilman
13. "I've been here for 20 years and the job has never been done--you seem to be about business and conditioned to succeed."
--participant
14. "I never thought it possible for people like us to really help our community, but I do now."
--a lady at the convocation

GUILD 12 - TOWN MEETING

IDENTIFICATION OF NOTES

July 19, 1974

| Location of LCC | Person who made the statement (An attempt will be made to contact these participants for permission to use their names.) |
|-------------------|--|
| 1. Phoenix | Rosey Gutierrez, City Councilman elected at large FOR PHOENIX |
| 2. Rapid City | Mrs. Montgomery, 73 yr. old Indian woman (paraphrase) |
| 3. Houston | manager of community center in Houston |
| 4. Amarillo | no identification |
| 5. Atlanta | TV News commentator speaking of Eastlake community |
| 6. Chicago | a young housewife |
| 7. Peoria | A city councilman fo Peoria |
| 8. Cincinnati | TV coverage |
| 9. Detroit | unidentified |
| 10. Cleveland | Mr. Hooper, a black resident of 57 years in the community |
| 11. Rochester | a black community worker from Binghamton |
| 12. Washington | Ward Councilman |
| 13. Boston | unidentified |
| 14. San Francisco | A lady at the convocation |

TALES FROM THE FIELD

- HOUSTON** Color Polk County yellow. Tiny black community of Wiergate decides to hold their town meeting after church next Sunday. Evening meeting done with 40 people—20 % of town. Circuit team raises money from grocery store and bars. Clark writes and delivers paper on Houston neighborhoods at 2001 conference and receives \$500. Memorial Dr Presby Ch delivers \$4800 check for village.
- SAN ANTONIO** Color LaSalle, Frio and Duval counties yellow. Duke of Duval is finally felled in county seat of Benavides where county judge along with 50 other residents attend TM and promise to lend their support to "anything else you'd like to do here." Two towns set 2nd TM date in November and 3rd is in process of doing that. Key = if more than 12 people show up for meeting hold a Town Meeting & color county.
- DALLAS** Two more TMs held in Pecan Gap and Lamar. Color Delta and Lamar counties yellow. In Linden set up a Tues meeting on previous Thursday. Realizing Linden was playing New Boston in football on Friday night we arranged to have half-time deal with Town Meeting (New Boston has had one scheduled too.) Getting ready for the Thanksgiving sector meeting.
- AMARILLO** Extended cotton harvest has pushed towns to consider January town meeting with four committed and six more considering. Even small towns say calendars are too busy between harvest and Christmas.
- OKLAHOMA CITY** Color Harmon, Harper, Jefferson, Choctaw and Marshall yellow. Gould (Next to Dotson, TX) had 121 people at their TM out of 200 residents in town. Hastings had 35 out of 120. Good percentage of townspeople turning out for TMs held during previously scheduled meetings of Chamber of Commerce, etc.
- MEMPHIS** Holiday meeting set up in 9 days. Bigger communities more hesitant to do TM between Thanksgiving and Christmas. In Decatersville the mayor volunteers to donate a hog for the TM. Jackson, Tenn TM will be in black neighborhood. Color DeSoto and Obion counties yellow. Money raised in town is averaging around \$150 and attendance over 100.
- DELTA PACE** Global Women's Forum held for 25 in new preschool while economic consultation is held in cafeteria. 4 women from Duncan join Pace women. 23 Pace men offically charter Delta Pace Jaycees and are sponsored by Falcon J.C.s (both towns are Delta Days participants).
- NEW ORLEANS** Proposals submitted to large Shreveport Foundation for \$11,000 (\$200 for each of 55 parish meetings). Looks good for 1978. 1 of 6 cynical civic leaders in Delcambre calls 16 people together and they all set Dec 3 TM date. He calls it, "what is needed to create hope in Delcambre".
- CHARLOTTE** Miracles happen at steering committee meetings: Grassy Branch, North Carolina has been split over an issue in the church. About 1 1/2 years ago a man walked out, taking several church members with him, and started a new congregation. A woman on the steering committee, who has not spoken to these people during the 1 1/2 years, volunteered to invite the entire new church to the Town Meeting.
- ATLANTA** Color Douglas County yellow. Two more Town Meetings are set for next week. Circuiters return to spending a little more time in communities. Three R. A. M. Town Meetings fall through the cracks.
- MIAMI** Color Lake County yellow. Entire Montvede Town Meeting was a miracle, especially story, song and symbol workshop. Provided a base for two factions in community to work together and good authorization for more town meetings.

PARTICIPANT COMMENTS

Hearing what others had to say about issues in the community was invaluable.

I used my mind to look at some problems in new ways - sometimes a difficult process. I joined with people I do not often see to trade ideas on our community. I felt a freedom to express ideas in the groups. The organizing of the material was interesting to see develop.

Got a good over all view of county problems and suggestions for solutions. Makes me see that we are all working for the same goals through separate channels.

I found that working with my neighbors on problems we share in the community brought me closer to my community and makes me want this community to progress and improve. And if it does, my relationship with my neighbors will get better and better. - Karen Rockmen, Chester

I listened to other people's views on different subjects, learned some new ideas, and helped write down some proposals for our community.

I found out that this community has a lot going for it, but there are some specific things we can do to make it even better.

I again saw that more organizations, committees, and meetings are pretty worthless.

Today I found in full depth the problems facing our county and a lot of ways of making them better. Just getting involved made me feel good!
- Doug Osterman, Chester

Many ideas were presented and discussed - the problems will not be solved in any short time. Problems will always be here but discussion may help in their solution. No easy solutions.

Town Meeting in Liberty County Montana will inspire me to strive to do more things for more people. Signed County Commissioner

I was able to state my opinion at a time when I could know that something could and should be done!

I found out that I did not know of the problems some of the different people had. I have not attended a lot of functions. I guess apathy is the word. I will be more involved in the future.

I have not knowing what to expect. When I left I had more of a feeling of belonging and understanding of what others in the community wanted and looked to in the future.

At the town meeting I became a little better informed on community affairs and became a little more involved in the community and people's views.
David C. Mattson

Found out that I live in a pretty good community with not too few organizations, but if anything too many organizations and things expected from too few.

Saw that 'local' people could get constructively involved.

TM Woodstock Sq 1977

1) "If numbers of participants and active participation are a measure of success, then it was a very successful event." Caswell Cooke
New Haven, Connecticut

2) "I found this type of non-political meeting of neighborhood people allows for voicing of opinions on a personal basis and not a 'party' basis. I grew to know my neighbors far better." Caswell Cooke
New Haven, Connecticut

3) "Town Meeting '76 allowed the citizens of our town the opportunity not only to define the issues which face them, but to offer proposals for solutions to these issues." Jeffrey Kass
Brookfield, Connecticut ✓

4) "By fostering an atmosphere where people can meet in 'workshops', and address the problems which confront our community, you have allowed the people of Brookfield to have a role in determining their own future." Jeffrey Kass
Brookfield, Connecticut ✓

5) "Given the present disinterest and/or apathy concerning participation in the governmental process, Town Meetings are the most exciting and promising idea I have encountered." Nancy Carr
Manchester, Connecticut ✓

6) "No other program with which I am acquainted, governmental or private, has accomplished comparable results, and without expending massive public resources." Hollis W. Huston
Crowmell, Connecticut ✓

7) "The worthwhile citizen participation program entitled Community Forum '76 allowed residents of the North End Community to gather and build a serious, comprehensive plan for their future." Lowell P. Weicker, Jr.
United States Senator
Hartford, Connecticut ✓

TM NORTH END 1976

8) "As Citizen Participation Programs, these town meetings are some of the best ways for helping to solve some of the Social and Economic problems of neighborhoods." Harold G. Holcombe, Jr.
Hartford, Connecticut

9) "town meetings...are a local venture with citizen participation in improvement of the local community." Harold G. Holcombe, Jr.
Hartford, Connecticut

COORDINATOR TM 1976

10) "Even the process of preparing for the Town Meeting was itself very productive....After the Meeting the steering committee met again and voiced the desire to see this thing organized for implementation." Fr. Donald O'Leary
Newington, Connecticut

11) "The good always surfaces from this kind of event....The best things rise to the top from every problem." Fr. Donald O'Leary
Newington, Connecticut

12) "All the proposals are good in intent and purpose....They're right on target." Fr. Donald O'Leary
Newington, Connecticut

TM 1976-

13) "It was a fantastic experience with people in Greenfield of various backgrounds working together perhaps for the first time."

Lois Buchiane
Greenfield, Massachusetts

TM 76

14) "The people who attended were not too involved before the Town Meeting....Now they're participating in various ways, some have run and been elected to Council and the School Board."

Wynn Muller
Cromwell, Connecticut

"We identified the name of the community (Loisaida) -- and now people use it, and the name is spreading."

Town Meeting - 1975
Lower East Side

Dora Collago-Levy
New York, NY

"We identified a specific goal -- youth employment and it happened."

Town Meeting - June 1978
Lower East Side

Dora Collago-Levy
New York, NY

"The whole concept of Town Meeting caught on and it has been used later."

Town Meeting - 1975
Lower East Side

Dora Collago-Levy
New York, NY

"We're not just talking, just bitching, we've got a plan of action."

Economic Community Forum - December 1979
Christopher Street Merchants

San Frankel & Bill Towert
New York, NY

"All of a sudden I'm finding out it's not just my problem anymore."

Economic Community Forum - December 1975
Christopher Street Merchants

Mary Kaplan
New York, NY

"You have shared methods with us that are helpful in creating urban community."

Town Meeting - November 1978
Abingdon Square

David P. Ver Nooy
New York, NY

"By sharing our enthusiasm about the Community Forum, we have been instrumental in encouraging a Block Association, tenants of a high-rise, and merchants in our community to hold forums."

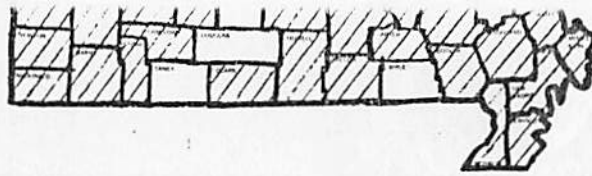
Town Meeting - November 1978
Abingdon Square

David P. Ver Nooy
New York, NY

"In the year since the Abingdon Square Community Forum the churches of this community have been engaged in several projects together."

Town Meeting - November 1978
Abingdon Square

David P. Ver Nooy
New York, NY



RAY: Orrick...REYNOLDS: Centerville...ST. CHARLES: St. Charles... ST.
FRANCOIS: Elvins...ST. LOUIS: St. Louis, O'Fallon...SALINE: Blackburn...
SHCUYLER: Lancaster...SCOTLAND: Granger...SCOTT: Scott City,
Benton...SHANNON: Winona...SHELBY: Hunnewell...STODDARD: Puxico...
STONE: Crane...TEXAS: Licking...VERNON: Deerfield...WARREN:
Marthasville...WASHINGTON: Mineral Point...WAYNE: Greenville...
WEBSTER: Seymour...WORTH: Sheridan...

Is your county listed? How about your town?

If not, then scheduling a Town Meeting is as easy as picking up your telephone like so many of your fellow Missourians have already done and dialing collect the Town Meeting office: 816-931-6765. Surprisingly enough, people are finding that Town Meeting doesn't take that much preparation. Many towns have held successful meetings with only one week's advance time and one person sending out the invitations.

MISSOURI IS TALKING ABOUT TOWN MEETING

"You have no idea what a Town Meeting is until you have one. The input from the public was real good, in fact, so good that if we were to have another one, I'd have everyone in town there."

*Dennis Watson
Mayor, Kearney*

"The participation was real good, and the meeting pulled out a lot of great ideas. I think all communities should have a Town Meeting."

*Lloyd D. Craxberger
County Judge, Stover*

"People in Mountain View who hadn't expressed an opinion before did so at the Town Meeting. New people got involved. To accomplish something, you've got to work from within, and what we have to work with is people."

*Mrs. Joan Smith
Mayor, Mountain View*

"We found out what 90 per cent of our problem is--apathy. People didn't want to get involved in the community. Those of us at the Town Meeting woke up and realized we need to do more. Everyone there was very impressed, and I think it's a real good program."

*Robert Phipps,
Mayor, Urbana*

"... gave us an effective plan to achieve goals we were beginning to feel were impossible to attain. Now, with persistence and a positive approach, we will succeed."

*Carolyn Higdon
City Clerk, Tracy*

"The people were all very happy with the Town Meeting. None of us really knew what we were getting into, and, frankly, we were surprised. It's a very well put together program. Everyone should go to a Town Meeting if he has the opportunity. They're great. I'd like to recommend it for all towns."

*Danny P. Sybert
Mayor, Rosendale*

"Everything that happened at the Town Meeting cannot possibly be mentioned in a newspaper article. It was an evening of good-spirited fun, but it was also an evening when alot of serious thinking was done."

*Betty Hass
"Hopkins Journal"*

"It was a real good evening...something to stir up stagnant waters, get people moving. I was impressed with the meeting."

*A. W. Boswell
Mayor, Ravenwood*

'We really worked hard.' Port Clements.

'We got the problems straight and worked on some solutions.' Port Clements.

'Some fires were lit tonight. I mean some sparks. This is a beginning and we can work from it.' Endako.

'We got right to the heart of things.' Egmont.

'I was surprised there was no hot air.' Karamas.

'I think we've got the start of something here and we can build on it.' Bear Lake.

'We found out what some of the problems are and how to solve them.' a teenager, Bear Lake.

'I don't want to be hard, but one thing you can say about most meetings is that three or four people do all the talking, but at this meeting, everybody had something to say, and that's the first step to involvement.' The principal, Yale.

'We can do anything we want to in Lund.' Lund.

'I learned that when something important comes up we (Indian and white peoples) can get together.' Indian woman, Bella Coola.

'It was helpful to get to the root of the problems.' Kallie Valley.

'I knew the Forum was going to be good, but I never thought it would be this good.' East Vancouver.

'This meeting has given us a way to think out clearly what needs to be done.' Lantzville.

In response to one man's question, 'Who's going to do all this?' another one answered, 'It's up to us to do it now.' Deroche.

'This method gives a logical way of working together without arguments!' Bowser.

Iowans are saying . . .

Town Meeting Set-up . . .

One person interests others in the community.

An orientation session is set-up to acquaint them with the program.

A steering committee is formed that elicits participation of the total community in planning and promotion.

Local coordinators and workshop leaders are trained to insure a well-executed, productive and spirited day.

Every one in town creates the happening of Town Meeting. The decisions made are printed to be taken home and used in the life of the community.

Town Meeting is available to any city, town, or neighborhood. Contact the Town Meeting: Iowa office if you are interested in having a Town Meeting in your community: 1459 Keo Way, Des Moines, Iowa, 50314. Phone 515/244 - 8271.

"It was a wonderful experience for everyone who participated, and I am convinced Eldridge will benefit for many years to come. There is a Community spirit flowing around which will cause things to happen."

Bank President, Eldridge

"I came to the meeting expecting to be a mere spectator, gleaning crumbs falling from the masters' tables. However, I found that I had something to contribute and what I contributed did not fall on unreceptive ears."

College Student, Decorah

"The Town Meeting has unified our town. We have had more cooperation in doing Town Meeting than in any other project I've seen in my three years in LeClaire."

*JayCee President,
LeClaire*

NORTH DAKOTA TOWN MEETING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

L.E. Berger
State Representative, West Fargo

Lt. Governor Wayne Sanstead
Minot

Tom Campbell
Governor's Staff, Bismarck

Ken Weisenburger
N. Dakota Boys State, New Rockford

Bernie Dolan
U.S. Jaycees, Rugby

Stanley Wright
State Senator, Mayor of Stanley

COMMENTS FROM TOWN MEETING PARTICIPANTS

"I personally feel that Town Meeting was the catalyst that got our community together so that we can have some real accomplishments in the future."

Butch Andrist
School Superintendent, Deering

"This meeting has made me realize what really needs to be done and had suggestions on how to do it. I really enjoyed it. We really got alot done."

Lisa Wells
Youth from a farm, Carson

"I believe the Town Meeting was a useful meeting. The staff conducting the meeting was well versed and held a useful, educational and interesting meeting."

Joe M. Braun
Mayor, City of Carson

"This meeting was very worthwhile and helps all of us to know the needs of this community, as well as it's accomplishments."

Laura O. Haldi
Glenburn

"We have found that to change or improve we must become involved and to encourage involvement by your neighbor."

Donald Salmon
School Superintendent, Reeder

TOWN MEETINGS HELD IN NORTH DAKOTA (as of April 1, 1978)

New Rockford
Rugby
Cavalier
Devil's Lake
Minot
Williston
Stanley
Noonan
Bowbells
Glenburn

Deering
Watford City
Golva
Amidon
Bowman
Reeder
Flasher
Carson
Pick City
Center

Belfield
Regent
Killdeer
Cannon Ball
Maxbass
Bismarck
Munich
Egeland
Dunseith
Petersburg

THE INSTITUTE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Box 75
Cannon Ball, North Dakota
544-7831

PARTICIPANT'S COMMENTS

Crow Agency

The process used for group interaction worked well. One note for improvement: if the small groups were contained units until the completion of the process, for a final report, enthusiasm would have remained high (sustained). The planning seemed to have gone well. Very good detail work. What happens next?

If we could act on all the things we talked about, it would be fine. It would have been worth it.

Was very rewarding for me. I learned what, why, who today. I think more workshops like this should be held more. I felt I did something for somebody else today.

We the Crow people need education that is relevant to our particular needs and environment. Children learn best when presented concepts through their first language and relating to something they are familiar with.

This workshop has been very rewarding but it would be more valuable to most of us if more time was allowed.

Most enjoyable and worthwhile conference so far this year!

This workshop has been one of the best I've ever attended. The proposals are certainly meeting the needs that we as Crow people have felt needed to be addressed.

This workshop was very educational and interesting for me.

A very stimulating meeting. Would encourage another education meeting of this nature again inviting all teaching personnel on the reservation. If the Blackfeet can do it so can we! We need this united front for survival and progress. We should create a proposal writing committee to write and submit proposals for more educational funding. - Geneva Dillon

Many interesting ideas have been brought out in this meeting. I think some of the proposal ideas should be implemented.

This workshop has been fun as well as educational for me. We need more of this type of thing going on. - Donna Chavez

The workshop is well organized. It is very interesting; we learn a lot and bring out some of the things about education that we like to see it happen in the reservation. We want more of this type of workshop in the future.

I am proud to say that it was a nice experience for me and that the Crow people are interested in education to equal ourselves in the white man's world.

This is a great experience for me to attend an educational conference. This is my first time.

We can almost judge the future if work shops like this one continue to educate. Thank you. - Elma Snell

CROW EDUCATIONAL FORUM, Participant Comments :

Good to see so many people involved with Crow Education.

Successful future for Crow young people is an endeavor to acquire an education.

Good program - should be followed in a timely manner.

The town meeting format with a breakdown to small groups is very effective for involving all participants. The processes of the manual, or perhaps some over directiveness of some organizers did seem to lose some of the very good points made. These might have resurfaced had there been some discussion or response in the summaries reported.

Should have been for 2 or 3 day workshop - the material would have been more interesting instead of confusing as in my case.

This workshop made me realize that we can work together as a whole. The things that have been on my mind were brought out in the meeting.

I thought it was a great idea, approach etc., but lacked a little in explanation. What will happen NOW?

I felt there was an opportunity for everyone to become involved with planning future programs and projects for our future generations.

A practical form for future use, but has to be revised somewhat. Need for Crow interpretation for the triangle.

It's really great the Crow Indian showed a lot of interest in the education for the future. Hang in there; show more interest, and we too will be great in the whiteman's world.

I believe this is one of the best workshops I've ever attended. It gave us an overview of how important educational problems are. Surprising to me is in how a proposal is written and what had to be done and how well Indians and white can work together as a team.

Excellent - but make sure these proposals get to the right people and places.

This was a very good workshop which required a lot of hard thinking and work. At first it was difficult and somewhat frightening, but most rewarding. Thank you for this opportunity.

More meetings of this matter should be held more often each year. This would help to improve school relationships on a continuous basis. I sincerely hope that all the proposals made here today will be eventually followed through with constructive results.

Co-operation - sharing . I would like a written report on this forum.

The forum was beautiful; it provided open communication between people for a common concern. Had a chance to speak my mind. For once everyone worked together.

Attendance heartening. Process interesting. Great to know so many are so concerned.

CROW TRIBAL EDUCATIONAL FORUM, Participant Comments:

More meetings like this should be held, for benefit of those that are interested in education.

The Central Education forum was a great success. See the people participated in groups and general sessions with all these ideas and hopes together and working as a team.

I feel it is good for the people to set their goals. Such a workshop could also be used as an evaluation. The test is yet to come in the doing of the proposals.

This has been a tremendous day for me. I will take home a lot of new ideas to carry on.

The dream of a needs assessment.

We've learned a sophisticated process. A skill we can translate or use in other arenas.

I didn't know I could do so many things at one time.

Through the process she (one old Crow lady who couldn't read but who named the contradiction in the Crow language) made a fantastic contribution.

Footwork for the future.

town meeting - washington 77

A TOTALLY UNIQUE EXPERIENCE IN BUILDING COMMUNITY SPIRIT AND CITIZEN PARTICIPATION. TOWN MEETING PROVIDES:

- . A compelling vision for the community's future that motivates people to action.
- . A new spirit of cooperation among diverse groups.
- . A deeper sense of responsibility and involvement by citizens in meeting community needs.



PARTICIPANTS SAY

People were encouraging each other to share viewpoints without being critical of these viewpoints.

-Bellingham, WA

The gathering of people of all ages, occupations and interests became aware of the fact that we the people of our community do hold the future in our hands.

-Renton, WA

Crossing usual barriers of age, viewpoint, personal involvements, local people met together for an entire day to consider their community. They built proposals which grew out of their concerns for human life in that place. Fun, work, excitement! New Possibility!

-Burien, WA

Our Town Meeting healed many of the long-suffering wounds that have plagued our community. In the morning we looked hard at the scars, the new wounds, and found where we were all bleeding. In the afternoon, we healed ourselves by creating proposals which dealt with the fact that we were one community. Scarred and sometimes bitter and yet hopeful of the community we are all proud to be in.

-Vancouver, WA

PARTICIPANT COMMENTS

Hearing what others had to say about issues in the community was invaluable.

I used my mind to look at some problems in new ways - sometimes a difficult process. I joined with people I do not often see to trade ideas on our community. I felt a freedom to express ideas in the groups. The organizing of the material was interesting to see develop.

Got a good over all view of county problems and suggestions for solutions. Makes me see that we are all working for the same goals through separate channels.

I found that working with my neighbors on problems we share in the community brought me closer to my community and makes me want this community to progress and improve. And if it does, my relationship with my neighbors will get better and better. - Karen Rockman, Chester

I listened to other people's views on different subjects, learned some new ideas, and helped write down some proposals for our community.

I found out that this community has a lot going for it, but there are some specific things we can do to make it even better.

I again saw that more organizations, committees, and meetings are pretty worthless.

Today I found in full depth the problems facing our county and a lot of ways of making them better. Just getting involved made me feel good!
- Doug Osterman, Chester

Many ideas were presented and discussed - the problems will not be solved in any short time. Problems will always be here but discussion may help in their solution. No easy solutions.

Town Meeting in Liberty County Montana will inspire me to strive to do more things for more people. Signed County Commissioner

I was able to state my opinion at a time when I could know that something could and should be done!

I found out that I did not know of the problems some of the different people had. I have not attended a lot of functions. I guess apathy is the word. I will be more involved in the future.

I came not knowing what to expect. When I left I had more of a feeling of belonging and understanding of what others in the community wanted and looked to in the future.

At the town meeting I became a little better informed on community affairs and became a little more involved in the community and people's views.
David C. Mattson

Found out that I live in a pretty good community with not too few organizations, but if anything too many organizations and things expected from too few.

Saw that 'local' people could get constructively involved.

PARTICIPANTS' COMMENTS

One thing the meeting to-day accomplished is closer ties among the people of Absarokee.

An interesting way of solving community activities and government.

Leaders generated enthusiasm - meeting was well-organized and well planned. A sense of "togetherness" prevailed - something that has been lacking in Absarokee recently.

The program was well organized, there was good participation by all present. Benefits to me include hearing what other people think, meeting other people not previously known. If the proposals are carried out, Absarokee will be a better place to live.

Come and participate in decisions that will affect you.

Provides an effective opportunity to organize to discuss and come to an agreement on community problems.

The town meeting served to bring roughly 10% of the population together for discussion and articulation of present concerns, and for the development of proposed actions.

It was a good place to meet and learn of our problems, with suggested ways to solve them. I learned a lot and hope to meet again. The time spent seemed short. - from 3 to 9 P.M.

We accomplished the vast task of getting approximately 70 people more involved in our community.

Some of the people of Absarokee met and through discussion laid some verbal foundations for concrete problem-solving in the future.

The town meeting showed us we can accomplish anything if we band together and talk things out rationally and have good communication.

I was impressed with various age and social groups working together and that each's concerns were generally the same. - Jerry Evans

A change to speak your mind.

The organization of a proposal meeting - the attitudes of approaching a problem and analyzing of an issue - the sincerity of a person's interest and one's thoughts as to a solution.

I didn't really benefit from the lecture presentations but I appreciate the opportunity for a town problem-solving session.

We had a town meeting to discuss and air the opportunities of living in Absarokee.

ABSAROCKEE TOWN MEETING -- Participants' Comments

Participation -- the feeling of organizing and belonging.

-- Communication with other members of community's social groups.

I thought it was very interesting and informative. It was all new to me, but I am sure I learned much. I hope it will help to improve our little town.

About 70 people came to see and hear and all of them, even those who didn't think they wanted to, became involved and personally interested in what such town meetings and our inter-communication might do for the town of Absarokee. --

-- Helena Davis.

It made me more aware of the needs of the town.

Too long a day. Too much repetitions. Enjoyed the fellowship and exchange of ideas.

"Great Spirit"!

"United to Improve"!

In Indian language "The Great Spirit Rules". -- Gladys Sanders

A general feeling of community involvement. Progress can be accomplished through group effort. -- Marshall Thompson

Incentive for more citizen participation in civic club and other things for Absarokee.

This workshop will help people to see the need for pulling to-gether to get things done.

Six hours of schooling didn't come out any smarter than when I started the workshop.

Disappointed in small number of people who showed. Where do we go from here? Is Civic Club responsible for organizing committees to carry through our proposals? Well structured meeting. Good response from people.

I think it was interesting and will help to unify the people of the community.

A well-structured meeting brings results.

This town meeting showed me 1) that total co-operation can be possible. 2) most everyone realized that we have common goals and problems. 3) most people thought that some good would come out of it.

A feeling of personal involvement with the running and future of our town.

The town meeting in Absarokee was participated in quite enthusiastically by all and with positive anticipation.

GETTING THE BALL ROLLING

cc Research
Secretary

Towns accomplishments following their Town Meeting

- Boise City; organized a townwide sing and community supper for ballgame attendants.
- Carney: planted 1000 trees materials and labor donated, holds regular community cleanups, built new side walks and repaved roads, building new matching shingle roofing on all businesses on main street, and are building tennis courts.
- Coyle: several new businesses going sucessfully, new sewage disposal system, new townwide recognition for water improvements, and regular community wide meetings.
- Davenport: enforced leash law, hired new police officer, land annexation study, improved attendance at town council meetings.
- Depew: monthly citizens meeting to work on town improvements, construction on new fire/town hall.
- Dover: brought Lions Club; town, and community together on a number of community projects, fire department improvements through citizen volunteer help, town took over water and sewage (had been privately owned)
- Erick: started active Senior center, cleared old buildings, started a museum committee which has already selected its building, constructing tennis courts, and began work on a retirement home.
- Fairfax: held a community street dance, a community cleanup day, has begun to bring new members on the Chamber of commerce.
- Kaw City: new traffic signs, bi-weekly paper, black topped route 119 from Kaw to rte 77, started children's corner in their library, funded 8 acres for their city park, held several street cleanups, printed a brochure on Kaw City, conducted a community census, funded their own Senior citizen program, paved the parking lot in front of their school through 100%donation, started a chamber of commerce.
- Lahoma: reactivated booster club, started newspaper, community initiated improvement on fore station.
- Langston: public grass mowing and cleanup, grant for new water tower and hydrants.
- Meeker: held " get acquainted" session with community and newly elected officials, big downtown cleanup, donated and installed flower boxes.
- Meridian: 80 year old resident rebuilt burnt home entirely through donation, received new fire truck.
- Red Oak: "get acquainted" lunch sponsored by senior citizens invited students, established volunteer library, initial cleanup and dinner kicks off weekly Monday cleanup in town, Forrestry money and truck received for fire dept., repainted city hall interior including Town Meeting symbol, refurbished street signs, new industrial activity, one all-night service station, reopened cafe, night depository
- Ripley: established public bulletin notice, started chamber of commerce, started town newspaper, voted water bon issue which made possible 2 grants and 3 loans for two new wells, sewers, and water hydrants.
- Shidler: community cleanup tore down hazardous buildings, new and better town council attendance.
- Sterling: building rodeo grounds through 100% donation, starting teen town, new 14 member town association, weekly drawings to raise money for town improvements.
- Thomas: held two 'humanities meetings and dinners for town - "Energy", and "Quality of Life".