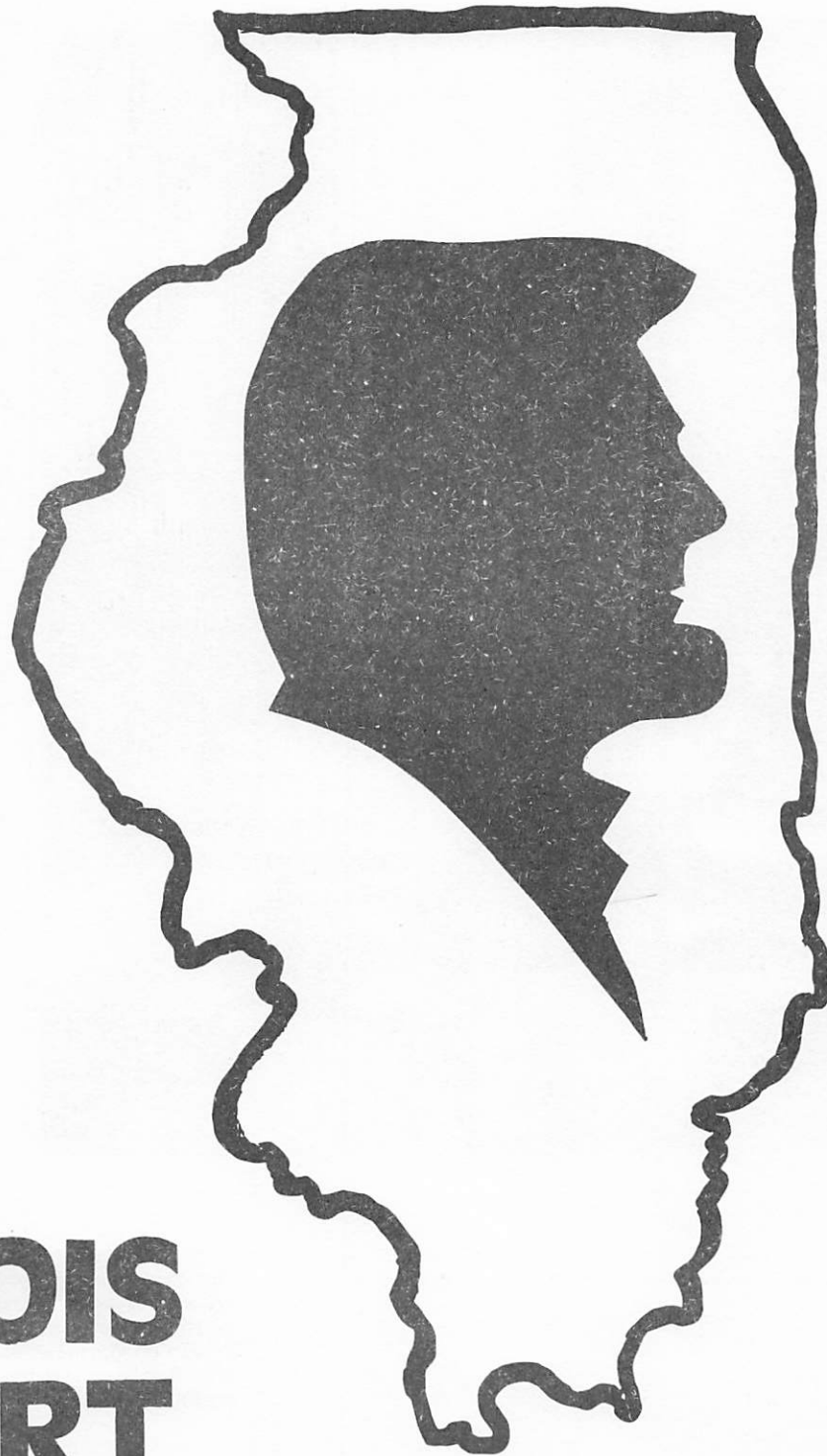
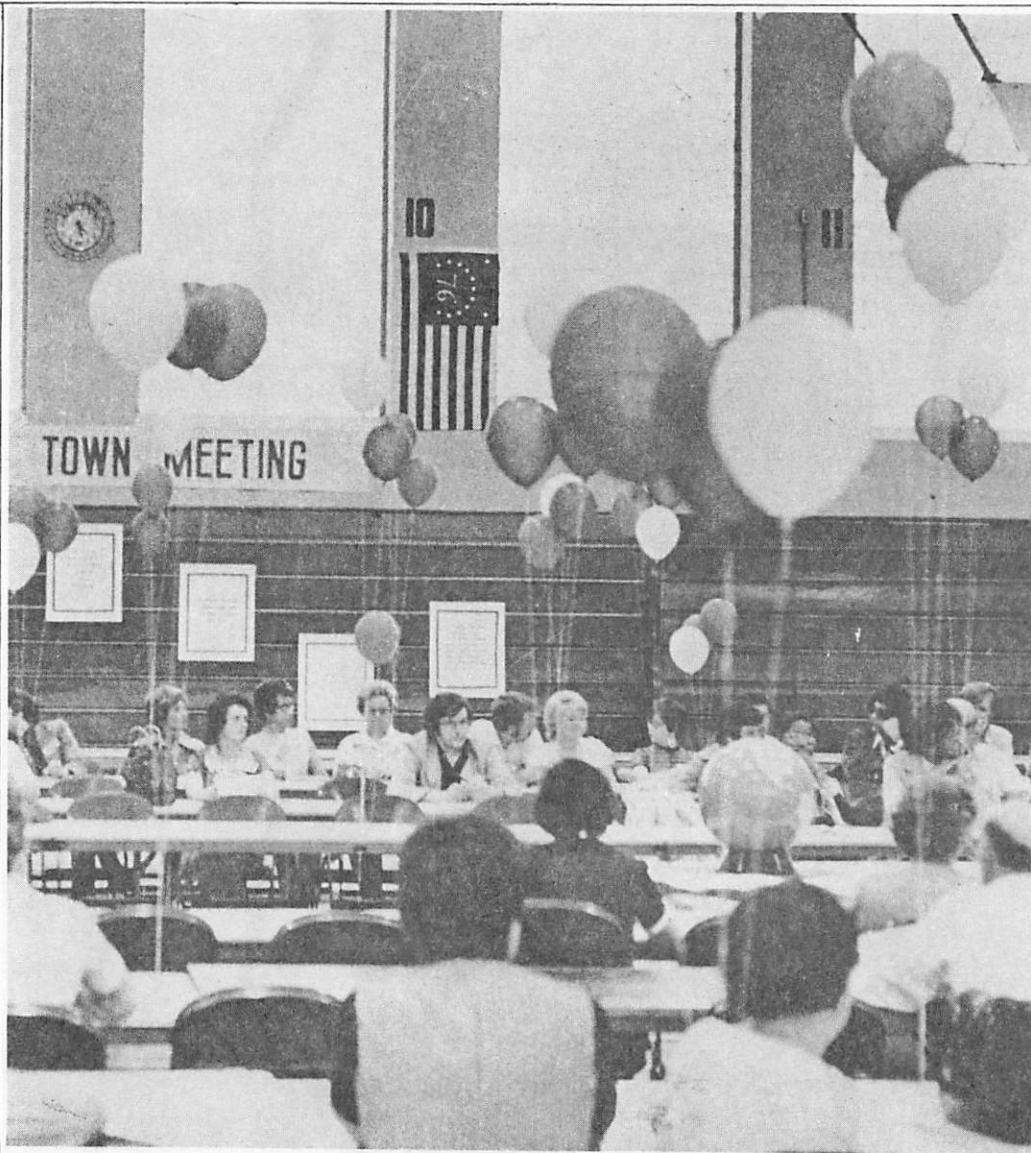


TOWN MEETING '76



**ILLINOIS
REPORT**

WELCOME



We hold this annual celebration to remind ourselves of all the good done in the process of time, of how it was done and who did it and how we are historically connected with it. And we go from these meetings in better humor with ourselves—we feel more attached the one to the other and more firmly bound to the country we inhabit.

Abraham Lincoln, 1858

TO TOWN MEETING '76

Communities in Illinois have been experiencing, along with hundreds of other American communities, a recovery of the 'town meeting' – Twentieth Century style. Since June 1974 Town Meetings have been held in forty Illinois communities, ranging in size from Arthur with a population of three thousand to neighborhoods in metropolitan Chicago. Attendance has ranged from 80 to 640 participants.

In every case the Town Meeting has been a day of hard work, serious planning, great fun and creativity.

WHAT IS TOWN MEETING 76 ALL ABOUT ?

In the morning the Town Meeting participants suggest the fundamental challenges facing their community.

In the afternoon they work in teams to write up proposals which would effectively deal with the challenges.

Finally, the people create a story, song, and symbol to represent their community's heritage and to proclaim their new decisions for the future.

This booklet is a report on the 40 initial Town Meetings in Illinois and it serves as your invitation to participate in a great day of visioning and authentic celebration in your own community.

HARD WORK

The Town Meeting participants meet at 9:00 a.m. over coffee and doughnuts. The Welcoming begins the day's activities with a brief presentation on The New World of America's Third Century.



In the morning workshops, citizens identify the basic challenges to their community's future. They begin by analyzing the economic, political, and cultural issues they see in their community, using their Town Meeting Workbooks.

Following the morning's group work, the people gather for a festive luncheon interlude featuring local entertainment, group singing and special guests. The afternoon begins with a brief presentation on the New Human, his opportunities, and responsibilities.



INVOLVES EVERYONE

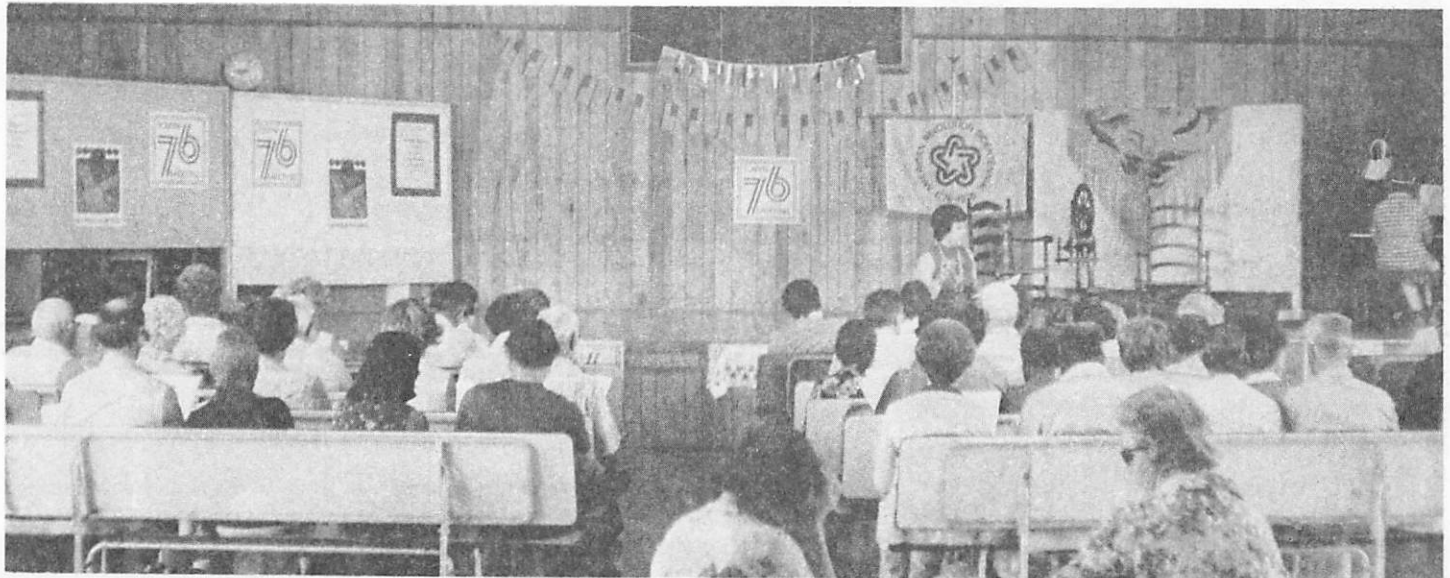
Three of the workshop groups plunge into an exciting afternoon session to develop practical proposals for meeting the challenges in their community.

The fourth workshop group creates a new story, song, and symbol of the community's heritage and destiny.

At 4:00 p.m. the 4 workshop groups gather at the Plenary session and hear the workshop reports. The day's accomplishments are celebrated by singing the newly-written song. At 5:00 p.m. each participant receives a copy of the Town Meeting Report, containing their community's challenges, proposals, story, song, and symbol. The Town Meeting Day is ended-- the community leaves with a renewed sense of the American Revolutionary spirit.



In the afternoon proposing solutions is a lively experience for 'our town'.



SERIOUS PLANNING



Everybody got a copy of the day's work to take home.



Addressograph Multilith has supported Town Meeting '76 throughout Illinois and the nation by printing Town Meeting documents on their portable press.

FOCUSES THE FUTURE

"How can you possibly bring those people together in the same meeting and get anything done?" High School students and older people are not doing the same thing and they have nothing in common so you could not bring them together. Those are familiar phrases before the Town Meeting. But do you know what happened? They came together in the Town Meeting, found they could work together and now we have a new comm-UNITY.

IRVING PARK November 15, 1976

Each and every one of us has our own specific ideas or opinions about what is needed in our community to help make it a better place in which to live. Yet we're afraid to speak out, or don't know how or where to express those opinions. This Saturday, is the opportunity to speak your mind.... a great opportunity to sit down with your neighbors and officials and talk things about things that are important to you.

ELK GROVE VILLAGE March 13, 1976

Town Meeting '76 came to Harvey and swept away the myth of apathy. Citizens from across the community— young and old, black and white— looked at the issues confronting the community and the world and created concrete constructive proposals. The prevailing opinion as a result of the day long event was "We can do something! Not just the politicians, the established leaders, but ME, an ordinary citizen has ideas and can act to improve Harvey and the world."

HARVEY March 13, 1976

Tired of griping or aimless discussions? In Town Meeting your insights are honored and given positive direction.

MUNDELEIN TOWN MEETING November 15, 1975

Fellow citizens, we cannot escape history. We will be remembered in spite of ourselves, no personal significance or insignificance can spare one or another of us, the fiery trial through which we pass, will light us down in honor or dishonor to the latest generation.

LINCOLN

If you intend to go to work, there is no better place than right where you are. If you do not intend to go to work you cannot get along anywhere.

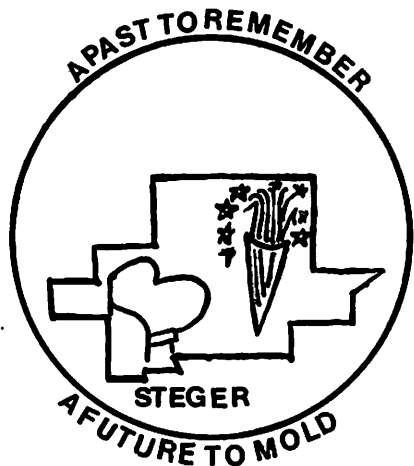
LINCOLN

THE COMMUNITY CELE



I must care for the whole nation, but I hope it will be no injustice to any other state for me to indulge a little home pride, that Illinois does not disappoint us.

LINCOLN



THE NEW SONG
March 27, 1976
QUINCY
tune: "In The Good Old Summer Time"

In the good old river town,
It's our home that we have found.
The bluffs were near, they drew us here
To the rolling plains abound.

The dogwood tree, the industry,
Our fields are standing tall.
Our colleges and friendships here
Are calling to us all.

In the good old river town,
It's our home that we have found.
The bluffs were near, they drew us here
To the rolling plains abound.

Beneath the sky the warm sunshine,
Four seasons, bring us joys.
It's time again, let's build this land
For our future girls and boys.

In this good old Quincy town,
It's our home that we have found.
The river's near we love it here.
Where the rolling plains abound!

THE CHILDREN'S SONG
March 27, 1976
OAK PARK
tune: "The Coke Song"



Verse:
Oak Park is great, It should be known
It's plain for all to see
The people share and really care
Whoever you may be

Refrain:
Oak Park's for all, It's for you and me
So Come and see, It's the place to be

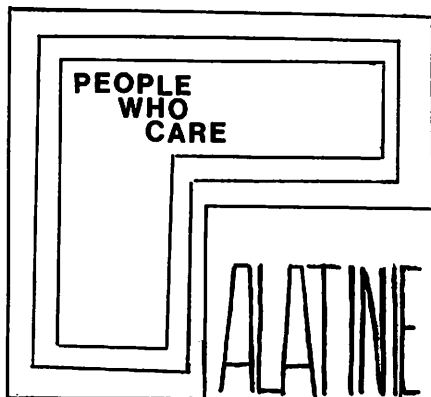
Verse:
We've parks and schools and swimming pools
and elders bright and gay
The future is now, it is today
Oak Park will show the way

Refrain:
Oak Park's for all, It's for you and me
So come and see, It's the place to be.

BRATES IT'S CREATIVITY



UNITING

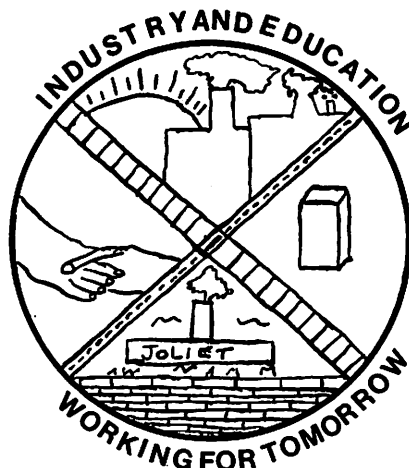
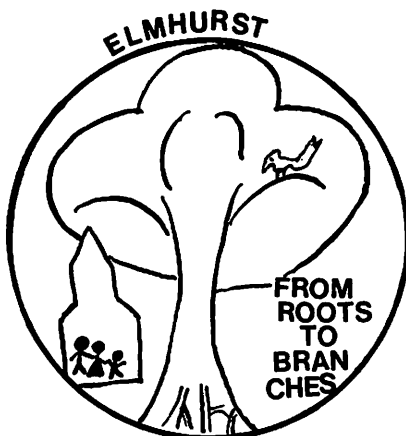


THE NEW STORY October 18, 1975 CHICAGO HEIGHTS

In Chicago Heights, wheels have always been turning; from wheels of covered wagons on Old Sauk Trails to the wheels of industry turning out products for our nation. From Trails to expressways, from fields, to factories, from cabin to home, we became the hub of the nation.

The cross roads of the nation has brought a cross section of varied people resulting in a city of progress and unlimited opportunities, education, religion, and the freedom to pursue one's chosen livelihood.

Through complete citizen participation each of us holds a key that opens the door to greater heights. Let our city keep pace with the growth of our nation.



WORKSHOPS DETER

CHALLENGES

PEOPLE FEELING HELPLESS TO AFFECT SYSTEM: *In the arena of economic commonality the following blocks: public apathy, absentee ownership, and over soliciting indicates the underlying contradiction of wanting better cultural and political systems but not willing to pay the cost. This is illustrated by the fact that we have no cultural center, no permanent airport, no central transportation center and a deteriorating downtown.*

JOLIET
March 27, 1976

MORTON
May 1, 1976

NO RELEVANT ROLE IN DECISION MAKING: *In the arena of cultural commonality the fact that people don't feel they have any power to change things indicates that the underlying contradiction is illustrated by poor attendance at village board meetings, small turn out at elections and leaving decisions to a committee.*

ECONOMIC WASTE: *In the arena of economic commonality the underlying challenge is over consumption of natural resources and improper use of economic and human resources which has to do with economic, political and cultural priorities.*

MUNDELEIN
November 22, 1975

PALATINE
February 28, 1976

FINANCIAL DISTRIBUTION: *In the arena of distribution of resources, the blocks of taxation, community demand and economic conditions indicate the underlying contradiction is that excessive demands on existing revenues create poor financial management. This is illustrated by neglect of certain segments of the community, i.e. cultural, and lack of new forms of revenue.*

CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT: *In the arena of home, community and cultural environment the following blocks; apathy, isolation, external pressure, indicate the underlying contradiction is non-judgemental acceptance, determining priorities, and taking action. This is illustrated by community pride through home, family, neighborhood, church, organizations, and politics.*

PARK RIDGE
April 24, 1976

STEPHENSON COUNTY
February 14, 1976

IMPROVE SELF-IMAGE: *In the arena of personal esteem and faced with general apathy, the present challenge is to deal with negative attitudes as seen in disrespect, lack of involvement, vandalism and voter apathy.*

MINE THE PLANS

PROPOSALS

ECONOMIC DIGNITY: We the Citizens of Uptown:Chicago in order to have jobs for additional income propose to aid and supplement the income of the elderly and youth who ant to work through an unemployment newspaper, community agencies, and communtiy aid.

UPTOWN

UPTOWN
March 13, 1976

March 13, 1976

ARTHUR
February 28, 1976

INFORMATION DIRECTORY: We the Citizens of Arthur in order to educate the townspeople and new comers propose the preparation of a directory through the formation of a committee, to prepare material for Town Council approval and publication. This will be available at the Arthur Tourist Center.

GRASSROOTS PARTICIPATION: We the Citizens of Elk Grove Village, in order to have responsible government and active citizenry, propose the formation of neighborhood associations through finding interested neighborhood people, block parties, setting of common goals, and local newsletters.

ELK GROVE VILLAGE
March 20, 1976

**HOFFMAN ESTATES
& SCHAUMBURG**
March 20, 1976

RECREATION: We the Citizens of Hoffman Estates and Schaumburg in order to increase recreational facilities to reach the needs of the entire community propose establishing bike routes, create non-assignable recreational areas, and also establish existing areas to be used as multi-purpose cultural centers through a joint effort between parks, schools, and local government to better utilize existing facilities for community recreation.

ECONOMIC SELF-HELP: We the Citizens of Elmhurst in order to cooperatively and creatively save money and share skills propose to form necessary groups and support those already involved in implementing these intents: creating community gardens, a barter system of skills, to spend less money, benefits to self help, discount cards for cash payers, make a community market, create a shopping mall based on others experience and make a buying co-operative.

ELMHURST
May 1, 1976

BOLINGBROOK
April 24, 1976

INDUSTRY FOR BOLINGBROOK: We the Citizens of Bolingbrook in order to encourage industry into our community propose to offer tax breaks to selective companies, improve highway and transporation systems, lower water rates and sewage rates, and advertise to industry through an Industry Relations Board.

TOWN MEETINGS

URBAN

Morgan Park
Irving Park
East Chicago Heights
Uptown
East Side
Quincy
Joliet

6/6/75
11/15/75
3/13/76
3/13/76
3/20/76
3/27/76
3/27/76

SUBURBAN

Chicago Heights
Hazelcrest
Mundelein
Maywood
Palatine
Elk Grove Village
Harvey
Schaumburg/Hoffman Estates
South Holland
Oak Park
Steger
Bolingbrook
Park Ridge
Morton
Elmhurst
Itaska
Arlington Heights
Addison
Evanston

10/18/75
11/15/75
11/15/75
1/17/76
2/28/76
3/6/76
3/13/76
3/20/76
3/20/76
3/27/76
4/3/76
4/24/76
4/24/76
5/1/76
5/1/76
5/1/76
5/22/76
5/22/76
11/20/76

RURAL

Stephenson County
Harrisburg
Arthur
Carbondale
Yorkville
McLean County
Pekin

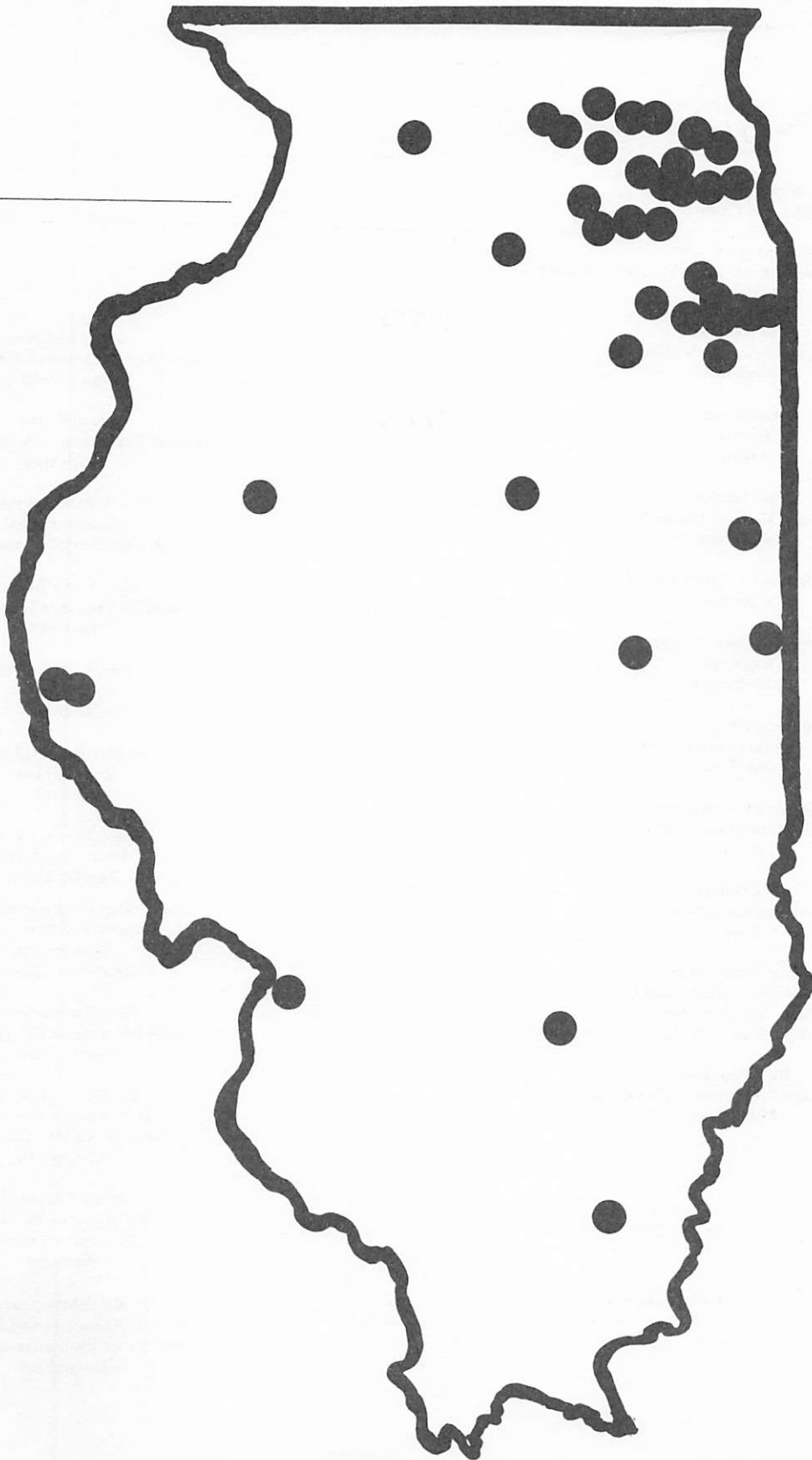
2/14/76
2/14/76
2/28/76
3/27/76
5/1/76
3/27/76
6/12/76

SPECIAL FOCUS

Youth-Fifth City
Fifth City C.I.F.
American Association of Homes for the Aging
Quincy C.I.F.
East St. Louis C.I.F.

6/24/76
7/24/76
9/14/76
9/15/76
11/23/76

IN ILLINOIS



REPRESENTATIVE STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Robert Black, Jaycees
Black Heat and Cooling Co.
Danville**

**John Brown, Farm Bureau
McLean County**

**Dr. Vincent Brown
Robert R. McCormick Boys Club, Program Director
Uptown**

**Alice Buckley
League of Women Voters
Mundelein**

**Bruce Condill
farmer
Arthur**

**Paul Denise
Southern Illinois University
Carbondale**

**Joseph Denkin, City Council
Carbondale**

**James Geschke, Jaycees
engineer
Bolingbrook**

**Redd Griffin, teacher
Bicentennial Commission
Oak Park**

**Barbara Hershberger
Church Women United
Harvey**

**Lyn Howard
Bicentennial Commission
Pekin**

**Richard Hucker
Bicentennial Commission
Bank Vice-President
East Side:Chicago**

**Rev. Paul Key
Kirk of the Lake Presbyterian Church, pastor
Mundelein**

**Jerry McClean
Chamber of Commerce, President
Chicago Heights**

**Jerri Parish
Cooperative Extensions, University of Illinois
Harrisburg**

**Terry Parke, Rotary
Insurance agent
Hoffman Estates/Schaumburg**

**Rev. Larry Rezash
Yorkville Congregational, pastor
Yorkville**

**Mrs. L.V. Runels
teacher
Quincy**

**Robert Runels, Lions
Equifax, Inc.
Quincy**

**John Sanders, Jaycees
Insurance Agent
East St. Louis**

**Glen Schwendiman
Bicentennial Commission
Microswitch
Stephenson County**

**Rev. George Short
United Methodist Church, pastor
East St. Louis**

**Dr. Robert Spencer
Office of the President
Sangamon State University
Springfield**

**LeRoy Thanepohn
City of Yorkville, Mayor
Furniture Retailer
Yorkville**

**Randall Witter, Jaycees
Illinois Association of Realtors
Director of Legislative Activities
Springfield**

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Joliet Federal Savings and Loan
K-Mart
Kemlite Corporation
Kentucky Fried Chicken
MacDonalds
Moist Desserts and Pastries
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Peperidge Farm
Peter Offset Press
Pizza Hut
Robert Pilcher Paper Co.
Sears & Roebuck Co.
State Farm Insurance
Seven-up Bottling Company
Sir Speedy
Union Oil'76
Xerox
Zayre's

TOWN MEETING'76 was developed for the American people by the Institute of Cultural Affairs, a not-for-profit research, demonstration and training group concerned with the human factor in world development. The ICA staff and consultants in 47 American cities work with local sponsoring groups to coordinate program development and provide resources, training and follow-up services upon request. For further information, contact ICA.

ICA The Institute of Cultural Affairs

*410 South Trumbull Street, Chicago, Illinois 60624
444 West Second Street, Peoria, Illinois 61605
1840 Hogan Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63106*