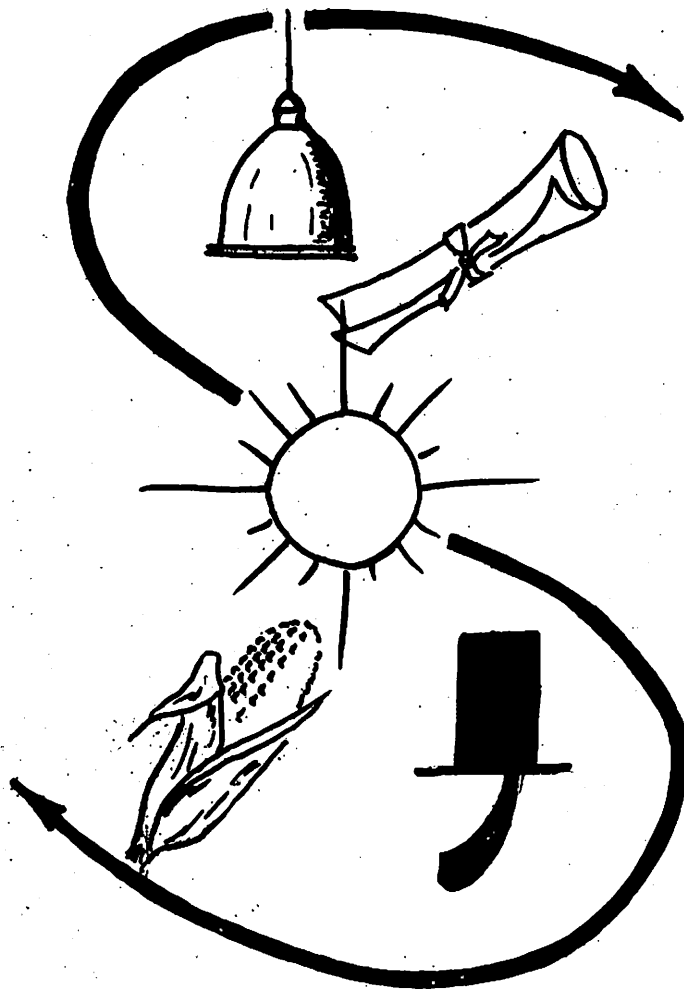


Springfield Area Town Meeting 1977



"CHALLENGE 1999!"

Springfield, Illinois



*"Pioneering a brighter future
in the Spirit of our illustrious past."*

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

APRIL 23, 1977

SPRINGFIELD AREA TOWN MEETING

Schedule

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Registration

9:30 AM

Call Town Meeting Into Being

Welcome. Dr. Edwin Lee

Keynote Speaker. President Robert C. Spencer

10:15 AM

Morning Context

New World. Ron Kelder

10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

The Challenges Workshops 1, 2, 3, 4

12:30 - 1:15 PM

Lunch

1:15 - 1:30 PM

Entertainment

1:30 - 1:45 PM

Afternoon Context

New Citizen. Carol Walters

2:00 - 4:00 PM

Workshops in Session

1. Economic Proposals. Ruppert Borgsmiller, Homer
Butler, Carol Goode

2. Political Proposals Neil Davidson, Leona Demons,
Mike Collins

3. Cultural Proposals. Tom Ketchum, Roselyn Wallace

4. Symbol Workshop Frances Barrow, Tony Lebne,
Mara Lee Lindley

4:00 - 5:00 PM

Plenary Session

Workshops 1, 2, 3, 4

Reflections

Toasting the Future

Distribution of Reports to Each Member

SPRINGFIELD, WE SING

(Tune: "America")

My Springfield tis of thee
Honor we hope for thee,
To thee we sing.
Town where our fathers died
Land with pioneers pride
From every hillside,
Let your name ring.

You gave us Lincoln's fame
You gave us Lindsay's name
And Lewis too.
Early farm settlement
Home of State Government
From eighteen thirty seven sent
To this day anew.

We dream great things for you
Born out in work we do
Springfield we sing.
Schools, housing, jobs for all
Arts, culture, dreams that call
Help us to stand up tall
Springfield we sing.

APRIL 23, 1977

SPRINGFIELD AREA TOWN MEETING

THE SPRINGFIELD CHALLENGE

Here standing before us I submit to this Town Meeting the past achievements, present struggles, and future dreams of the City of Springfield. Brought about by the determination and spirit of Springfield's first citizen, Abraham Lincoln, our town was given life by its adoption as Illinois' present capitol. It is this same determination and spirit which has been reflected in the actions of such famous Springfieldans as John L. Lewis, Vachel Lindsay, and Willis Spaulding that has made this city great. Springfield's heritage is a composite of a long list of accomplishments. In the past we have witnessed the foundation of the NAACP, the formation of the Cooperative League of the USA, the development of a Central Illinois Coal Mining Industry, and the realization of the midwest as America's Breadbasket. Today in its credits Springfield is considered a center for education, medicine, insurance and government.

Today the city struggles to maintain its proud heritage. The issues facing Springfield today are those which face all urban areas of America. Springfield is struggling to continue to provide the traditional services of government such as sewers, schools and transportation, while facing the erosion of its tax base due to the continued migration of its population to more rural settings. The city is also striving to provide an atmosphere which will encourage the retention of existing industry and its expansion in order to provide a balanced economic base. The form of government itself is being questioned in a search for a structure which will provide equitable involvement of all residents in decisions which will shape their future. Finally, a land use policy is being developed which will affect the balance of Springfield's heritage and the new residential and commercial development which is occurring.

Let this Town Meeting propose a challenge to Springfield to revive the same determination and spirit that our forefathers possessed, enabling us to move forward with greater community involvement to make our city a center of cultural greatness.

ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

APRIL 23, 1977

SPRINGFIELD AREA TOWN MEETING

Lack of Interest

In the arena of economic commonality the fact that fear of higher taxes and limited land ownership indicates that the underlying contradiction is self interest and apathy.

This contradiction is illustrated by attendance at important governmental functions being limited to those with direct personal rather than community interests; (i.e., school board vote budget hearing).

Guild 1

Concentration of Economic Power

In the arena of economic commonality the fact that there is a lack of desire for change, and government interference in the economic process indicates that the underlying contradiction is the concentration of power in the hands of a few people and groups.

This contradiction is illustrated by the commonality of people in corporate and community boards, commissions and other control groups.

Guild 2

Responsible Leadership

In the arena of common distribution the fact that special interests are served; there is a lack of long range planning; there are non-responsible leaders; and there is an unclear priority of tax dollar allocation indicates that the underlying contradiction is that community leaders don't exhibit responsible leadership; show an unwillingness to plan beyond their own terms in office and show favoritism to special interest groups.

This contradiction is illustrated by segregated neighborhoods, development of outlying areas, the number of court cases our local governments are engaged in because of lack of planning.

Guild 3

Economic Cooperation

In the arena of equitable economic growth the fact that lack of full employment and the erosion of the tax base indicates that the underlying contradiction is that government and the private sector are working at cross purposes.

This contradiction is illustrated by the convention center.

Guild 4

Political Challenges

Springfield Area Town Meeting '77

March 23, 1977

PREVENTION OF CRIME

In the arena of corporate order, the fact that we have inadequate punishment for convicted criminals due to the Judicial irresponsibility, indicates that the underlying contradiction is the lack of public participation due to the fear of reprisal. This contradiction is illustrated by recent major disturbances and injuries within the Springfield School system.

Guild 1

POSITIVE LEADERSHIP LOST

In the arena of corporate justice, the fact that there are no long range annexation policies, nor planned neighborhood informational meetings, lenient sentences for convicted criminals, and a crowded court system, indicates that the underlying contradiction is that people have lost faith in their elected leaders. This contradiction is illustrated by owner of land unable to find out about future plans for his land, criminal out on bail committing additional crimes while his case is tied up in clogged courts, and people use our free systems to defeat this system rather than helping to make it work.

Guild 1

No Adequate Reward System for Public Service

In the arena of Political & Governmental life in Springfield, the fact that the lack of citizen education/motivation and the lack of entry level positions for involvement by persons from all strata and sections for the community, indicates that the underlying contradiction is we fail to allocate time and resources for community needs. This contradiction is illustrated by concentration of leadership among the few.

Guild 2

UNDERSTANDING & INVOLVEMENT

In the arena of Political commonality the fact that people are apathetic, indicates that the underlying contradiction is lack of proper education. This contradiction is illustrated by lack of participation and leadership in government and community affairs.

Guild 3

POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT

In the arena of Political decision making, the fact that people fear centralized government and loss of individuality, indicates that the underlying contradiction is persons don't want to lose their individuality but feel insignificant as an individual. This contradiction is illustrated by non-participation in decision making.

Guild 4

RENEWAL OF INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY AND COMMITMENT

In the arena of political, the fact that political parties have unrealistic goals and do not solve the peoples problems, indicates that the underlying contradiction

Political Challenges

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is too many people look to the government to solve all their problems and yet they do not participate in their civic duties. This contradiction is illustrated by the poor voter turn out during the recent local election for the school board and township elections.

Guild 4

APATHY TOWARD MAN

In the arena of communal wisdom the fact that apathy toward man, based on fear and individual selfishness indicates that the underlying contradiction is mistrust of our fellow man. This contradiction is illustrated by a higher increase in crime.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY

In the arena of cultural and social issues the fact that the individual has no power to affect ones own life, society leads people to become apathetic and not involved in community agencies, the fear of change and the distrust of the political-economic system indicates that the underlying contradiction is that the educational system is not broad enough to provide the services necessary to foster cultural diversification among the citizenry. This contradiction is illustrated by limited support for the fine arts, and non-tolerance of other life styles and people.

INSENSITIVITY, APATHY AND POWER

In the arena of communal wisdom the fact that apathy, social stratification, boundary restrictions, lack of foresight and insensitivity indicates that the underlying contradiction is power in too few hands. This contradiction is illustrated by special interest groups and one newspaper.

TRUST AND UNDERSTANDING

In the arena of social structure the fact that too few decision makers creates apathy among others and this leads to a lack of incentive which indicates that the underlying contradiction is a lack of trust and understanding. This contradiction is illustrated by ill feelings toward most state workers.

LACK OF COMMITMENT TO FELLOW MAN

In the arena of cultural commonality the fact that society has failed to live up to its moral commitment indicates that the underlying contradiction is a lack of action in identified areas of concern. This contradiction is illustrated by the Desegregation Suit, the lack of equal minority employment access and upward mobility.

POWERLESS CITIZENRY

In the arena of community involvement the fact that the size and complexity of society creates feelings of apathy and impotence indicating that the underlying contradiction is the lack of a common focus in society. This contradiction is illustrated by the failure of the family unit and other social and religious institutions.

GOVERNMENTAL REGULATIONS REDUCTIONS

We the citizens of Springfield, Illinois in order to gain more freedom to operate on an individual basis, propose lobbying for reduction of government regulations through public petitions, forums, public informational literature and letters to legislators.

RE-ENTRY OF THE GRASS ROOTS

We the citizens of Springfield, Illinois in order to upgrade the quality of public officials and return decision making to the general public, propose that we require voters to be informed on the subjects they are voting on through attendance at informational meetings where printed information will be available; that requirements equal to the responsibilities of elected office be established and that annual accountability sessions be held by the officials, through-requiring monthly informational meetings be held with information being presented in depth. Develop a list of the basic requirements for each elected office and change state and local laws to require compliance with these requirements.

REDEDICATION IN EDUCATION

We the citizens of Springfield, Illinois in order to further educate Springfield citizens in vocational, basic and government training, propose a balanced educational concept between the vocational training with the basic 3 R's and a mandated complete practical government education through:

1. Formulating a plan of action listing our objectives at all levels of learning
2. Generating support with the public, parents, teachers and students
3. Submitting a plan with support to Springfield School Board for approval
4. Following through with implementation of plan in the Springfield school system.

INCLUSION THROUGH INTER-ACTION

We the citizens of Springfield, Illinois in order to eliminate institutionalized racism and discrimination and provide a sense of belonging to all ethnic minorities, blacks and women, propose heighten racial interaction through self re-evaluation and implementing a plan of positive direct action, ie. church, P.T.A., schools and jobs.

PROPOSALS FOR THE
POLITICAL CHALLENGES

APRIL 23, 1977

SPRINGFIELD AREA TOWN MEETING

Community Justice

We the citizens of the Springfield community in order to provide for more personal freedom in our personal lives and free the police for serious crimes propose that we de-emphasize police activity on "victimless" crimes through presenting a proposal to City Council to de-criminalize certain acts (such as marijuana, co-habitation, prostitution, gambling).

Guild 2

Community Justice

We the citizens of Sangamon County, Springfield, Illinois, in order to develop clearer guidelines for punishment, corrective action and rehabilitation for those who have committed serious crimes, propose to provide counseling services for those in prison, modernize the physical facilities in the prisons, and use the services of the prisoners in maintaining sanitary conditions within the prisons through restructuring the institutions and providing more education in the areas of crime prevention and criminal justice.

Guild 2

Active and Informed Electorate

We the citizens of the Springfield community, in order to develop a more active and informed electorate propose the development of more objective, competitive and alternate media sources through encouraging and supporting the establishment of alternative news (media) outlets and to guarantee public access to present alternative opinions at prime exposure.

Guild 2

Access to Elected Officials

We the citizens of the Springfield area, in order to increase opportunities for participation in the political process propose to inform people that they can reach most elected officials by phone or letter through TV, radio or newspaper public service ads, announcements by the officials themselves, and personal testimony to that fact.

Guild 2

Political Responsiveness

We the citizens of the Springfield area, in order to increase opportunities for participation in the political process propose to increase official responsiveness and accessibility through the re-establishment of the patronage system.

Guild 2

PROPOSALS
THE CULTURAL CHALLENGES
GUILD C

Springfield Town Meeting

April 23, 1977

NEIGHBORHOOD COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL

We the citizens of Springfield, in order to insure the proper and equal participation of the people in a local unit of government propose the establishment of a Neighborhood Action Community Council through creation of homogenous interest areas for the purpose of expressing and defining the desires of that area represented; also to include the creation of the aldermanic form of government as a vehicle to complement those areas.

COMBATting POWER OF APATHY

We the citizens of Springfield, in order to have a complete plan before starting a project, funding included, propose public meeting through which citizens would elect and fund a task force and mandate it to research all possible project effects upon the people in project area. Task Force accountability would be guaranteed through a series of meetings by the public.

INDIVIDUAL COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION

We the citizens of Springfield, in order to promote a better understanding between the individual and the government unit and faster cultural education propose a reorganization of the government unit and re-emphasis upon cultural enrichment through a popular referendum or governmental re-organization and financing for cultural education programs.

STRENGTHENING THE FAMILY UNIT

We the citizens of Springfield, in order to encourage people to maintain independent households (for example - elderly) propose city-rent subsidy, home-maker service, meals program, encourage welfare fathers to stay at home through forming a citizens organization to: lobby city, state and federal government and to get volunteers to raise funds for the above services.

Ideas for Springfield
From Dubois School Fifth Grade...

"I would like to see more historical sights and more recreation areas. Because of historical sights I love history. I am a tomboy and would like to see more places us kids could go swimming and baseball diamonds"

Diane Setter

"I want more railroads but in a different place."

John Palmer

"I, and most of the kids in my class, would like a skateboard park."

John Melkoday

"I think we, Springfield, should make up a baseball team like the Springfield Scarlets"...

Mark Ivy

"I would like to see more recreation things for children and families that are out of doors"....

Carrie Huntley

"I think that the city needs to have something called Clean-Up-Day so everyone could go out and around the whole city and pick up litter."

Beth Thompson

"I think the people have taken away too much country to build shopping centers or houses."

Sharon Golden

"I think that there should be more parks and recreation areas."

Jeff K.

"I would like to see a major league team of Springfield of The National League."

Tony Mattera

"I would like to see a bigger zoo."

Clarence Walton

Problems Springfield Should Consider

From Sandburg School Fifth Grade

1. **Schools**
 - a. quality of schools
 - b. desegregation
 - c. old buildings
2. **Streets and road improvement**
3. **Downtown shopping**
4. **Rats**
5. **Air pollution**
6. **Strikes and labor relations**
7. **Housing improvements**
8. **Conservation**
 - a. energy
 - b. water
9. **Littering**
10. **Inflation**
11. **Crime**
 - a. robberies
 - b. murders
 - c. shoplifting
 - d. threats
12. **Finances and taxes**
13. **Old buildings**
 - a. put to use
 - b. tear down
14. **Preserving residential neighborhoods**
15. **Airport expansion**
16. **Traffic safety**
17. **Parks**

MORE IDEAS FROM
OUR SCHOOL CHILDREN

APRIL 23, 1977

SPRINGFIELD AREA TOWN MEETING

"My name is Angela Alexander. I'm a student at Lincoln School. I'm in the sixth grade, and I think there should be more and better places for people and children to ride their bikes. In some neighborhoods there are no side walks, so we have to ride in the streets and cars are going too fast and you lose control on the bike. One time a girl was riding her bike and a car came and hit her right off the bike and she had to go to the hospital. I think there should be a better place for us to ride our bikes."

Angela Alexander, 6th grade
Lincoln

"Kids should vote in the Bond Issue."

Commissioner Spencer
Owen Marsh

"Pass a law that all further buildt structures, (houses, buildings, etc.) be specially buildt, sun-heated water, 50% solar power, and strict conservation laws."

Paul J., 5th grade
DuBois

"The students in Mrs. Ganzaks class had a town meeting on housing and other subjects. For housing my recommendations were why are all the poor people at one side of town and why are middle class and upper class at the other end of town. The kids in the class said to spred housing. Thank you for your time."

Rob Miller, 3rd grade
Owen Marsh

"I think there is a big problem with dogs running loose in the streets. They bite people kids and grounups and if they are hungry enough they eat people. I think that you should warn the people and tell them that If they do not obey the warning their dog will be taken away from them and taken to the dog pound or somewhere else. We also need something done about where the cars park. Some park on the edge of the road and when another car coming gets to the corner the person in it can't see around the car parked. If another car is coming there will be a wreck because the other person will go because it didn't see the car coming. I think you should put up a do not park here please sign. Thank you."

Kim Hamilton, 5th grade
Lincoln

MORE IDEAS FROM
OUR SCHOOL CHILDREN

APRIL 23, 1977

SPRINGFIELD AREA TOWN MEETING

"I live on Lake Springfield. I think that Lake Springfield is too dirty."

Laura Giannone, 7th grade
Christ the King

"I think the bus transportation in Springfield should be improved. The buses should stop at more corners more often."

Amy Suhs, 7th grade
Christ the King

"Some friends and I are concerned about all pollution in Springfield. We would like to ask a favor. We would like to suggest to you a clean-up week. Titled: Pollution Sulation Week."

Dawn Ransom

"Bike trails along semi-major highways should be made. Especially along Old Jacksonville Road. It would benifit safe bicycling for both young and old."

Liz Davidson, 6th grade
Owen Marsh

"Don't walk says don't walk too long."

Bonnie Jones, 6th grade
Lincoln

"For parks, we suggest that a park committee comes to parks every five months and fix up broken equipment and clean up area, put in some bath-rooms and also get some police safety also we need bike racks at stores and parks."

Jim Bennett and Sue Colby, 5th grade
Owen Marsh

"We have problems with dogs too. They walk around in packs and sometimes run you down and bite you. Skate boards riders and bike riders need a place to ride."

Paul Smith
Lincoln

"I want to ask you will you please stop building stores and shopping centers. Build some public recreation centers for children who have know place to play. Sir's will you please try and think about children?"

Sidney Evans, 6th grade
Lincoln

"What they need to do is make a skate board ring. In order to ride there they would have to wear crash helmet and knee pads."

Tony Hubbard

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Springfield Area Town Meeting '77

March 23, 1977

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Springfield Area Town Meeting '77

March 23, 1977

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March 23, 1977

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April 23, 1977

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

APRIL 23, 1977

SPRINGFIELD AREA TOWN MEETING

CONTRIBUTORS

Ace Hardware
American Business Club
Barker-Lubin
Buckley Florist
Conn's Catering
Dean Business Equipment Company
A. B. Dick Company
District #186
Franklin Life Insurance Company
Frontiers International
Gary Glisson Realtor
Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce
Illinois Association of Realtors
Illinois Bell Telephone Company
Illinois Trial Lawyers Association
Lincoln Land Community College
Lincoln Land Development Company
Pillsbury Mills
Charles Robbins Realtor
Sangamon State University
Springfield Clearinghouse
Springfield Jaycees
Springfield Junior League
United Way of Springfield and Sangamon County

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Homer Butler
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Leona Demons
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Tom Ketchum
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Mari Lee Lindley
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Hosts: Linda Chronister
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Speaker: Dr. Robert Spencer

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

APRIL 23, 1977

SPRINGFIELD AREA TOWN MEETING

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Co-Coordinator:	Rita Wilson
Co-Coordinator:	Len Dirksen

Facilities/Set-Up:	Charles Matthews
Finance:	Terry Hamilton
Entertainment:	Bruce Stratton
Attendance:	Owen Anderson
Publicity:	Bob Gray

Hosting:	Jim Forstall
Food:	Cort Conn
Children's Program:	Anita Walbaum
Materials/Production:	Floyd Dean
Decorations:	Judy Eveloff