

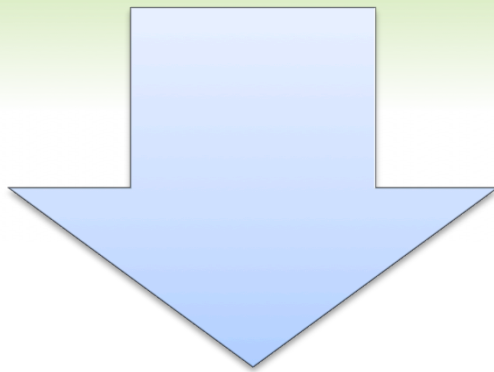
Democracy in Dialogue

Empowering Our Communities
Through Civil Civic Engagement

LWVC Convention 2015



Taking Stock • Looking Forward



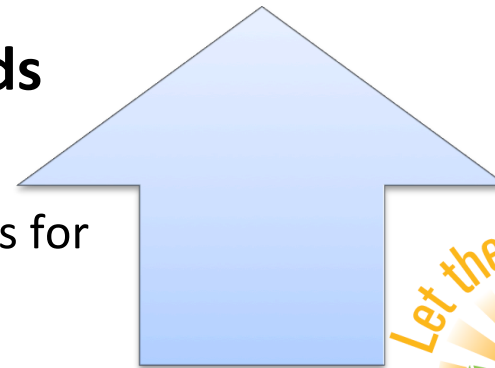
Concerning Trends

- Declining voter turnout
- Citizen distrust
- Declining League membership



Hopeful Trends

- Citizen Activism
- New roles/opportunities for civil society advocates



A New Take on Pros and Cons

Amanda Berg, LWV San Diego

Jeanne Brown, LWV San Diego

Nancy Phung, LWV San Diego

*Jane Susskind, LWV San Diego & Independent Voter Network

* Cannot be with us due to work assignment



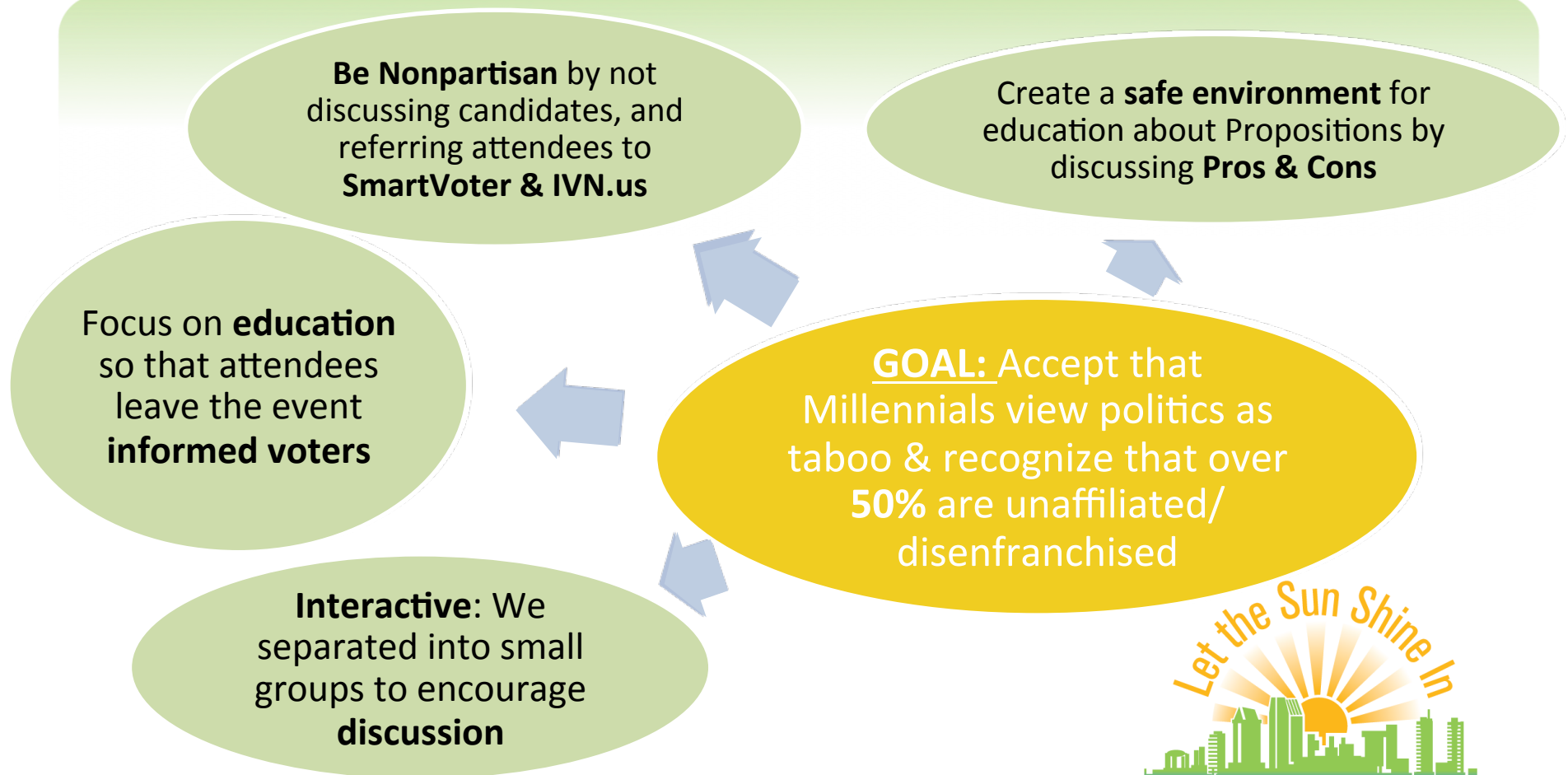
The Informed Voter



LWVC Convention 2015

Democracy in Dialogue Workshop - May 16, 2015

Why 'Sips+Civility' ?



LWVC Convention 2015

How We Did It!

PLANNING

- Think about your **audience**
- Secure a **location**
- Evaluate what would be a good **time**
- **Draw** attendees in with food, beer, & wine

GET THE WORD OUT!

- Create a Facebook event
- Utilize Twitter
- Invite family & friends
- Use an online management platform
- Newsletter

AT THE EVENT

- **Materials:** Articles from IVN & voting materials from LWV
- Enforce an **Etiquette** and remind people by printing our guidelines
- **1 LWV Speaker Bureau Member** per table to facilitate Pros and Cons discussions



LWVC Convention 2015

Looking Forward...

- **Timing**: Make sure the date is not too close to election -- most people vote absentee now!
- **Fundraising**: Start planning the event earlier to maximize fundraising efforts.
- **Make it a series**: Word of mouth will build momentum!

In 2016, how will we stand out from all the other election noise?

Instead of telling people what to think, make it participatory!



Things we want to do next time:

- ❖ Ask people to bring ballots
- ❖ Give people materials beforehand
- ❖ Ask people to compare what they know before and after the event
- ❖ Souvenir!



Like this creative agency did...

One Way To Get More Millennials To Vote? Free Beer

What boring speeches about civic duty can't do, a free craft beer called Ballot and a huge party can.

"If you're a millennial, there's a very good chance you didn't vote in the midterm election. The youngest voters, between ages 18 and 24, made up only 6 percent of the votes cast on November 4."

"Maybe it's time to try something new... and that something new might as well be free beer."



How You Can Do It!

- ☐ Connect with like-minded people first, similar goals, organizations with similar goals.
- ☐ Identify the problem & the audience then set some goals that address those problems.
- ☐ Focus the structure of the event around education using existing material, inclusive discussions, and keeping it informal & fun.
- ☐ Stress that the event is Nonpartisan.
- ☐ Give yourself ample time to plan and schedule your event so that it is relevant to the upcoming election.
- ☐ Get the word out! Share the event with anyone and everyone. Identify people in your targeted audience who may be able to spread the word.

Have fun!



Any Questions?



Democracy in Dialogue Workshop May 16, 2015



Creating Common Ground for Civility in San Luis Obispo

Emily Penfield, LWV SLOCO

Marilee Hyman, LWV SLOCO

Sharon Kimball, LWV SLOCO



League Adopts Civil Discourse as a Top Priority

Year One: Study and adopt position

Year Two: Develop action plan and materials

Year Three: promote civil discourse in community



Government Officials Included

Individual meetings with Supervisors to assess
their views

Supervisors awarded a community grant



Well Received



LWVC Convention 2015

Democracy in Dialogue Workshop - May 16, 2015

LWVC 'How To' Manual

1 of 43

How to Direct A Local Study

League of Women Voters
of California Education Fund



Prepared by Ellen Taylor
LWVC/EF Citizen Education Director
May 2001



LWVC Convention 2015

Scope of Study

ISSUE #1: Define Civil Discourse

ISSUE #2: Clarify study...
New or Update a position?

Also: Compile the Best Practices

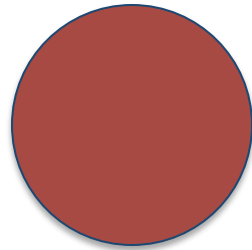


Engage County Participation

Where Do We Begin?



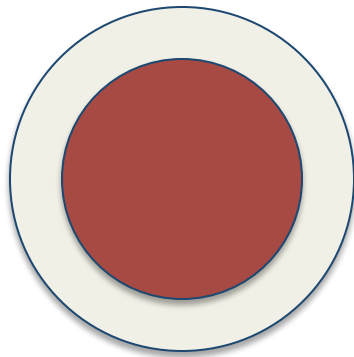
Engage County Participation



5 Board of Supervisors



Engage County Participation



7 City Mayors

5 Board of Supervisors



Engage County Participation



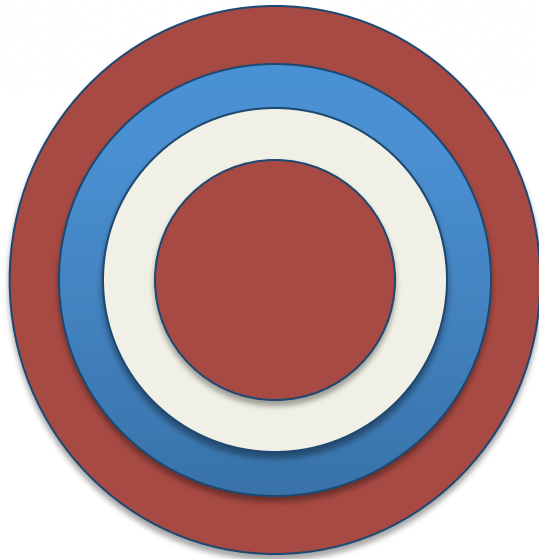
28 City Council Members

7 City Mayors

5 Board of Supervisors



Engage County Participation



4 Countywide Citizen Meetings

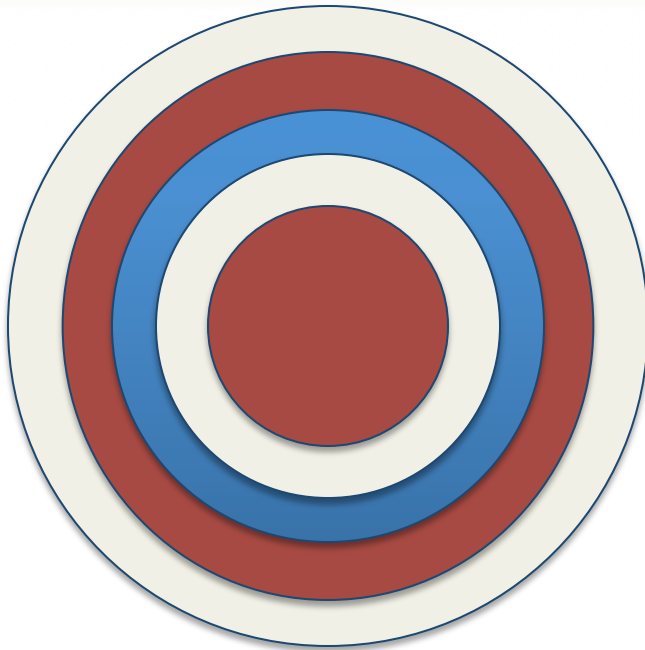
28 City Council Members

7 City Mayors

5 Board of Supervisors



Engage County Participation



6 LWV Consensus Meetings
4 Countywide Citizen Meetings
28 City Council Members
7 City Mayors
5 Board of Supervisors



Engage County Participation



Local Media

6 LWV Consensus Meetings

4 Countywide Citizen Meetings

28 City Council Members

7 City Mayors

5 Board of Supervisors



Updated Government Position

The League supports policies and actions that achieve a responsive and representative government, promote civil discourse, ...

#5. Promote civil discourse through action and education for all government bodies, staff, and citizens for the purpose of improved public policy decisions and processes. Civil discourse means, at a minimum, mutually respectful, courteous, constructive, and orderly communication.



Year Two: Plan For Action

PLAN A BUDGET: \$2500

PRODUCE MATERIALS:

brochure, buttons, stickers

PREPARE FOR 'ROLL-OUT' :

Prepare resolution for Supervisors and Mayors

Write presentation script

Plan for Media

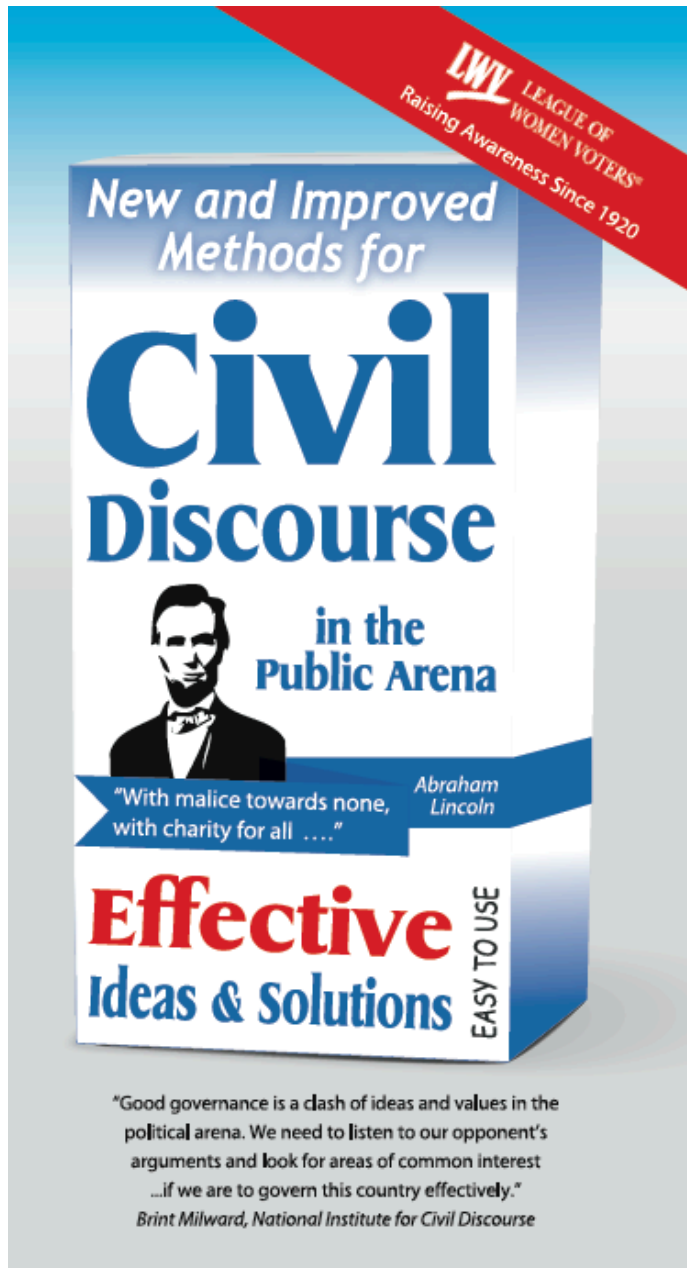
INITIATE ROLL OUT

Board of Supervisors

Mayors



LWVC Convention 2015



New Brochure

We took the best practices and ideas from our study research and designed our own.

Free to the public.



Brochure: Best Practices From Study

- Respect
- Listening
- Leadership



Brochure: Scrubbed clean of controversy



Buttons: Make or Buy?



Year Two: Media Outreach



"We are fans of the League"

"A Change is Coming"



Year Three: Community Action

Ambassadors, Observers,
and Presenters

Other organizations



Creating Democracy Hubs with Academic Institutions

Dr. Kim Quinney, CSU San Marcos, LWVNCSD

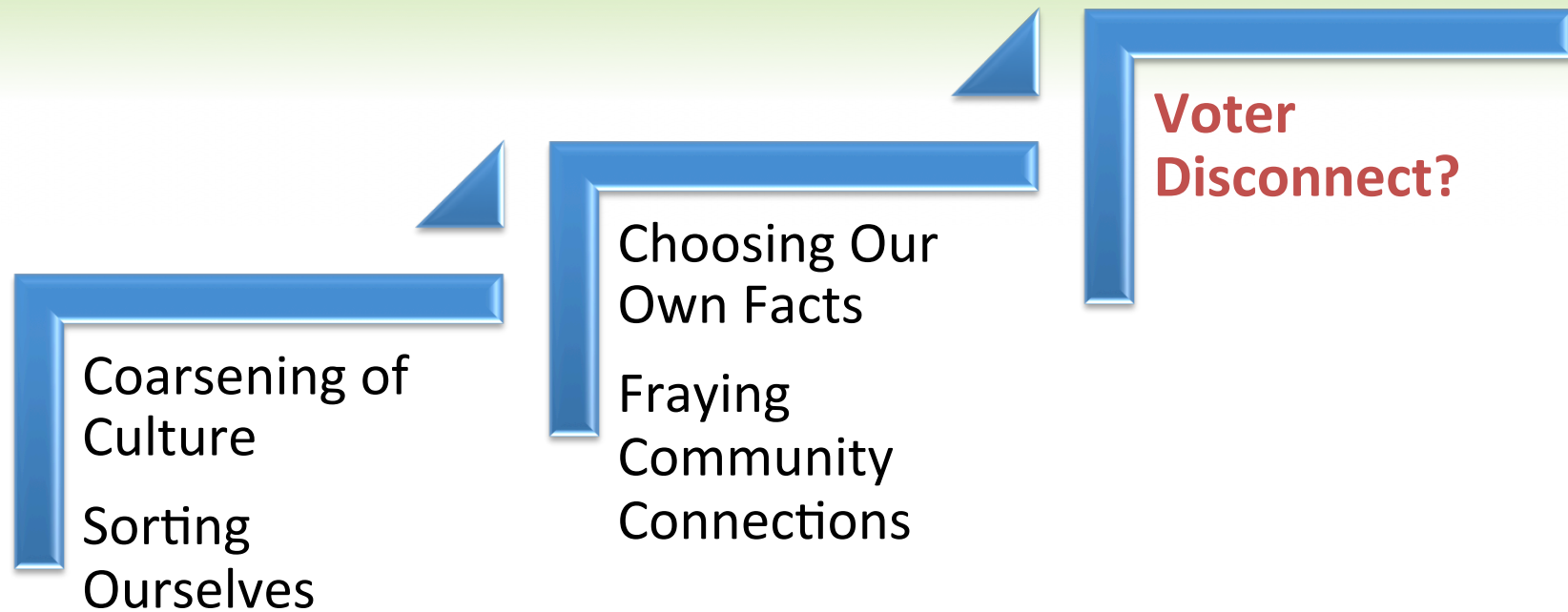
Mary Thompson, LWVNCSD

Martha Cox, LWVNCSD

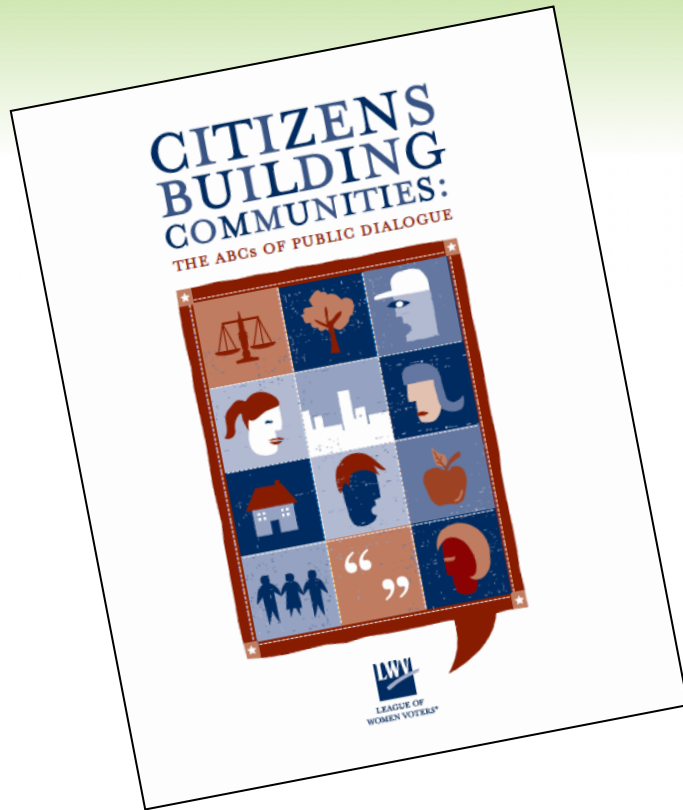
*All are founding members of San Diego
Deliberation Network*



Why Is Everyone So Rude?



League's Trademark: Voter Registration • Voter Education!



How Can We Make a Difference?



The Power of Collective Impact



* Photo taken at Conference of National Coalition for Dialogue and Deliberation in Reston, VA • Oct. 2014

Networking with “Talking Tribes” to Make a Difference!



Problems:

The easy ones have been solved.

**Wicked problems require
inescapable trade-offs.**



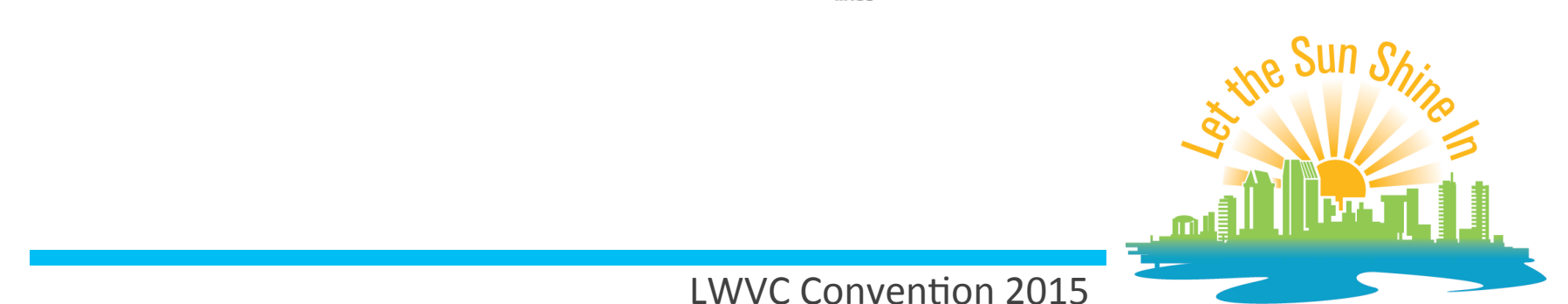
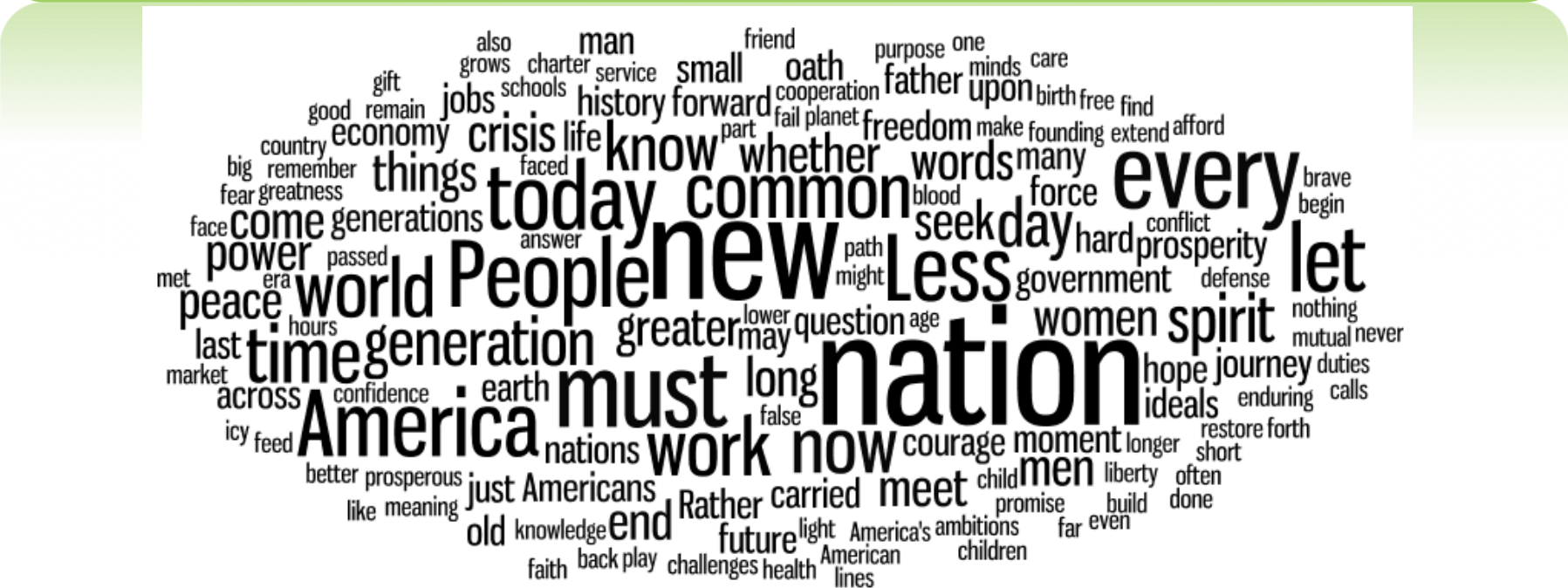
Focus on the Citizen



LWVC Convention 2015

Democracy in Dialogue Workshop - May 16, 2015

A new movement



San Diego Deliberation Network

“The goal behind deliberation is not merely to draw a crowd and fill a room with opinionated people. The purpose is much bigger and more powerful. **When citizens deliberate** about an issue and when a community has a habit of asking citizens to make choices, **the directions** that are chosen often **are better** and they have a legitimacy that simply doesn’t exist otherwise. **Citizens take ownership of problems. They talk about what they can do, not what others ought to do.** They act out of a sense of mission and passion. **Communities in a democracy are healthier when citizens are doing the work of citizens.**” -- *Kettering Foundation*



LWVC Convention 2015

(Student) Citizens Doing the Work of Citizens



Fall 2014 forums to deliberate
substance abuse when preparing
issue guide, *Over the Edge*.



Collaborative Partnerships

SmartVoter Interns 2014



Student Interns came from CSU San Marcos, San Diego State, Point Loma Nazarene and University of San Diego



Training Washington State Communities for Civility

Ann Murphy, League of Women Voters of Washington
Mary Dumas, Dumas & Associates, Inc.



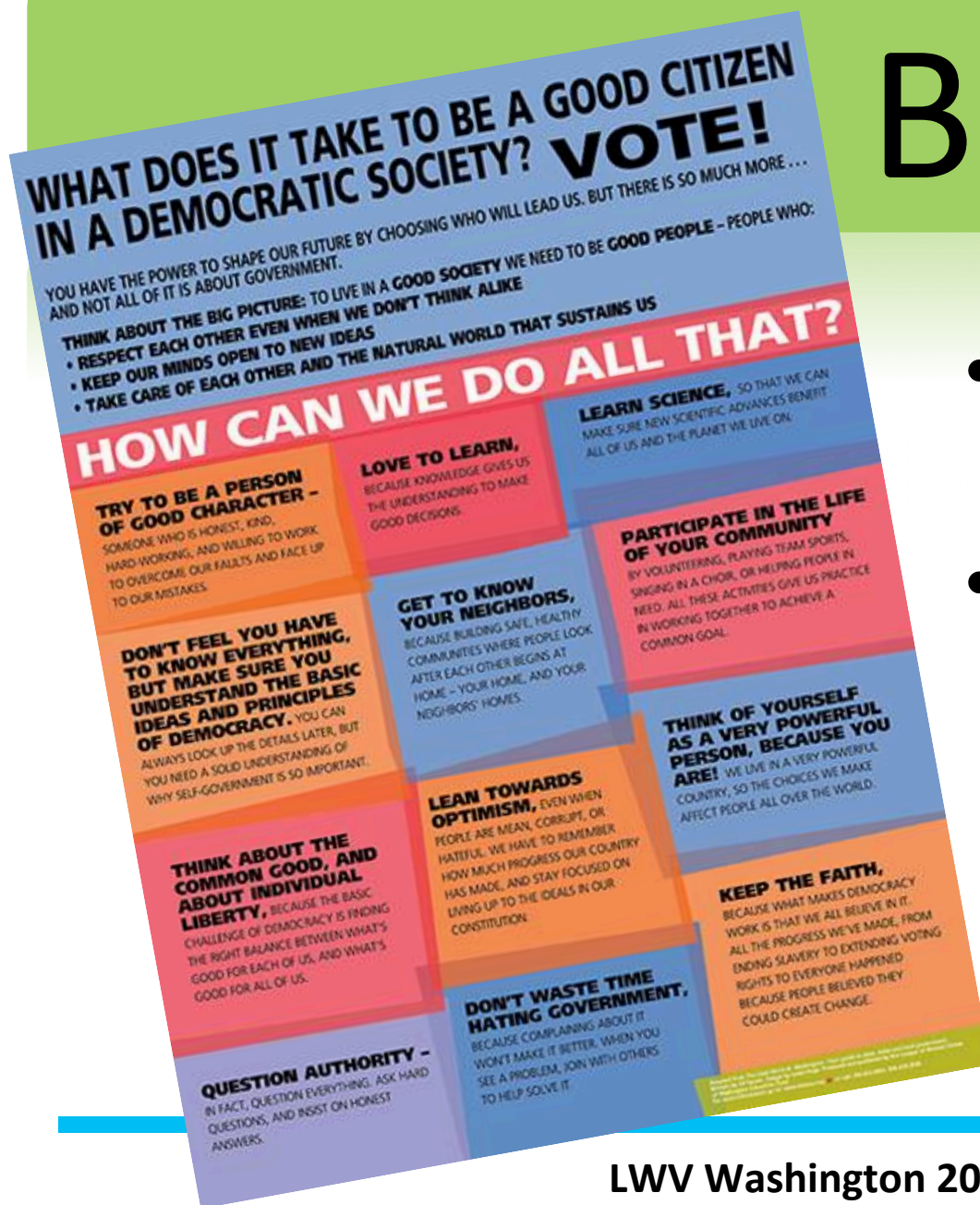
2013 Poverty & Wealth Conversation, a WA Civility In Our Democracy & National Dialogue Network event

LWVC Convention 2015



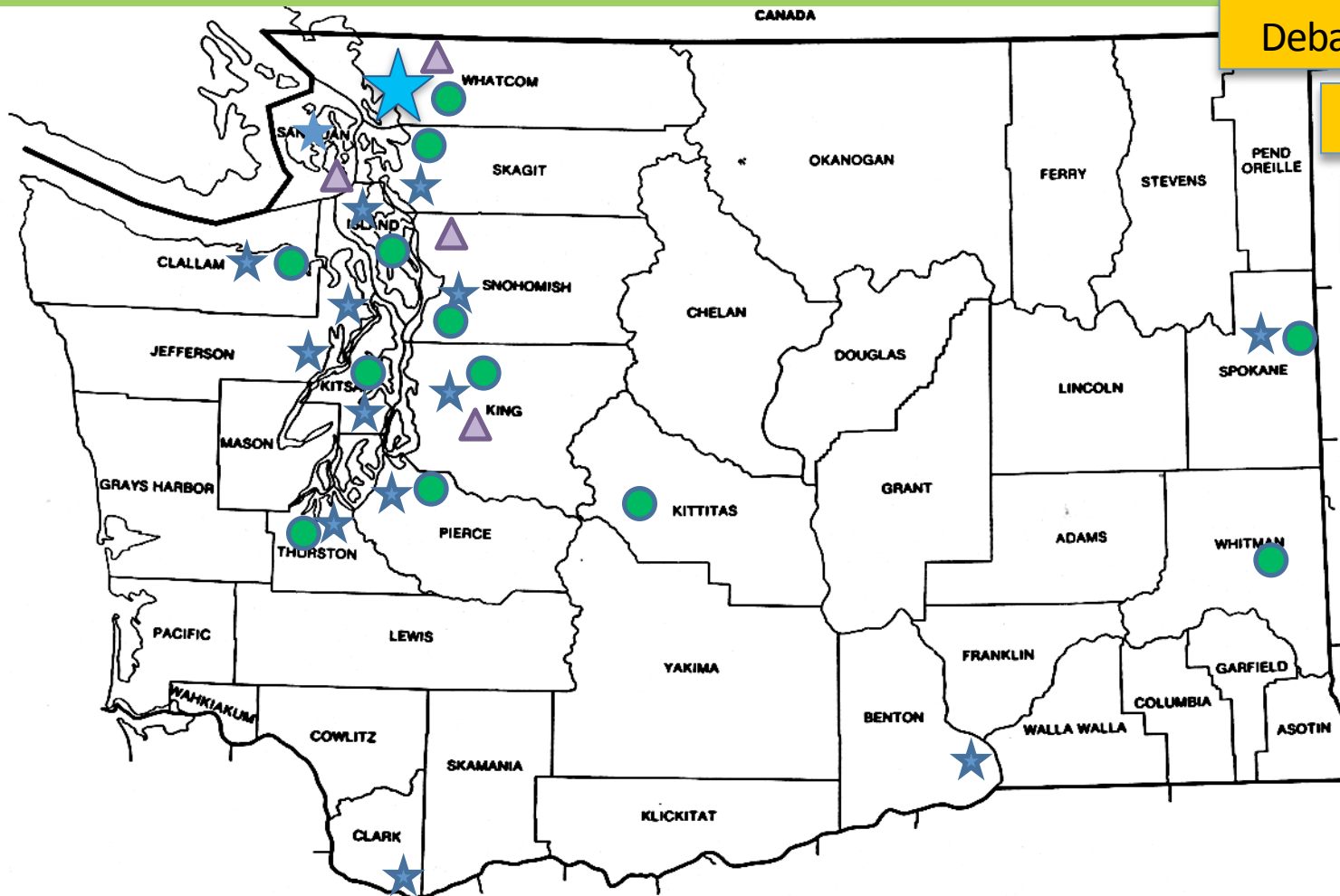
Be Bold!

- Civic education
- Change the public conversation dynamic



LWV Washington 2014 slogan and resources

LWV Washington civility network for:



Debates and forums

Advisory bodies

Observer corps

Transpartisan educational studies

Public forums on LWV studies and hot topics emerging in

2010

2011

2012

2013

2014

- ★ Local ~85
- ★ LWVWA ~38 Council
- ★ Peer Review ~78
- ★ Environ. Public Policy
- ★ LWVWA Convention
- State ~52 Moderator & Introductory
- ▲ Regional-National ~128 Peer Review Tufts Center for Engaged Democracy
- Peer Review ~24 Assoc. for Conflict Resolution (ACR)

What do we mean by civility?

Being civil does not mean being silent.

It does not mean avoiding contentious public issues.

On the contrary, healthy disagreement is central to a robust, flourishing democracy.

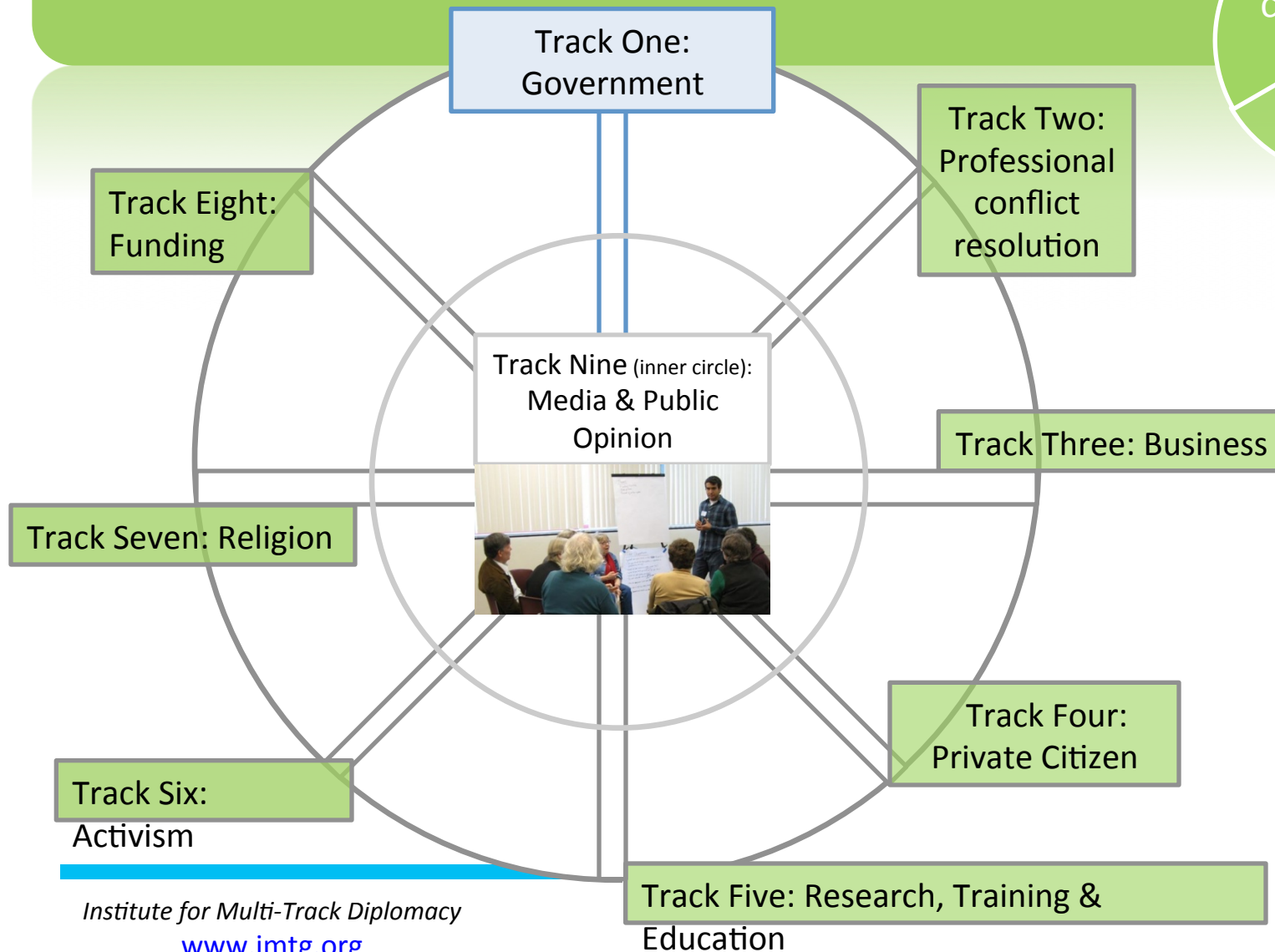
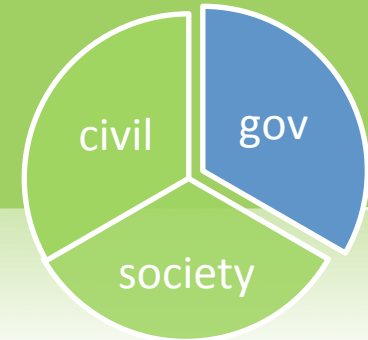
Civil dialogue strengthens policy.

Only by considering all sides is it possible for us to make progress while keeping everyone's dignity and rights intact.

Linnea Hirst & Kim Abel, Co-presidents LWVWA 2012

LWVC Convention 2015

Create pathways to democracy for all

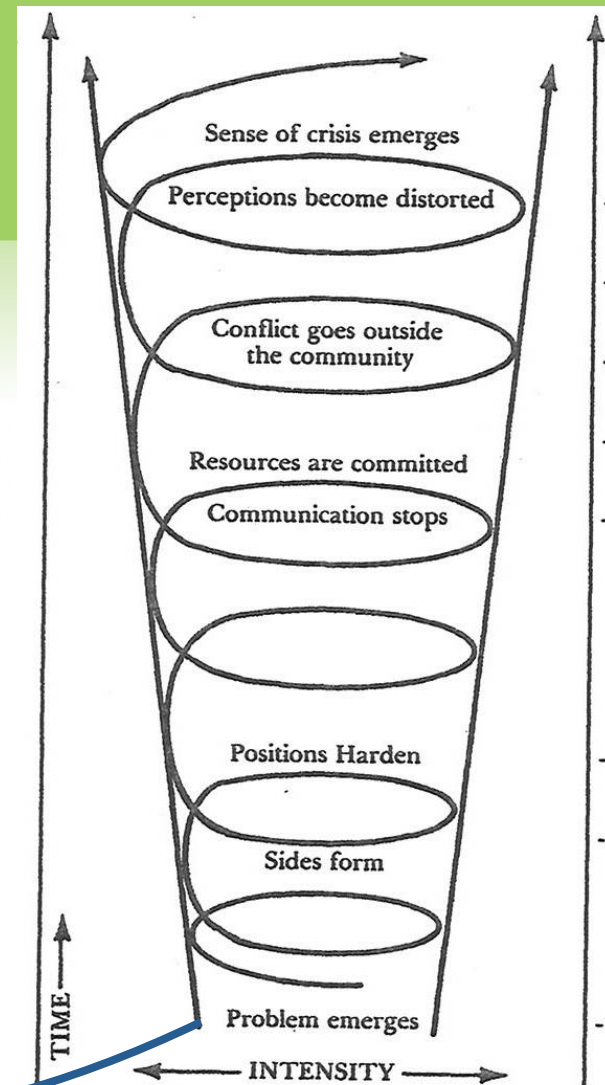


Civil discussions happen
when we are mindful of
available information and
make an effort to bring our
best to the situation

cognitive
information



emotional
information

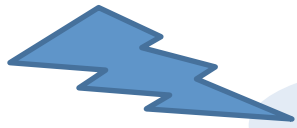


Conflict Spiral

Susan Carpenter, WJD Kennedy 2001

Cycle of strong feelings

Find the balcony



1. Trigger

2. Escalation

3. Crisis

4. Recovery

5. Depression



2010 Hot Topics Workshop a [Bellingham-Whatcom County League of Women Voters](#), [Dumas & Associates, Inc](#) and [Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center](#) event.

*What is one thing I can do to:
--- calm myself down?
--- help others to slow down?*

What is one habit I need to tame?

Training Washington State Communities for Civility

Wrap up Questions and Evaluation

LWVC Convention 2015



Thank you for joining us today!

Let's keep the conversation going:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FJD7ZPQ>

