

## 2019 COMMUNITY OREGON WORLD CAFÉ NOTES

### Community and National Unity

- Teach peace, live peace
- Live up to the Bill of Rights
- Have community conversations/dialogue
- Engage with communities around non-political interests (to build relationship)
- Support leaders and policies and concepts regarding underlying principles on which the U.S. was founded
- Acknowledge past wrongs, i.e., land rights, reparations (giving support of leaders in ways those communities choose)
- Voting
- Support anti-protests (when nationalists protest)
- Get more specific by including social justice and equity in framing, legal documents and legislation
- Avoid the use of extreme language
- Look for opportunities to engage individuals
- Keep track of what is going on (balance – for accuracy)
- Avoid having arguments
- Be politically active locally (focus)
  - Support school board, county elected who have a better sense of unity and the national good (e.g., get involved with local recruitment, strategy)
- Use more inquiry and withhold judgment
- Be informed as best as I can and be involved
- Realize your skill set (and experience) for volunteerism and public service
- Have open dialogues with community (from family to community to national levels)
- “Recruit” folks with you for broader conversations and understanding
- Conservatives and liberals need to talk to “the middle” more
- Moderates/“middle ground” folks need to take more action
- Create “ground rules/agreements” on how to have healthy dialogue and conversations
- Have relationships individually with people (listen to their points of view)
  - Helps to hear what things are being said
- Be more open to allow others to be safe to vent
- Build capacity at local level
  - Leadership development locally
- Be willing to try new ways of communicating to achieve your objectives
- Follow the money
  - Have financial historical understanding of systems, institutions, and structures

### Media

- Baby animals or tiny goats
  - Instant de-escalation
- Just unfollow
  - Step away but no need to actually unfriend
- Evaluate your relationship with media
  - Does media make you inspired/hopeful or does it make you depressed and angry?
  - Not that it's bad, but that balance is necessary

- Turn it off, step away, focus on healthy influences – but not permanently, just to recharge
  - Draw a line at only focusing on the positive – toxic positivity – can invalidate other people's experience
- It's okay to say "I don't know what to say about that"
  - Refrain unless positive/productive/inquiry
- When receiving info, provide context
- When sharing, acknowledge context
- Pay to subscribe to media we trust, not just agree
  - "Free info is worth the price"
- Don't share unless you fact check or to get feedback from others – especially people you disagree with
- Talk to people individually, not just on social media
  - Talking to people encourages people to question what they post
- Balance level of information – too much and too little is no good (paradox of choice)
- Seek out sources that provide context of systems
  - And organizations that spend the needed time, not just mass media news – "slow news"
- Support news organizations that do good job of identifying problems and exploring solutions
  - And start-up/community media
- Advocate against negative political advertising
  - Or ignore – boycott TV programs that support this
- Mute advertising
- Consume news that doesn't use advertising
- Gather a group to advocate for taking steps against political advertising
  - Give candidates free airtime instead
  - Candidate as job applications – interview process
- Don't be distracted by "shiny object"
  - Get back to the important topics
  - Share those more important topics that may have become lost
- Individuals should be aware of source of information – primary versus secondary, etc – where did the journalist get their info?
- If you're sharing on social media, share both points of view – try to find middle ground
  - Being able to articulate the counter-argument gives you credibility
- Be aware of your own ability to quickly believe in things
  - Healthy skepticism: "trust but verify"
  - Be aware of your own biases – why am I posting this but not that?

## Partisanship

- Support electoral reforms (e.g., ranked choice voting, etc)
- Consider ways I could support cross-party collaboration
- Support publicly financed campaigns (make it less about the money)
- Frame issues for discussion not in partisan ways
- Be curious about statements made by students about who is/isn't in the room
- Be persistent – the "impossible" may take a little while!
- Focus on products/services that achieve common good and less on process for getting there (water, schools, electricity)

- Focus on outcomes
- In corporate life
  - How to vote anonymously – more freedom to “dissent” without affecting the team, or being judged by the team
- Discuss issues without using “buzz words” (the speak)
- Notice our language and extreme words
- Acknowledge “nonpartisan” institutions/laws may really not be nonpartisan
- Question “the rules” – who do they serve?
  - Move from rules to interests
- Don't feed into the drama
- Stay away from political news
  - Stay local – clearer mind, less biased view
  - Talk to other people I respect to add their perspective
- Collect resources from various sources to formulate own viewpoint (individual and group actions)
- Specifically engage people with opposite viewpoint (in a productive way)
  - Dialogue versus debate
- Instead of demonizing people, understand why they have view they do

### **Trust in Government**

- Government/state leaders – reach out
  - Help colleagues connect
- Create urgency – be courageous
- Be supportive of positive efforts
- Be willing to change – be willing to give something up
- Support institutions that promote good governance
- Support leaders who promote good governance
- Develop social capital
- Be curious – dialogue
- Be educated
- Engage citizens at local level
- Build trust through small wins
  - Group small wins together, form coalitions
- Don't contribute negativity on social media
- Use social media to help with the problem
- Get involved (+++)
- Transform negativity through inquiry into positive engagement
- Patience
- Be trustworthy