



“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead

Post-Meeting NEWSLETTER

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Workgroup Meetings

Healthy & Caring Community First Tuesday each month

6:30 p.m.
Young House (Wendell Foster Campus)

Region Of Opportunity (ROOT) Second Tuesday each month

6:00 p.m.
Wendell Ford Center, Owensboro Area Museum of Science and History

Environmental Impact Council Fourth Tuesday each month

6:30 p.m.
Wendell Ford Center, Owensboro Area Museum of Science and History

Citizens for Good Government Second Thursday each month

6:00 p.m.
Wendell Ford Center, Owensboro Area Museum of Science and History

Community Education & Learning Third Tuesday each month

6:30pm
Owensboro Community & Technical College, Southeastern campus, Industry Room

Executive Director Named

Shelly Nichols has been selected as Executive Director of the “We the People” implementation initiative. The position was created by supporters of the “We the People” AmericaSpeaks 21st Century Town Meeting to coordinate the implementation of the recommendations and priorities affirmed by the 650 participants during the November 2007 town meeting.



Since the town meeting, a database of more than a thousand citizens has been established – town meeting participants and other interested volunteers who want to be informed and involved in carrying out the goals of the meeting. Five new citizen groups have been established to focus on education, community and economic development, environment, health and social issues, and government.

Nichols will answer to a “We the People” Leadership Council and will work out of the offices of the Public Life Foundation of Owensboro.

A native of Lebanon, Kentucky she is a 1996 Honors graduate of the University of Kentucky, College of Social Work. Nichols is a Social Worker who has spent most of her career working in the domestic violence movement as well as crime victim advocacy.

She and her husband Clayton relocated to Owensboro from Columbus, Ohio in August, 2006. They have two active sons.

Can you hear us now?

We the people are
Ready for Change
... and Making it Happen!

In November 2007, something magical happened as over 600 citizens from Owensboro/ Daviess County gathered at the We the People, 21st Century Town Hall Meeting. Change and devotion of a community was unmistakable as participants from all walks of life came together for a common goal ... CHANGE!

Over 6 months later, the passion and drive are still palpable as citizens groups developed from the town meeting are structuring.

Be apart of this unique and worthwhile movement – Attend a citizen group that sparks your interest. Let your voice be heard!



Expanding “We the People” statewide

Imagine the “We the People” Town Meeting occurring in six Kentucky cities – perhaps simultaneously, linked by technology. What if every area development district could host a town meeting? Or every county?

What if participants in these town meetings examined one or more pressing issues facing the Kentucky General Assembly? What if we reported on the recommendations and priorities of a large, informed and demographically representative group of citizens prior to the next session of the legislature? Would legislators listen?

The Public Life Foundation hosted a meeting in Louisville on May 13 to share our community’s experience with the AmericaSpeaks 21st Century Town meeting and to explore the interest in applying this or another form of public deliberation on a statewide basis.

Nearly 30 state leaders participated: policy analysts, journalists, those with experience in public deliberation, philanthropists, representatives of statewide networks, and a strong contingent of representatives of the Owensboro town meeting.

Some were familiar with the Owensboro town meeting. Others were introduced to our event. All were impressed with the participation, the substantive nature of the issues that were examined, and the subsequent implementation that is well underway.

There was a strong consensus to follow-up this introductory meeting with a work session to examine the advantages and disadvantages of various methodologies for statewide public deliberation, and to examine which issues may be most appropriate for such an exercise. The group discussed the value of examining the gaming issue, or challenges facing education, the state prison population problem, taxation and spending issues, and more.

Let us know if you would like to be involved.

Citizen Groups: In the Spotlight

Environmental Impact Council (EIC)

In November 2007, around 600 citizens of Owensboro/Daviess County gathered for a ‘We the People’ town meeting. Many different topics were discussed and voted on, such as transparent Government, downtown development, and a cleaner/greener environment. The number one topic voted on, by citizens at this meeting, was the need for curbside recycling. Out of that town meeting, citizens have formed an Environmental Impact Council to follow up on curbside recycling and other pressing environmental issues. Since the initial formation meeting of the EIC, we have had many guest speakers (ex. Southern Recycling, Bill Parrish-City Manager, and QRS Inc.-recycling company out of Louisville) discussing what could be done and what they are doing currently for the curbside recycling efforts around the state. Our group has researched multiple communities around the state and what is being done there for recycling efforts. We have recently met informally with city and county representatives to find out what is needed to make this happen in Owensboro. Our next step is educating the public of the need for recycling and presenting our findings formally to the city/county government for consideration. **Curbside recycling ... coming soon!**

Jon Cambron – EIC Co-Chairman