



Title: PAV '87 Conference
Plenary Instructions
Source: Energize

Wednesday - July 1

TOWN MEETING SIMULATION

Volunteerism Resource Center
at ENERGIZE ASSOCIATES
5450 Wissahickon Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19144

Everyone in the auditorium will participate in this simulated "Town Meeting." It will run from 9:10 to 9:50, followed by observations and remarks from our business panel.

The Setting: We all live and work in the middle-size town of Together, Pennsylvania, 40 miles from an urban center. Population: 60,000 or so. Our economy is based on a mix of industry and farming.

The Issue: We have been shocked by the recent suicides of two teenagers and feel that we need to take some action to prevent any more youth suicides and to reach out supportively to young people in our community.

The Plan So Far: It has already been agreed that county and township agencies will work together with local nonprofit agencies and all-volunteer civic groups in this joint effort. We will not form a new, independent service. Instead, we will sponsor several projects utilizing existing resources. Here is what has been proposed:

1. A hot line staffed by volunteers to handle crisis calls from teenagers. Phones will be placed in several existing agencies and training for all volunteers will be held monthly in a central location.
2. In late August a "Celebrate Youth Day" is planned for the town park. Its emphasis is on the positive things young people do in Together, Pennsylvania.
3. A seminar series is planned for parents to inform them about the warning signs of teenage depression. Another similar series is planned for teachers and various youth workers.
4. A youth jobs program task force has been formed.

Agenda for this Meeting

We want to involve Together's business community in some way. Given the four current projects being planned, what help could we ask of businesses? We especially want to brainstorm non-cash assistance—people and in-kind services. We need expertise, people and things.

Simulation Instructions

Susan Ellis will take the role of Mayor of Together. Each of you should imagine yourself in this town meeting, but still representing your specific type of organization. As the Simulation progresses, feel free to share your own thoughts on business involvement. Our goal is to generate ideas. Consider large corporations, small local or regional businesses, professional firms, sole practitioners/self-employed people.