

# The Deliberative Process: Finding common ground for action

## Why Deliberation?

- A different approach to solving public problems in Oklahoma
- The act of weighing possible policy approaches carefully and moving toward making a choice
- The struggle with the consequences and trade-offs associated with choices
- A willingness to examine all sides of possible choices

## Why National Issues Forums?

The National Issues Forums (NIF) network provides opportunities for adults and older youth to deliberate challenging public issues of the day in local forums. The Oklahoma Partnership for Public Deliberation uses the NIF materials and model to foster a deliberative habit in Oklahoma.

Deliberative forums are about topics such as the economy, health care and violent crime. Local forums are organized by civic, service and religious organization, as well as by libraries, high schools and colleges.

No two deliberative forums are alike, and they vary in size. Forums are different from everyday conversations or adversarial debates, in that participants engage in deliberation of three or four choices framed around the issue. The forums present each issue in a neutral, nonpartisan way that encourages people to take a fresh look at the topic and at their own convictions.

## Who should attend?

- Adults and older youth seeking a better way to address important issues in their community
- Concerned citizens seeking an alternative to adversarial debate in group meetings
- Community leaders facing conflict around local issues
- Public officials wanting to promote meaningful dialogue between citizens and government

## What will you learn?

- To deliberate rather than debate or just discuss important issues
- To develop public understanding and knowledge about issues
- To create common ground for action
- To convene forums for deliberative dialogue
- To moderate and record deliberative forums
- To report deliberative forums
- To connect with officeholders
- To stimulate public action

## What are the Core Concepts?

- Learning the concerns people have about an issue
- Identifying the consequences, costs, and benefits associated with the various options
- Working through the inherent conflicts
- Finding any shared sense of direction or common ground for action

## When and Where?

Biltmore Hotel  
401 S. Meridian, Oklahoma City

(Registration begins at 8:00 am)  
**Wednesday, November 16** 8:30 am—9 pm  
**Thursday, November 17** 8:30 am—5 pm

## Registration Fee

\$175 Registration fee includes:

- Instruction Materials
- Three (3) meals, two (2) Continental Breakfasts, and All Breaks

## Lodging

Overnight lodging is available at the Biltmore Hotel for \$62.00 plus tax.

For reservations, call 405-947-7681. State that you are with the Oklahoma Moderators and Records Academy. Deadline to reserve a room is November 1, 2005.

## Registration Information

Agricultural Conferences  
Phone: (405) 744-6489  
Fax: (405) 744-8491  
Refund Policy: No refunds given after Tuesday, November 1, 2005.  
***Purchase Orders cannot be accepted***

**Limited to 60 Participants!  
Register Today!**

## OMRA Registration Form

Print Name as to appear on badge

Title and/or Organization

Address

City/State/Zip

Day phone

Fax number

Email

Specify any special dietary or mobility/access needs

**Member or work for an OPPD Partner Organization? Yes, please indicate below.**

**Registration Fee is \$175.00**

**Payment Type:**

- Enclosed is my check (make payable to OSU)
- Please bill my Visa/MasterCard (circle one)

Account Number

Expiration Date

Signature

**Please Mail (check) or Fax (credit card) Registration Form to:**

Oklahoma State University  
Agricultural Conferences  
430 Student Union, Stillwater, OK 74078-7061  
Fax: (405) 744-8491

**DEADLINE: November 1, 2005**

## Oklahoma Partnership for Public Deliberation

The OPPD is a partnership of statewide and regional organizations interested in fostering citizen involvement in public decision making through public deliberation. Our web site:

[www.OKdeliberates.org](http://www.OKdeliberates.org)

### OPPD Partners

- Common Cause
- Langston University/OKC Campus
- NAACP
- Oklahoma Academy of Mediators and Arbitrators
- Oklahoma City University
- Oklahoma Conference of Churches
- Oklahoma Department of Libraries
- Oklahoma Federal Executive Board/Shared Neutrals Council
- Oklahoma Home and Community Education
- Oklahoma Insurance Department
- Oklahoma Library Association
- Oklahoma State Department of Education-Lifelong Learning Section
- Oklahoma State University- Campus Life, Cooperative Extension Service
- Oklahoma Supreme Court- Administrative Office of the Courts, Alternative Dispute Resolution System
- Oklahoma State Regent for Higher Education- Campus Compact
- Pioneer Library System
- Redlands Community College
- University of Oklahoma- Leadership Development Programs

For information about becoming an OPPD Partner-Organization contact:

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## How Public Deliberation will be used in Oklahoma

**Citizens** will participate in making choices on public problems.

**Educators** can enjoy the way public deliberation enhances their students' ability to think critically and to listen to the ideas of others.

**Community Groups** will appreciate how public deliberation allows the public to address concerns and insights.

**Religious Organizations** can examine concerns through the lens of their faith.

**Conference Organizers** can include a deliberative forum to engage participants.

**Tribal Organizations** see deliberation as culturally viable in drawing participants with diverse capacities into the circle.

**Libraries and Museums** can sponsor deliberative forums to bring diverse programs together in a truly public space.

**Civic Groups** can discover ways to connect the work of their groups to the needs of communities.

**Journalists** can share NIF discussion frameworks and report on forum findings.

**Corrections and Counselors** can use deliberative forums to help inmates prepare for their work as citizens when they return to their communities.

**Elected Officials** can encourage civic participation by sponsoring deliberative forums and by participating in the process.

**Youth** can lead public deliberation initiatives through their many membership organizations.

## Faculty for OMRA

**Jan Hartough**-County Extension Director for Michigan State University. She has a B.S. degree from the University of Illinois and a Masters degree from Michigan State University. Jan's area of expertise is Community Development and Leadership. She has done extensive work in leadership development, team building, strategic futureing, facilitation and trust building and has won many National and State honors. Jan has been associated with the Kettering Foundation for about 18 years. She has served as National Faculty for Public Policy Institutes (PPI's) in many areas of the U.S. Currently she is working in Ireland to introduce the NIF process to rural communities in the Tochar Valley Network, County Mayo.

**Claude Bess**-Southeast District Extension Director

**Renée Daugherty**-Associate Professor, Extension Specialist-Leadership & Educational Methods

**Recia Garcia**-Northwest District Extension Family & Consumer Sciences Program Specialist

**Bob Swisher**-Professor Emeritus, Oklahoma University

**Sue Williams**-Professor, Family Policy and Leadership Development Specialist

### For information about the Oklahoma Moderators and Recorders Academy

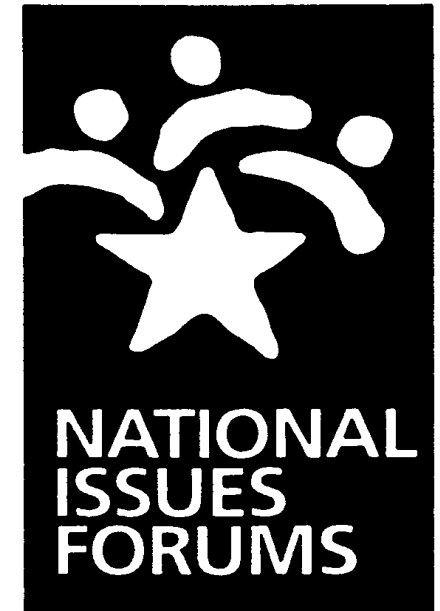
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*A different kind of talk...Another way to act.*



Oklahoma  
Moderators and  
Recorders Academy

November 16-17, 2005

Biltmore Hotel  
401 South Meridian  
Oklahoma City

Sponsored by:  
Oklahoma Partnership for Public  
Deliberation and  
The Kettering Foundation