the NEIGHBORHOODS NETWORK

tNN

CORE CONCEPTS
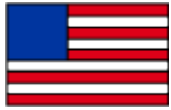
SINCE WE DON'T ORGANIZE FOR DEMOCRACY:

Centralized institutions, controlled by an 'elite,' tell us what to think and determine what we do:

1. The **mass media** tells us what to believe. It defines the extent of our perceptions of the world.

2. **Bosses** at work command us and we obey.

3. **Corporations** are similar to the fiefdoms of the middle ages - we are forced into the role of serfs.

4. **Isolated individuals** and families are powerless. We lack the means to enforce our will.

BY ORGANIZING:

1. We can directly learn the **opinions and concerns** of our fellow citizens.

2. We **inform ourselves** of the facts, free of the propaganda directed to us by others. We **develop our common ground** and our action agendas.

3. We gain the organizational means to **elect true representatives** and hold them to mandates we can enforce through the power to elect and recall.

SO WE ORGANIZE
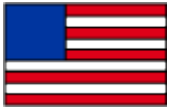
FOR DEMOCRACY

CORE CONCEPTS   tNN

IN A NUTSHELL

1. Our citizens **Organize** for Democracy.

2. It's based on **Neighborhoods** and **Networking.**

3. It functions using **General Meetings, Work Groups,** and **Collaboration** with other Neighborhoods.

4. It becomes the vehicle for citizens to **examine all topics** and **all view points**.

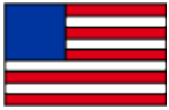5. It finds and extends our **Common Ground**.

IN A NUTSHELL (CONTINUED)

6. It uses **Statistical Mechanisms** to Develop Issue-Solutions agreeable to the vast majority of us.

7. It builds an **Information Utility** (the Neighborhoods Information Network) .

8. It issues "**Marching Orders**"(the Policy Mandates) to Elected Officials.

9. It Selects, **Elects**, Monitors and Removes.

tNN is BASED on NEIGHBORHOODS and NETWORKING

ORGANIZE for DEMOCRACY tNN

BASED on NEIGHBORHOODS and NETWORKING:

Neighborhoods are the natural unit of organization for democracy:
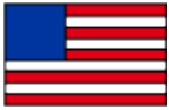
1. Neighbors are **near one another**. It is easy to communicate and periodically meet in a nearby school or church.

2. **Voting districts** are naturally composed of neighborhoods.

3. People in a neighborhood have **common local concerns** – which is the basis for local action.

4. Yet neighborhoods typically have a **variety of opinions** – reflecting different backgrounds.
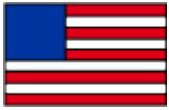
WE CONDUCT

GENERAL MEETINGS

1. People in each neighborhood meet, perhaps **once a month**, to participate in a 'general meeting.'

2. A '**moderator**' makes arrangements for, and oversees the meeting. The neighborhood chooses this person, and this position is periodically rotated.

3. The **meeting is formatted** for pertinence and efficiency. (Items for consideration are submitted by neighbors <u>prior</u> to the meeting, and the neighborhood votes on the priority of those items <u>before</u> the meeting.)

4. Consideration of submitted items and work group reports are the **heart of the meetings.**

WE USE

WORK GROUPS

1. Do the **nitty-gritty** work specified by the neighborhood.

2. **Responsible only** to the neighborhood.

3. Given a "**charter**," the task to be performed.

4. Composed of **volunteers.**

5. WG members choose a **lead and co-lead.**

6. Use "**6 Hats**" technique.

7. **Report** progress to the GM.
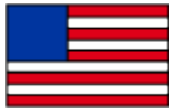
Results are **archived** in the **NIN**.
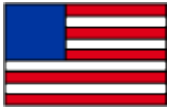
WE USE STATISTICAL MECHANISMS

1. Neighborhoods can't communicate with all other neighborhoods **all the time on all topics**.

2. **Don't need to**.

3. On **each topic** there are **only a few viewpoints**.

4. Where **one viewpoint** (among the several) is held by an **overwhelming number of us** – we have consensus – an item of common ground.

5. By **collaborating with a small random sample** of the neighborhoods on each topic, we can often build a common view regarding that topic.

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6. If a small number of neighborhoods (say 4 to 6) is **chosen at random**, probably all significant viewpoints and biases will likely be represented.

7. **If agreement** on an issue and its solution is possible, then that view of the issue and its evident solution becomes part of our common ground.

8. If agreement is **not** possible, the issue is NOT part of our common ground. Action is not and should not be possible.

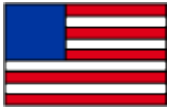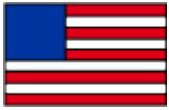# WE EXAMINE ALL TOPICS AND VIEWS

1. tNN is open to all citizens (presuming civil behavior) and all **persons are respected.**

2. tNN becomes the venue for **all the public** to participate in public affairs.

3. We learn to **accommodate our different views** of society and economics.

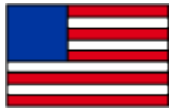4. Where we differ, we **accept** that.

5. Where we **agree**, that is our common ground.

6. We **act** on our current common ground.

7. We work to **extend our common ground.**

8. Where we differ, but the topic requires solution, we continue to consider and ponder it – using **Information Dispatches**.
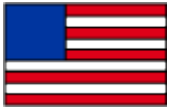
WE EXTEND OUR COMMON GROUND

1. Although we are currently divided, we none-the-less **have some common ground**.

2. We can **expand that common ground** greatly.

3. **We will do so as** we properly identify the important issues of the day, investigate them thoroughly, and find solutions agreeable to the vast majority of us.

4. Ultimately, the **fruit of our efforts** will be a list of mandates for each elected legislator and each elected executive officer.

WE ISSUE MARCHING ORDERS TO THE ELECTED OFFICIALS

1. We convert our hard won items of agreement into well-formulated **statements of policy** that can be legislated and executed into reality. (These are called **Policy Directives**.)

2. We give these items of the "public will" over to the public servants for translation into **coherent legislation** and then into executive action – exactly as the better of the Founding Fathers intended we do!

WE SELECT, ELECT, MONITOR AND REMOVE

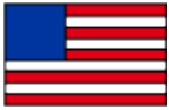# SELECT and MONITOR <space-holder></space-holder> tNN

1. We **Select** candidates for office from among those willing to be true public servants. (That is, willing to implement the items of 'public will' we produce.)

2. We use tNN to communicate in order to get them selected onto the ballots – and then we **elect** them.

3. We **monitor** their work while they are in office (using work groups formed for the task).

4. We vote out, or **remove** via recall (where that is possible) those that do not perform in our interest.
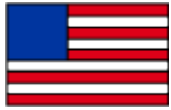
THE NEIGHBORHOODS INFORMATION UTILITY

1. To build common ground, to be free of misinformation, we must **ground ourselves in facts**.

2. The neighborhoods and their task forces must be focused to gather **information pertinent to rule**.

3. As we consider issues important to governance, we first must **obtain the facts**.

4. There are **many of us** and are expert and knowledgeable in different areas. A mass of facts is within our capability.

5. **Cross-checking**, by independent task forces, must be part of the process.

1. We build an Information Utility (the Neighborhood Information Network or **NIN**).

2. This information utility is **distributed** among the neighborhoods, but uses information expediters to reference the information for easy access.

3. Using task forces dedicated to investigation, we build, over a long period of time, a **massive data base** of facts useful in governance.

4. Consider this the "people's CIA"

5. When our citizenry wants the **real, unbiased, uncensored facts** – they will come to the NIN.

END of PRESENTATION