



Dialogue Across Differences: Facilitator Training for Community Leaders

March 18 – 19, 2017 (9AM – 5PM)

Mershon Center, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio

Co-Hosted by Essential Partners (formerly Public Conversations Project); The Ohio State University, Mershon Center for Security Studies; League of Women Voters Hudson, Ohio

To register and for discounted hotel rates, please go to: <https://u.osu.edu/cre2017/>

Essential Partners created a unique approach to dialogue 27 years ago that builds relationships, connection and curiosity between those who see one another as in opposition. Our approach has transformed conflicts across the country and the world - and is widely applicable to the vital conversations that preserve and strengthen communities to do the work they need to do. This intentional communication process helps individuals, groups, and communities rebuild trust, enhance resilience, address challenging issues, and have constructive conversations with people from different perspectives or those they would otherwise avoid or conflict with.

As a result of this workshop, you will be equipped to:

- Create a context for people to communicate with self-confidence about difficult and divisive topics.
- Break destructive communication habits like avoidance, silence, or reactive responses, enabling those in a conversation to feel truly listened to.
- Design conversations, dialogues, or meetings with clear purpose, full participation, and a structure for moving forward.
- Introduce a dialogue circle
- Intervene to support a group through rough spots.

This training is designed for:

- League of Women Voters Members
- Community leaders, non-profit leaders, clergy and others
- Government officials seeking to encourage collaboration.
- University administrators and professors
- Directors of community engagement or diversity and inclusion, and ombuds

Presenter: Dave Joseph, MSW, is the Senior Director for Program at Essential Partners. He has provided training and consultation in Reflective Structured Dialogue in the US, Nigeria, Liberia, Canada, Greece and Burundi, for more than 10 years. He has designed and facilitated trainings and dialogues about immigration, class, gender, workplace relations, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, marriage equality, domestic violence, political differences and many other issues in the United States. His international work has focused on promoting interfaith coexistence and collaboration; reintegration of former fighters in post-conflict situations; immigration; and restoring and enhancing community resilience in post-conflict situations.

Dave is also an experienced mediator, facilitator and consultant, who has designed meetings, conferences and strategic initiatives within human service organizations and educational institutions. He is a founding member of Mediators Beyond Borders and serves on its Executive Committee. Previously, he cofounded and served as the Executive Director of the Community Mediation Center of Rhode Island. His background also includes having directed mental health and addictions treatment programs at community mental health centers in Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

COSTS:

Early Registration, Before Feb. 20th - General Participant - \$220; Student (with a copy of a current student I.D.) - \$130; Students whose colleges and universities and sponsors - \$70 (send a copy of a current student I.D. to 2017creconf@gmail.com to receive the discount codes); **LWVO members - \$70 (send an email to 2017creconf@gmail.com with the name of the League for which you are a dues paying member to receive the discount codes);**

Late Registration: February 21st – March 1st - General Participant, LWV members - \$330; Student (with a copy of a current student I.D.) - \$140

To register on-line and for discounted hotel rates, please go to: <https://u.osu.edu/cre2017/>

Additional Information for interested LWV Members in Ohio

This is part 1 of a 3 part training for interested LWV members in Ohio (though all are welcome to participate in part 1) with the following objectives for those who wish to complete the three part training in order to:

1. Enhance the ability of interested community members and boards, to work collaboratively with key stakeholders to convene dialogue on difficult issues challenging their communities.
2. Develop and/or strengthen partnerships with colleges and universities.
3. Engage more college students in local leagues in a meaningful way.

4. Provide new and existing League of Women Voters members with similar skills and language to take action collaboratively.

This three-part training will include regional trainings on the core skills of engaging around challenging topics through dialogue for teams of:

1. LWV interested members; 2. College and University students interested in participating in league; and 3. Organizations LWV observe such as School Board, City Managers, etc.

The three parts of the training include: A) Core Conflict Resolution Skills for Collaborative Decision Making (2 days, Dates TBD); B) Dialogue Across Differences: Facilitator Training for Community Leaders (March 18 – 19 2017, Columbus, Ohio); C) Practice the Dialogue to Action Model using national League positions as examples. Practice moving from the dialogue to action planning, considering collaboration of all key stakeholders (1.5 days, Dates TBD)

Questions? Please contact the conference coordinator, Jennifer Batton at 2017creconf@gmail.com or call her at 216-952-5609