



The Common Good

KATHLEEN "KATE" THERIOT
2017 Board Chair
Coaching for Change, LLC

So how do we solve all the issues? First and foremost, everyone has to be willing to give a little. Everyone must be open to listening to the other side. Solving conflict is about giving and taking, and looking for the win-win, looking for the compromise, looking for the common good.

John Locke, English Philosopher, declared that "the peace, safety, and public good of the people" are the ends of political society, and further argued that "the wellbeing of the people shall be the supreme law". It is this wellbeing that is at stake when we stand guard over our own interests, our own territory. There are several different paradigms in dealing with human interactions, lose/win, lose/lose, win/lose, and win/win. I believe our society today promotes the win/lose and lose/win concept rather than a concept that considers the common good, the win/win.

Stephen Covey tells the story of a business owner wanting him to help change the culture

of his work group, sighting that there seemed to be a high level of selfishness among his employees and he would like a cooperative atmosphere. In the story, he goes on to state that while the business owner wanted a cooperative atmosphere he also had a picture of a horse race with each manager face superimposed on the horses and at the end of each meeting would ask the question, "Now which of you is going to win the trip to Bermuda?" Can you hear the contradiction? The business owner wants a cooperative environment and at the same time promotes competition.

Now there is nothing wrong with competition, in an athletic event and some other friendly social relationships. However, when we are talking about change in our communities and within organizations we have to put competition aside and make decisions based on what's good for the whole of the community or organization. This is looking at the win/win. "Win/

Win means that agreements or solutions are mutually beneficial, mutually satisfying. With a win/win solution, all parties feel good about the decision and feel committed to the action plan.", states Stephen Covey.

The question I leave for you is this – What will you do to promote the win/win in our community, in your organization?

Take time to reflect and put this into action – You're Worth It!

Standing Together for a Healthier Community!

The Chamber of Health Leadership Alliance is being formed to address the overall low ranking of Terrebonne Parish as unhealthy regarding several health-related behaviors including inactivity, obesity, tobacco use, and alcohol abuse.

We are bringing together businesses, agencies, civic groups, government entities, churches, schools, coalitions, and any group that is ready to work together to build a healthier, more economically vibrant parish with future health rankings that we can all be proud of.

Evidence-based research demonstrates that unified initiatives among business, civic, academic, healthcare, social and government sectors will improve health factors that ultimately generate better overall population health outcomes. This can lead to a

healthier workforce, lower health insurance costs for businesses, greater economic productivity, and healthier communities.

Join us on **Wednesday, October 11th, at the Main Library at 3:30pm** where we will present an overview of the Chamber of Health Leadership Alliance and collectively start to make a plan of action where we can all benefit. Creating a culture of health in Terrebonne Parish will take collaboration, commitment, compromise and courage. Thankfully, these qualities are abundant among the residents of Terrebonne Parish. Together, we can create better personal, workplace, and community wellness for a thriving bayou region.


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