Highlights of Door County Civility Project’s Fourth Year

It is good policy to yearly review the progress that you made and plan for your next year. While the Door County Civility Project held a reception at Stone Harbor on May 3 that was open to the public, I know that many of you were unable to attend. With a theme “Civility Matters” I want to share with you the highlights of our fourth year.

We remain a small steering committee with each of us bringing some of our strengths and time to maintaining a focus on keeping civility in all our interactions. Members of the committee are Shirley Senarighi, Mark Nelson, Patti Vickman, Michael Quinlain, Orlaine Gabert, Susan McAninch, Sue Todey, and Diane Slivka. We have been fortunate that we have had others who have helped on special presentations and projects. They are Steve Bousley, Dominic Burke, Gretchen Moore, Steve Vickman, Gina and Rae Senarighi, and Rudy Senarighi. We also have several consultants: Bret Bicoy, Door County Community Foundation, Rob Burke, UW Extension, and Tom Grogan, Oshkosh Civility Project.

Throughout the year we have continued to provide presentations and workshops to any community group, employee, church, student, government, school board, non-profits, and neighborhood. Some are short presentations that introduce the concept of civility while others teach the skills of civility. While we continue to make ourselves available to these groups, we are increasingly being asked by individual groups to speak on the topic.

Our local newspapers have graciously continued to allow us to write a regular column covering a full range of topics on Civility. The community has given us positive responses to what is written. Southern Door High School continued to have discussions, simulations and student intervention. There were 16 poems related to civility published in “Refraction SDSH Poetry 2016 and their 2016 yearbook had our poster of the 9 tools of civility as their cover and theme was carried throughout.

Last fall we distributed the poster that we had developed to all the area high schools to be hung in the stands at high school athletic events. The message is a reminder that these are student athletics and fans are role model: be positive, be respectful, be supportive. We have now purchased more posters and will be distributing them to the lower grades.

We were so fortunate to be able to arrange a two day workshop for non-profit personnel on Crucial Conversations at a much reduced fee in September of 2016. . This was collaborated with Door County Community Foundation, United Way of Door County, Door County Non-profit and Vital Smart. There was such an interest that we will be having a second workshop in the fall of 2017.

We continue to strive to get the message of civil discourse throughout the county. We have posters that you can put in your place of business or community center. We have pins that you can wear on coat lapels. We have small cards that you can put in your wallet that list the nine tools of civility. Please read our articles and share with others. Please contact us to arrange for a speaker for your group. Lastly, we would welcome anyone who would like to help us by joining our steering committee. We have a website DoorCountyCivilityProject.org and an email DCCivilityProject @gmail. com.

Thank you for reading this column and I’ll be back next month with another civil suggestion.

Orlaine I. Gabert, Door County Civility Project