Signing a Civility Pledge

We are in the midst of the holiday season. Thanksgiving is a time when family members try to all come together and enjoy the day and weekend together, reliving many happy times before and making new memories. Over the next few weeks there will be many celebrations for Hanukkab and Christmas. Lastly, we will begin the New Year. Our western hemisphere tradition as we begin the year is to make New Year’s Resolutions. By definition a resolution is a “formal expression of opinion or intention, a firmness of purpose, or make up one’s mind.” In order to make some new resolutions, we need to look at what were our old resolutions, what we did accomplish, and now what we want to do in the future.

The Door County Civility Project had a number of goals for 2014. First we wanted to educate the community about civil discourse through presentations, news articles, and our website. We have had many opportunities to talk to community groups and have had monthly articles in the local papers. The response has been very positive. People are interested and have found the information helpful.

Our second goal was to have individuals and organizations sign a pledge to use civil language in their discourse with others. This can be easily done by going on our website or filing out a pledge form given to you at one of our presentations or received from a member of the Door County Civility Project. To date we have 26 organizations and 296 individuals. Both are short of the goal of 50 and 1,000, respectively. As a presenter I know that there was very little time for individuals to sign a pledge. Consequently, there have been missed opportunities for those interested in signing the pledge to do so. Others have read the articles or heard about the project from someone, but did not know who to contact to sign a pledge or have not made time to do so.

The Door County Civility Project will be working on their resolutions or in this instance goals for the 2015 soon. I am sure we will want to further increase individuals and organizations signing the civility pledge. I am asking and encouraging you to include signing the pledge as one of your resolutions. We can say to ourselves that we believe that we do use civil language, but can admit that we do not always. We can say that we will do better, but is saying really enough. A pledge is really a resolution, “ to come to definite or earnest decision about.” You are making a commitment to use civil language to the best of your ability at all times. Each person’s pledge will increase the civility in first Door County, next Wisconsin, then the United States, and finally the world.

Please go on our website: http:www.doorcountycivilityproject.org or our Email: [dccivilityproject@gmail.com](mailto:dccivilityproject@gmail.com) to sign the Door County Civility Pledge. You will make a difference in how Door County citizens communicates with each other.

I wish you a joyous remainder of the holiday season and look forward to sharing additional civility understanding in 2015, one of my resolutions.

Orlaine I. Gabert