

Beyond Civility Communication Workshop Comments from Previous Participants

Beyond Civility's Communications Workshops train those who already are good communicators to be even more effective – particularly around divisive issues and when interacting with those who have very different views about those issues. For me, the best part of the Workshop was that it gave me an opportunity to interact with people whose views I thought I understood (and disagreed with) in a way that allowed me to see that many of my perceptions were misplaced and that there was much more to the views of others than I previously understood. It also let me think about the actual mechanics of communication and provided good, practical strategies.

-Rachael Rowe, Executive Partner, Keating, Muething, & Klekamp

A recent poll conducted by AP-GfK found that Americans are suspicious of each other in everyday encounters, and less than one-third of Americans say most people can be trusted, a continuing decline from prior polls. I found the Beyond Civility workshops a helpful attempt to rebuild the “social trust” necessary to facilitate communication, open dialogue and compromise, in which people are willing to work with those who are different from them for the common good.

-Michael Hirschfeld, Attorney, Graydon Head

It was a privilege to be included in the Beyond Civility Communications Workshops where it was refreshing to deliberately set out to *hear* dissonant opinions without *discrediting* those voicing the opinion. Subsequently, in the "Side-by-side" dialogues, learning from the Workshops enabled all of us to listen with open minds and hearts rather than from some ideological position. I commend Beyond Civility for taking on the important work of promoting genuine dialogue so important to democratic society!

-Alice Skirtz

As Sheriff, I participated in a series of workshops with other local leaders, talking at length on controversial matters, so as to improve our ability to have civil conversation. Beyond Civility Workshop is a win-win. I truly valued the experience.

-Jim Neil, Hamilton County Sheriff

I think if we want to improve the tone of public discourse in Ohio it has to start with elected officials understanding, and having some respect for, the views of others in elected office. Beyond Civility has been helpful in emphasizing that in order to have a productive conversation with someone who disagrees on an issue, we first have to understand their point of view and the reason for that point of view. We need to take the time to understand one another.

-Denise Driehaus, State Representative