

SYNERGY REPORT

For a World That Works for Everyone

Doing together what can't be done as well alone

Getting High On “Working Together”

Working together with others for a worthy cause is probably the greatest energy boost members get from belonging to the Alliance. And, on October 13th two speakers gave us some tips on how to work together more effectively.

Barbara Gerten, of the Move To Amend campaign, spoke of “*movement building*” for a world of, by and for the people. She pointed to the many issues we work on tirelessly every day and how corporate power exacerbates the difficulty in solving them.

So the question becomes, how do we, the Alliance, organize for achieving a world of, by and for the people? For organizing, Barbara spoke about **a)** strategic framing of the conversation, **b)** connectors and sales people building to a tipping point, **c)** being aware of the stage of the movement we’re in, **d)** generative, social impact networking, **e)** focusing inward on volunteer relations and personal life-style choices, **f)** the apriori focus on principle as #1 and democracy as #2, and **g)** having 100% intentionality in your work.

Roxanne Abbas, of Minnesota Peace Project, said there is a lot of in-fighting in the peace movement that is not helpful to the cause. So, what can we do when there’s disagreement? She said, first we need to listen to understand the



other’s perspective. Then ask **why** are we disagreeing? What values and beliefs are we each coming from? Seek a dialogue mode rather than a debate mode. A good opening statement might be, “*I see this differently than you, so let’s talk about it. Tell me what you think about this issue so I can better understand.*”

Roxanne read the 2013 resolution at VFP Ch 27 which reads in part, “...we will strive to refrain from derogatory language. We will treat everyone, no matter how extreme their opinions might seem to us, as someone...we could learn something from. ... All members [of VFP Ch 27] are trusted to act in the best interest of the group for the larger purpose of World Peace.”

Thank you Barbara and Roxanne for your insights on “working together.”

Sook Holdridge
editor: Synergy Report

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world: Indeed it is the only thing that ever has.” - Margaret Meade

Michael Lerner, Workable World Conference, October 10, 2015 Two Worldviews That Keep Americans Divided

No matter what political or religious persuasion two or more people have, it is difficult to work together when differing worldviews collide.

Rabbi Michael Lerner was referring to the two differing worldviews of **fear**, and of **love**.

The worldview of **fear** is the driver behind maximizing one’s own self-interest and advantage in a hostile world. This is the world of domination, manipulation, control, and the extortion of wealth and resources as a priority.

The worldview of **love** is a different kind of world. People yearn for a world of caring, generosity and love. This yearning is inherent in all life; it is unconditional.

These worldviews are not exclusive; we all have the full spectrum inside of us, and can move in either direction. To move beyond the divide, conversant parties must move to their biggest vision of the good—even if it appears impossible. Doing this establishes a cooperative dialogue atmosphere. The **how** to get there comes later.

Thinking Ahead To The Annual Meeting Dec 8th

A great program is being planned for our annual meeting. It’s about a new story emerging around the globe. (see the Dilbert cartoon on p. 2)

We will also be voting on our proposed by law changes.

This has been a project of the Leadership Team for over a year, with many inputs coming from MAP member organizations.

The 3 major revisions relate to:
1) further democratizing the way we operate.

2) refining purpose and mission to better reflect what member organizations want them to be.

3) communicating better the power and responsibility of the Governing Council in determining the Alliance’s direction, focus and actions.

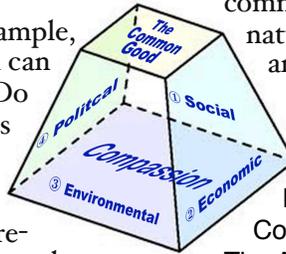
In a few days, delegates will be receiving these changes by email or snail mail. We’re asking delegates to make sure their organization reviews them before Dec. 8th, so when we vote, delegates can speak out for or against any changes made.

Feedback Reports To/From The Membership

Important to the Alliance is its transparency and the ongoing collaborations among all member organizations and their members.

One way of doing that is thru *Feedback Reports.*” For example, sharing how your organization approaches its activism can help coalesce collaborations with others who agree. Do **you** emphasize holding actions, education, alternatives to existing structures, or consciousness-raising work?

From Tuesday’s Council meeting you will be receiving some new items for your organization’s gestation and response. One will be whether MAP should apply for a booth at next year’s State Fair. Could it help us? Another will be on implementing a spin off project of the Charter for Compassion, which the Council (and hopefully you) adopted in 2014. And, still another is to read the proposed by law changes before voting on them at the annual meeting on December 8.



New MAP Member

On October 13, Northland Sustainable Solutions was approved for membership in the Alliance. It is a collaborative community informed and inspired by nature's wisdom to effect personal and planetary transformation.

NSS has been collaborating with area groups since 2006, and has received financial support from MAP for its Northland Bioneers Conferences.

The Alliance is happy to welcome NSS as our newest member working for the well-being of all life. Their delegate will be Anne Tiller. email: amtsunflower984@hotmail.com

MAP IS WHAT ITS MEMBERSHIP DOES

Remember, **YOU ARE** the Alliance. Every member has a voice in determining the Alliance’s direction and actions.

Initiate an open space conversation.
Do committee work.
Speak out at meetings.
Critique our process.
email suggestions to sook51@gmail.com.

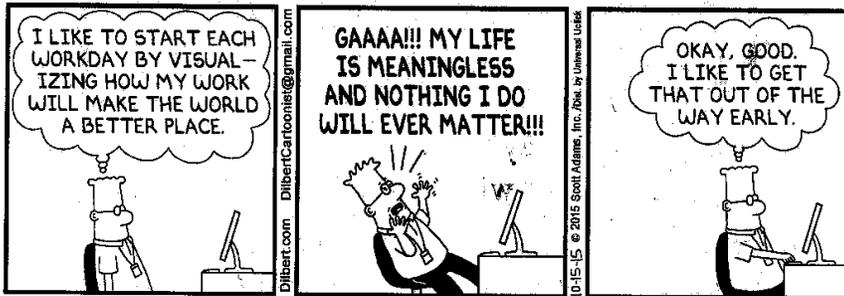


Our potential is limited only by our lack of imagination and participation.



Hearts sharing compassion

DILBERT SCOTT ADAMS



We laugh —probably because we see the Dilbert in all of us. We want the world to be a better place, but doing something about it can seem overwhelming and super difficult. So we numb out, and fall back to our daily routines, our busy lives, sports mania, shopping, watching TV, texting, job responsibilities, etc. It’s an old story playing out, and we’re all complicit in keeping the story in tact. And then? Oh my, it’s the ultimate catastrophe.

What we need now is a new story to live by; a story we’ll talk about at our annual meeting on Dec 8th. Are you coming?

Note... You can print this newsletter at MAPM.org (home page)

Burt Berlowe: bberlowe@comcast.net 612-722-1504 — Media: publications, announcements and MAP publicity

Mary Faulkner: rfofmpmsmn@aol.com 612-823-5524 — Treasurer and members dues and current status

Sook Holdridge: sook51@gmail.com 952-922-7311 — Delegate communications, editor: Synergy and Feedback Reports

Larry Johnson: larryjvfp@gmail.com 612-747-3904 — Readings for council meetings, Co-Liaison to Plymouth Church

April Knutson: knutsoo1@umn.edu 612-823-5989 — Secretary and letter writing

Martha Roberts: martrobe44@aol.com 612-554-7009 — Membership records

Shared Duties: Spokesperson for MAP; Convener of Delegate Council meetings; and Convener of open space time

Other leadership volunteers include:

Wayne Wittman: waynecwittman@gmail.com 651-695-5297 — Membership application forms

Madeline Simon: madeline-mpls@msn.com 952-854-2976 — MAPM Website Postings

Dennis Dillon: dennis.dillon@msn.com 612-333-0723 — Co-Liaison to Plymouth Church