

My Life in Civic Engagement; What I have Done; What I have Learned

My life has been all about bringing people together.

<http://www.mfw.us/blog/2019/08/12/olli-university-day-civic-engagement-panel/>

What is Civic Engagement? The word “civic” implies “local” community, extended to include wider society. *Civic engagement means working to make a difference in the civic life of our communities and developing the combination of knowledge, skills, values and motivation to make that difference. It means promoting the quality of life in a community, through both political and non-political processes.*

Lessons learned in a long life:

- **“Inside/Outside”:** In my elder years, I have focused my energies more on passive approaches to effecting change. This means being on the inside, on boards and other positions of responsibility, but it also means being on the outside, trying to influence those in power with persuasion, not demands.
- **Your perspective is valuable:** You can learn facts and rules, but only experience will bring wisdom, that mysterious ability to see patterns and predict outcomes. Diversity of perspective and opinion is highly valuable.

EARLY LIFE: eldest of 5 siblings; Boy Scouts (Eagle Scout); (statewide) church youth group; Civil Rights movement; National President, Student World Federalists (Vietnam era, anti-war, pro-UN)

BUSINESS CAREER (QUANTITATIVE FINANCIAL ANALYST): Founder, qwafafew.org; Board, INQUIRE Europe

LOCAL, STATE, and NATIONAL POLITICS: Berkshires for Dean; B4PC; co-founded BWW; PDM; Berkshire Brigades; Chair, Alford DTC; Elected Member, State Democratic Committee; Patrick, Obama, Warren campaigns

AUTISM: VP Board AANE; Board President Autism Connections; Massachusetts Special Commission Relative to Autism; other task forces; speaker at many conferences; facilitated support groups for many years; CDAC

TOWN GOVERNANCE Conservation Commission (wrote BSMA regulations); Town Moderator (2004 to present); Chair of Fact-Finding Committee; Board of Massachusetts Moderators Association (6 years)

EDUCATION (teaching, speaking): OLLI; BSAS (CFA); Commencement Addresses at BU + UMass Medical; Bay State (legislative advocacy); Elms College (autism); Columbia University Business School; conference speaker

VOLUNTEER: BNRC (trail work, historical research, trail-side talks); Mass Audubon, others