



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SESSION

TOM NIEHAUS & FRED STRAHORN

Building Trust Across Differences



★ 80TH ANNUAL MEETING ★
MIDWESTERN LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE
AUG 30-SEP 2, 2026





Fred Strahorn, former Ohio
House Minority Leader



Tom Niehaus, former Ohio
Senate President

What Is The Purpose of All This?

NICD works to address incivility and political dysfunction in American democracy by promoting structural and behavior change. The approach is designed to create safe spaces for elected officials, the public, and the media to engage different voices respectfully and take responsibility for the quality of our public discourse and democratic institutions.

In Order to Strengthen Our Democracy



Bob and Donna



Personal Journey

Review your own personal journey and select one experience or event that most dramatically changed or solidified who you are today. The event should be one that determined your personal convictions or one that tested that determination of who you really are and shaped your personal values. This is not a story of why you ran for public office.

Goals

Practice sharing a personal story with others

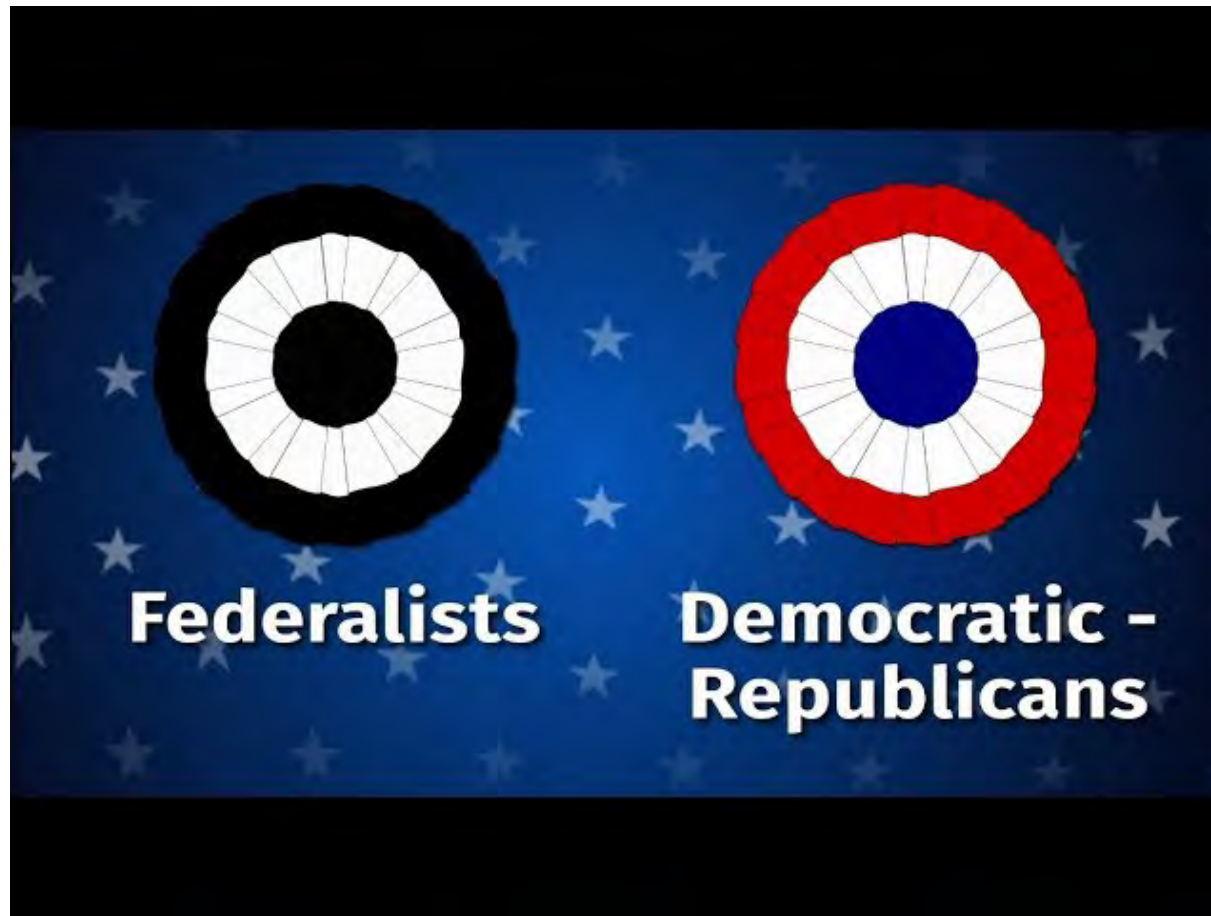
Practice listening to understand

Practice sharing what you related to from someone else's story. (What resonates with you?)

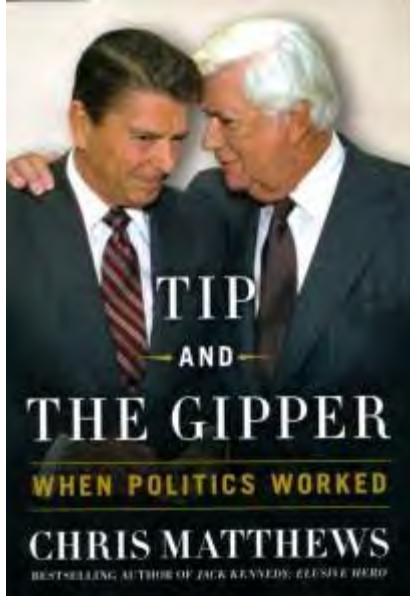
Resonance

While listening to each story-teller, pay attention to when you feel connected to what they are saying. Typically, this is when we are most empathetic to what the speaker is sharing, whether we have had a similar experience or not, maybe we just feel the impact of what they've shared.

We Used To Be The Same Party!



“Our friendship is testimony to the political system that we’re part of.”



Thank You

