

# NonPartisan Coalition

- Strengthening Communities Through Advocacy.

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**Please visit our web site at:**

[www.NonPartisanCoalition.net](http://www.NonPartisanCoalition.net)

**Contact us at:**

[NonPartisanCoalitionNPC@gmail.com](mailto:NonPartisanCoalitionNPC@gmail.com)

## Empathy plays a big role in strengthening communities!

Readers of this newsletter have shown that they have empathy. People who care about strengthening their community do so out of a concern for the greater good and caring for others.

But, do community leaders have a role to play in developing empathy in other members of the community? **Help us find answers- be part of the conversation.**

*Step 1: Recognize why empathy is so important.* We will scratch the surface of recognizing the importance of empathy in this newsletter. (Being empathetic can be learned. Physicians go through training on this all the time.)

*Step 2: Sharing the wisdom of local leaders.* We asked Gary Stone, a community advocate, why he thinks empathy is so important that he hands out buttons to people he meets to emphasize the point and start meaningful conversations. (See "Connecting Advocates" for more from Gary Stone.)



*Step 3: Please be part of the conversation. Give us your thoughts on the following:*

- Why is it so important for community members to be able to relate to the experiences of other people in the community?
- What role do each of us play in building our community's capacity for empathy?

## Board of Directors Report

Our growth plan has been implemented:

- Expand to two newsletters:
  - 1) Keep the original newsletter format with general interest articles.
  - 2) Our second newsletter, “Connecting Advocates”, is designed for community activists, to be more interactive by:
    - Featuring suggestions/advice from community leaders on a variety of topics, i.e. \* how to reorganize and/or restructure community organizations in light of the need to social-distance,
    - \* how to continue to serve our communities,\* how to utilize the relationships community leaders have built to advocate for governmental services,\* how to engage and foster new community leadership.

NonPartisanCoalitionNPC@gmail.com

## Web Site- Check it Out!

- Thanks to Carol Relitz our web site has undergone a big change! We are truly becoming a place where community members can find resources. Please visit our web site at:

[www.NonPartisanCoalition.net](http://www.NonPartisanCoalition.net)

- Submit articles for our web site or newsletter to:

NonPartisanCoalitionNPC@gmail.com

## Our Leadership Team

Carol Jenkins- founder

Jeff Jenkins- co-founder

Anita Brown- recording secretary

Joseph Jones- vice president

## Empathy: You’ve Got It. How Can Others Get It?

*A quote from Understanding Empathy by John Shuford*

“Empathy is important because it is what facilitates our interactions and connections with others. It is the foundation for building community. Without this sense of connection—this ability to consider other people’s views or feelings—we would experience much conflict.” <http://thetransformer.us/08-3.pdf>

If we are trying to strengthen our community, the more we can do to increase residents’ sense of connection to the community, as a whole, and to each other, in particular, the less conflicts will escalate. Obviously, our empathy for the needs of the residents who voice concerns is important. (To read more about this, see the amazing advice of Reggie Simmons, a local HOA president, in “Connecting Advocates”.) But have we done enough to discuss with our local groups how we can go deeper by working to connect more people to their own community?

**Here is another opportunity to give us your feedback:**

**1. What people or groups of people might need to feel more welcome, more included, more represented? How might we reach out to these people?**

**2. Is it enough to model empathy when dealing with community members? What else can or should we be doing when residents state their complaint about neighbors using offensive language or innuendo?**

**3. What are some “Best Practices” for community groups that want to increase residents’ empathy for each other?**

**The more we share ideas, the more we can put our empathy to good use! Send your responses to [NonPartisanCoalitionNPC@gmail.com](mailto:NonPartisanCoalitionNPC@gmail.com) We hope to publish some responses in the next newsletter.**

## Please read our new “Connecting Advocates” newsletter.

\* “What makes a successful HOA” by Reggie Simmons, Bridgeport HOA President

\* “Got Empathy?” by Gary Stone, South Laurel advocate