

SUGGESTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR ACTION BY THE BIPARTISAN PLANNING COMMITTEE

- * **Establish the Bipartisan Planning Committee as a permanent committee and the Bipartisan Retreat as a permanent function at the beginning of each new Congress - perhaps an on site retreat at the beginning of each session.**
- * **Recommend establishing a Bipartisan Freshman Orientation Program.**
- * **Appoint a subcommittee to identify more opportunities for non-partisan substantive interaction (such as the Oxford style debate and bipartisan briefings on bills and administrative matters) to report to the Bipartisan Planning Committee.**
- * **Meet with the Speaker and Democratic Leader to provide them with suggested action items.**
- * **Provide opportunities for Social Interaction**
- * **Recommend family friendly schedule**
- * **LaHood/Skaggs report Hershey suggestions to the Subcommittee on Rules and Organization of the House.**
- * **Encourage foreign travel for Members**
- * **Meet with members of the Media**
- * **Appoint a subcommittee to draft the Hershey Accords to report to the Bipartisan Planning Committee**
- * **Create educational video on the House of Representatives**
- * **Establish Bipartisan Cloakroom**
- * **Promote Campaign Reform**

DRAFT

*Charles -
Comments -
Mike*

SUGGESTIONS COMING OUT OF HERSHEY RETREAT

1. suggestions that could be implemented by action by Speaker:
 - a. move 1-minute to end of day
 - b. allow use of debate signal lights for each floor manager to ask counterpart to seek civility among Members on that side of aisle
 - c. encourage Speaker Pro Tem to intervene on his/her own motion to enforce/promote civility, including stopping conduct from escalating
 - d. try to make the schedule more family-friendly
 - e. consider establishment of standing bipartisan committee to promote and produce bipartisan events

2. suggestions that could be implemented by joint leadership action
 - a. regular joint leadership meetings
 - b. regular Republican leadership meetings with Democratic Caucus and Democratic leadership meetings with Republican Conference
 - c. joint meetings of Republican Conference and Democratic Caucus
 - d. on occasion, combine 2 cloakrooms (or use Speaker's Lobby)
 - e. one bipartisan freshman orientation
 - f. have each Floor Manager responsible for enforcing civility among Members of his/her party
 - g. bipartisan dinners or other social events
 - h. Wednesday sandwich night in Members' Dining Room for Members and families

3. suggestions that could be implemented by change in House Rules
 - a. admission of spouses on Floor during late sessions
 - b. proper decorum in speaking of the President and other officials
 - c. make the ethics process less subject to abuse

4. suggestions that could be implemented best by Retreat Planning Committee action
 - a. development of Hershey Accords
 - b. person-to-person followup between those attending and those not attending retreat
 - g. distribution of opening video to all Members
 - d. Special Order to explain what happened in Hershey
 - e. regular Planning Committee meetings (incl. Co-team Leaders)
 - g. consider retreat with the media
 - h. consider committee retreats
 - i. consider staff retreats
 - j. development of an Honor Code

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5. suggestions that could be implemented by administrative action
 - a. group photo entire Membership
 - b. provide on-going facilitation coaching

6. suggestions that could be implemented by ethics rulings:

7. suggestions that might need funding
 - a. Members wear name tags (cost minimal)
 - b. periodic retreats (frequency to be decided) for Members and/or families
 - c. lecture series on civility and debate (cost likely, not necessary)
 - d. spouse directory

8. suggestions that involve family participation
 - a. periodic meetings/functions for Members and families (or spouses)
 - b. spouses call absent spouses
 - c. more use of family room

9. suggestions that can be implemented best by individual Member action (including those that can use public encouragement by leadership):
 - a. District of Columbia cleanup day (e.g. South Capitol Street)
 - b. Members wear name tags
 - c. Remind staff we all need to work together
 - d. have a goal of no words taken down
 - e. mingle
 - f. improve tone of campaigns

WORKING DRAFT OF LIST OF SUGGESTIONS
BY INDIVIDUALS AT HERSHEY RETREAT

1. suggestions that could be implemented by joint leadership action
 - a. regular joint leadership meetings
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 - b. encourage Speaker Pro Tem to intervene on his/her own motion to enforce/promote civility, including stopping conduct from escalating
 - c. try to make the schedule more family-friendly
 - d. consider establishment of standing bipartisan committee to promote and produce bipartisan events
 - e. move one-minutes to end of day

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Suggestions for the long-term

- Establishment of Permanent Committee to plan annual retreat
- Plan shorter retreats similar to Hershey on a quarterly basis
- Retreat with the media
- Recommend regularly scheduled bipartisan leadership meetings
- Plan lecture series on civility featuring historians and others familiar with Congress as an institution
- Plan regular social activities with Members and families when the House is in session (dinners, dances, picnics, etc.)
- Move one minutes to the end of the day
- Request that the Leadership convey a need for better enforcement of parliamentary procedures by the Speaker Pro Tem
- Publish a family pictorial directory
- Issue Member name tags

Set regular monthly meeting time for full committee

David did not want to include these suggestions on the agenda. He has his own list and wants to discuss it before the meeting.

I also have a list from Jerry of the pairings for the meeting next week.

Bipartisan Congressional Retreat



Planning Committee

Rep. Ray LaHood - IL
Co-Chair

Rep. David Skaggs - CO
Co-Chair

Rep. Eva Clayton - NC

Rep. David Dreier - CA

Rep. Jo Ann Emerson - MO

Rep. Tillie Fowler - FL

Rep. Ruben Hinojosa - TX

Rep. Amo Houghton - NY

Rep. Tom Sawyer - OH

Rep. Charlie Stenholm - TX

Debbie Dingell
Democratic Spouses

Sandie Knollenberg
Republican Spouses

Suggested Changes

Rep. Amo Houghton

1. Set something in progress which will be sustainable.
2. Go easy -- don't overdo it.
3. Increase and maintain spouse involvement.
4. Move one-minutes to the end of the day.
5. Institutionalize regular, monthly leadership exchanges.
6. Schedule regular bipartisan retreats in every new Congress.
7. Involve media leaders on a regular basis in off-the-record discussions with Members.
8. Establish a standing bipartisan congressional committee to promote and produce bipartisan events.
9. Make both cloakrooms "open" every Wednesday.
10. "Nudge" Members to mingle, not sit together.
11. Share conferences.

FOLLOWUP LIST #1

- o Combined meetings of the Republican Conference and the Democratic Caucus for discussions
- o Continued confidential, honest, off-the-record conversations
- o Republican Leader meeting with the Democratic Caucus and the Democratic Leader meeting with the Republican Conference
- o Hershey Accords
- o Spouses on the floor during late sessions
- o Photograph of the entire membership on the front steps
- o D.C. cleanup day
- o Honor code for the House
- o Floor Manager responsibility to enforce civility among his own party members
- o Periodically combine the two cloakrooms or use the Speaker's lobby in a similar capacity
- o One bipartisan freshmen orientation
- o Ongoing opportunities to interact as people
- o Meet again with spouses in one month
- o Regular, joint leadership meetings
- o Keep wearing name tag
- o Empower Speaker Pro Tem to intervene on his/her own motion
- o No President bashing
- o Spouses call absent spouses
- o Remind staff that we need to work together

- o Bipartisan dinners**
- o lecture series**
- o name tags**
- o spouse directory**

OTHER SUGGESTED RETREAT FOLLOWUP ACTIVITIES AND ACTIONS

- o Person-to-person followup between those attending and those who didn't attend
- o Distribution of the opening video to all Members
- o Special Order by the Planning Committee to explain what happened in Hershey
- o Monthly Co-Team Leader meetings
- o Wednesday sandwich night in the Members' dining room for Members and their families
- o Hershey Kisses in the cloakroom
- o Hold shorter retreats similar to Hershey on a monthly or quarterly basis
- o Establish a goal of having no words taken down this year
- o Hold another Bipartisan Congressional Retreat next year
- o More use of the family room
- o Move one-minutes to the end of the day
- o Retreat with the media
- o Congressional staff retreat along the lines of Hershey
- o Committee retreats along the lines of Hershey
- o Make the ethics process less subject to abuse
- o Work on making the schedule more family-friendly
- o More bipartisan social events
- o Ongoing facilitation coaching
- o More foreign travel for Members and their families