

Civic Leadership Development

Because the Citizens League's mission involves developing civic leaders in all generations who can govern for the common good, implementing a civic leadership development program that builds these leadership skills in our members and member institutions is a logical priority. Given the unique non-partisan, citizen-based and "multi-issue" position of the Citizens League in the community, it is also one of our great opportunities.

Developing civic capacity needs to be a part of everything we do: from casual gatherings such as our Policy and Pint® series, to study committee and policy development processes, to structured classes that prepare individuals to be part of an ongoing civic base.

The Citizens League Civic Leadership Framework:

- Create "Active Citizenship Workshops." These informal workshops will provide members an opportunity to build their civic capacity in areas of interest to them.
- Hold an "Active Citizenship and Civic Policy Leadership Course." This more structured course will provide aspiring civic leaders an in-depth teaching of values and skills necessary to actualize their goals.
- Create and in-depth and on-going civic organizing programs to provide a base of support to leaders wanting to implement their skills.

Active Citizenship and Policy Leadership Course

To serve the goals of the second bullet, the Citizens League is partnering with Civics Inc., which has over 10 years of experience conducting such programs, to launch a course teaching a value-based leadership model that aids individuals in developing their capacity to address public problems. Topics to be covered include: Navigating Politics and Understand Power – Political Competence, Facilitation and Census Building, Building Civic Leadership in Self and Others, and The Personal Dimension to Leadership.

The course does not limit itself to those interested in being policy leaders in government. Adhering to the Citizens League's philosophy that "policy happens everywhere," this program will teach civic leadership skills that can be transferred from .orgs to .coms and all the way to .govs.

We anticipate that this will be a three-month-long course that will culminate in the creation of an individual civic leadership plan. To provide a level of support and accountability we hope to have a robust alumni group that would facilitate the creation of a deep self-sustaining civic organizing program.

Sign up if you would like to receive updates on this course as we approach our expected launch date in September 2008.

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CITIZENS LEAGUE POLICY OPEN HOUSE – THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2008