

## Leadership Charleston Class Tackles Community Issues Using Groundbreaking Approach

In the August edition of *Business Advocate*, we introduced the concept of Polarities, that is, interdependent opposites which work best when both are present to balance each other over time. See page 1: *Managing “unsolvable” problems*.

Now, fifty-seven brave and courageous members of this year’s Leadership Charleston class have undertaken this bold and new approach to view and understand vital community issues facing the Charleston area. In past Leadership classes, participants have heard the pros and cons of issues and then debated them. This year, instead of approaching community issues through this traditional problem solving approach of “here is the problem, so here is MY SOLUTION VS. YOUR SOLUTION”, the class has adopted the Polarity Management perspective of “both/and” thinking to create a broader awareness and a richer, deeper understanding of complex community issues before proposing actions. This year participants will explore five issues using a Polarity perspective. They will determine the upsides and downsides of certain “Unsolvable Problems” which are chronic in nature and require on-going management. After hearing from local experts involved in that community issue, class members will develop Polarity Maps, then offer action plans to achieve the upsides of both poles and create “red flag” indicators to signify the need to take additional corrective action.

Community issues under study using this experimental approach of Polarity Management are:

1. Proposed Smoking Ordinance in the city of Charleston – Polarity (Individual Freedom and Whole Community)
2. Unified Development Ordinance in Charleston County – Polarity (Individual Freedom and Whole Community)
3. Funding for Public Transportation – Polarity (Individual Concern and Social Concern)
4. Attrition Rate in Public Schools – Polarity (Individual Responsibility and Community Responsibility)
5. Need for Better Jobs and Higher Wages – Polarity (Stability and Change)

*Margaret Seidler*  
*Consultant & Master Trainer*  
*1260 Winchester Drive*  
*Charleston, SC 29407*  
*(843) 573-3485*  
[margaret@margaretseidler.com](mailto:margaret@margaretseidler.com)