

*We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory ... will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the **better angels** of our nature.*

— Abraham Lincoln, 1861

Seeks to Depolarize America with conversations, not fights.

Better Angels is a national bipartisan citizen's movement to depolarize our divided nation. By bringing Red (conservative-leaning) and Blue (liberal-leaning) Americans together, we're building new ways to talk to one another, participate together in public life, and influence the direction of our nation.

- As individuals, we try to understand the other side's point of view, even if we don't agree with it.
- In our communities, we engage those we disagree with, looking for common ground and ways to work together.
- In politics, we support principles that bring us together rather than divide us.

We organize community workshops and local alliances, gather annually to determine our priorities, and convene red and blue thought leaders to dive deep into political issues.

Our rule of balance is that at every level of leadership we are half red and half blue. from staff to the Board of Directors, in all our red/blue workshops, including delegates to our annual convention, and local alliances.

The organization has a small national staff with many grassroots volunteers. Members can be part of monthly video conferences. Member delegates help guide the organization at the annual convention. This non-profit is led by a Board of Directors.

Visit our website, www.better-angels.org

What We Do

Skills Training Workshops (Youth & Adults – 2 ½ hr event)

Skills Training Workshops can be done with any size group and any mix of red (conservative) and blue (liberal/progressive) participants. Skills workshops do the following:

- 1 Provide you with the knowledge of what it takes to have constructive, non-polarizing conversations between people who disagree politically.
- 2 Give you the chance to practice the listening and speaking skills in political conversations.
- 3 Motivate you to have these conversations with people in your social network.

Depolarizing Within Workshops (Youth & Adults – 2 ½ hr event)

[This Workshop is still in the development stage].

Red/Blue Workshops (Adults & Youth – 6 hr or 3 hr event)

Red/Blue Workshops bring together 5-8 Conservative-leaning citizens and 5-8 Liberal-leaning citizens for a day of structured conversations. Here's what you can expect to get out of a workshop:

- 1 Better understand the experiences and beliefs of those on the other side of the political divide.

- 2 Find areas of commonality in addition to differences.
- 3 Learn something that might be helpful to you and to others in your community and the nation.

Better Angels Debates (Youth & Adults – 1-2 hr event)

A Better Angels Debate is a parliamentary form of debate in which a group of people listens carefully to one another, think together, and allows themselves to be touched and perhaps changed by each other's ideas. When done well, everyone walks out a little closer to the truth, more aware of the validity in opposing views, more knowledgeable of the complexity of issues, and with tighter community relationships.

- 1 Encourages the passionate and energetic expression of ideas.
- 2 Allows for the expression of nuance and ambiguity.
- 3 Allows people to admit that they are not really sure which side they support.

Better Angels Alliances (Youth & Adults – monthly meeting)

Better Angels Alliances are local groups of people who have attended a Better Angels workshop, are dues-paying members, and want to help unify America and promote better public policy. Alliances have red/blue co-chairs and at least a 60/40 split in red and blue membership.

- 1 Sponsor workshops, skills training, and debates in their local community
- 2 Have in-depth discussions about public policy issues, and plan to address local issues.
- 3 Socialize with each other through potluck dinners, movie nights, etc.