

Inquiring Minds topic – 14 April 2017

Bruce Angus McNaughton, Moderator

State of the Union as Voiced by Inquiring Minds

OK folks, here comes - the meeting you have secretly wanted since the last election. Your chance to comment on the State of our Union from your point of view, be it far left liberal or far right conservative or all those positions in between.

Comments are sought on these subjects:

How is the US doing?

How is the Democratic Party doing?

How is the Republican Party doing?

How is the House doing and its leadership majority and minority as well?

How is the Senate doing and its leadership majority and minority as well?

Are the voters and public in general focusing on the country and its political processes and the challenges we are facing as a nation? If not why not?

more . . .

And now the Moderator's rules for this session:

Please be on time. It is discourteous to arrive after the 10:15 start. It interrupts the discussion.

The moderator will offer no opinions from the chair.

There will be no passing the mike around. Raise your hand or name card for recognition.

Two minutes is the limit for each participant's remarks. Edit yourself to the time constraint. The moderator will gavel down anyone who exceeds this time limit.

If you have a counter opinion or wish to support what a speaker is saying raise your hand and ask to make a point. The chair will recognize you for two minutes. The idea is to give other views a chance from time to time to respond to a comment made.

All comments are made to and through the Chair. No side bars or whispered comments to your seatmates. No *ad hominem* attacks. .

Disagree all you want, but remember we are friends and neighbors no matter the difference of our views.

Finally no anecdotes. They take the subject being discussed off track and confuse the Moderator.

The Moderator will drop the hammer on the violations. You can count on it.

The Moderator hopes all will come with comments in hand ready to state them. This kind of discussion flourishes when many offer their thoughts. To quote my buddy, Chairman Mao, "let a thousand flowers bloom". All opinions are valuable for that is how the system was designed to work.

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