

Proposal 2: Opinion Period before Conference

Submitted by Joshua Wrolstad.

I am proposing that a one-week (7day) time period leading up to both of the bi-annual NWTRCC Conferences be assigned as a period of time where active NWTRCC members can access the NWTRCC group email list managed by the Coordinator and Outreach Coordinator. This proposed one-week period must not coincide with the 7-day period directly before the conference (the pre-conference week) and so will end the day before the start of the 7-day pre-conference week.

Emails sent out by active members during this timeframe will be labeled in the subject line (NWTRCC OPINION PERIOD MATERIAL) so as to be easily and positively distinguishable from emails coming out from the coordinator and outreach coordinator, regarding all other NWTRCC conference material. This material must be original ideas, conclusions, and thoughts related to NWTRCC and WTR. There are no restrictions on the length or form of these materials, and these is NO REQUIREMENT FOR ANY NWTRCC MEMBERS TO CONSUME THESE MATERIALS! These materials will have no direct connection to the conference agenda and materials or break out groups but will inevitably be indirectly related as to the forementioned NWTRCC & WTR focus. This material can come in the form of digital art, poems, essays, or any other medium that is **originally drafted** by a member and that can be sent by email, email attachment, or link to cloud drive. The same expectations and rules regarding hate speech or discrimination of any form in our bi-annual conferences applies to these materials.

Why am I proposing this? This proposal is an effort to stimulate and increase our collective dialogue and debate on these important issues facing the WTR community. I have felt that specifically with the online aspect of the conferences it has been difficult to get to know and more than that learn about beliefs of my fellow WTRs. Along with that the conferences have in my opinion have not devoted adequate time to dialogue and debate and the pursuit of truth. With the limited time constraints this could be a positive way to better understand the range of political ideology within this group and allow for a deeper discussion. The 40th anniversary conference was meaningful, but it was lacking in both understanding and discussion regarding the build up to and instigation of this latest proxy war.

This one-week period could also be a small statement regarding NWTRCC rejection of the gatekeeping and suppression of thought that we have all experienced in our educational and work life. My personal experience tells me that the problems that can arise from organizations like ours that deviate from the top-down governance, choosing to instead promote debate, conversation, and input are much easier to deal with than

the problems that come out of the universally adopted corporate structure that allows for and promotes consolidation of power. If this helps even one member feel that they have a place in this lonely world to put their thoughts and beliefs in the hands of others who feel like they do, then we should agree to deal with and solve any attendant issues that may arise with a proposal like this.