

Brainstorming Ideas – Voter Registration Events

April 22 Earth Day What are some of the key policies which can protect our country and our whole world? Examine policies the Obama administration has implemented. Look at some of the policies suggested by the Sierra club and other environmental groups. What kind of world do we want to leave to our children and grandchildren?

May 1 Labor Day all over the world, except in the U.S. Remember the women killed in the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire in NYC, origin of the May 1 commemoration. Women in the workplace today. We've come a long way but there's still a long way to go. Discussion of quotas ensuring adequate representation for women on boards of directors, city and county councils, etc. -- Decent work for women. Is our country slipping backward for the gains made in the 20th century? What do the Republican candidates have to say about women in the workplace? (I would expect their views are fairly appalling.)

Memorial Day Honoring our service men and women. Democrats feel respect and gratitude for the young people who seek to serve our country in the armed forces. But how do we feel our forces should be employed/deployed? Celebrate Mr. Obama's withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan. But what should be our nation's place in a violent and troubled world? (OH BOY, I can't believe I'm coming up with this stuff. Bound to be dangerously divisive in a chapter debate.) What more can be done for the returning service men and women with psychological or physical difficulties brought on by combat experience?

July 4th Family picnic. Celebrating our nation's achievements. Celebrating the successes of the Obama administration. **Children's drawing contest:** "My country 'Tis of Thee". Ask kids to paint how they want our country to be in 5 years' time. Adults' song writing contest. Divide adults into teams of 5 or 6 people. Have prepared a sack with strips of paper inside. On each strip is the name of a popular tune (Yankee Doodle, Me and Julio down by the school yard, Brown eyed girl, Bridge over Troubled waters. Michael row your boat ashore.) Teams draw for a tune, then write new words to fit it, words which express our dreams of how our country should be, can be, if we work together for justice and equality.