A house divided against itself cannot stand.

Abraham Lincoln
Crossing Party Lines creates warm and engaging conversations with Americans who see the world differently — to increase tolerance, build community, and encourage civic cooperation.

Uniting America one conversation at a time.

CPL IN BRIEF

How do we “fix” a divided America?

As America gears up for the 2020 election, lines are being drawn, sides are being taken, and voices are getting louder.
The media and politicians have us all riled up. Crossing Party Lines (CPL) is here to calm us, unite us, and teach us to live and work together.

Come have a conversation that brings America together.

I hope you enjoy this brief introduction to our mission and that it will inspire you to be the change in your community.

Lisa Swallow Executive Director
We’re volunteers uniting America one conversation at a time.

OUR STORY

Prompted by a time of unprecedented political polarization, our story begins in 2016 with two groups starting independently of one another — on opposite coasts of the United States. Coincidentally, both chose the same name, “Crossing Party Lines.” Their shared vision led them to create an all-volunteer platform to unite America through warm and engaging conversations.

Lisa Swallow — Executive Director
Lisa is a professional communicator and author living in Portland, Oregon. She was inspired by political conversations with a cousin to apply her knowledge of communication skills, neuroscience, and nonviolent communication to design simple process for engaging in respectful conversations about politics of the day.

Kareem Abdelsadek — Chairman of the Board
Kareem is a management consultant working in Washington, DC and New York City. His expertise is rallying teams around shared missions to create change. Kareem was driven by a sense of civic duty to apply his organizational skills to reuniting America through conversations among people from all walks of life.

These two visionaries stand together now, alongside their energetic team of volunteers and over 3,000 CPL members, uniting America one conversation at a time.

Be the change in your community. Learn about volunteer opportunities. CrossingPartyLines.com
We have a different way of talking politics.

CONVERSATIONS

“Conversations are the way we connect, engage, navigate, and transform the world with others.”

JUDITH GLASER
Conversational Intelligence

CPL hosts weekly moderated conversations that give each person an opportunity to share their unique way of seeing the world. The goal is to help us understand how and why we disagree.

We don’t try to change minds, win debates, prove a point, or reach consensus.

We listen to understand:

- warmly attending to the other person as they speak,
- consciously setting aside the tendency to defend.

Being in “discovery mode” opens our minds and encourages curiosity, helping us appreciate the different ways we each see the world.

It fosters connection among people who don’t ordinarily meet, much less agree.

We engage with tolerance to increase individual and group exposure to different views — leveraging our differences as strengths — in your city, in your neighborhood, and in virtual spaces.

WHO ATTENDS?

Americans from all walks of life representing the full political spectrum. Some align with a party, others identify with values and topics. Within party affiliation, many participants self-identify along the spectrum of conservative, libertarian, liberal, or progressive. Yet others self-identify along the spectrum dependent on the topic, for example, fiscally conservative and socially progressive.

All voices are welcome, heard, and respected at our events.

“You feel like people are actually listening. Meaning they’re stopping, they’re being silent, and they’re digesting what you’re saying. They’re not just having an immediate response …”

Kyree, CPL New York NY
Words that Divide Us
Words and assumptions keep us from communicating. The meaning of most words we use in political discussions changes according to who is using them. We explore that.

You Just Don’t Get it
Misunderstandings about Progressives, Liberals, Libertarians, and Conservatives. What’s good about each? What concerns us?

Informed Voting
Why are your facts different from mine? What’s the role of “my side bias” in selecting and framing information?

Political Perspectives
How do moral foundations influence our experience of the world? How do they impact our politics?

Climate Change: Crisis or Concern?
Is there a climate crisis? Or is concern about the human impact on our planet being overstated to promote a political agenda?

Favorite Conversations

It’s Not Just Talking
We offer regular, social interaction to build community. We break bread together, laugh together, and play together. We host game nights and organize pub retreats. CPL is volunteer-driven: we pitch in to help.

We connect with people who are not like us, giving way to surprise at the possibility of making friends and being a part of warm and engaging communities.
We begin with what we’re learning from the science of being human.

**THE SCIENCE**

We’ve learned a great deal about what it means to be human in the last three decades. Disciplines like cognitive science, neurobiology, and evolutionary psychology have shed important new light on how our minds work — especially in the social environment.

Understanding the partisan brain is central to the work of Crossing Party Lines. We offer in-depth courses and train our moderators in the very best science. Our conversations are conducted with the latest research in hand, using proven techniques to encourage curiosity rather than defensiveness, aimed at keeping conversations on an even keel.

Minds react to attacks on our beliefs the same way as threats to our physical well-being. We work to establish trust among participants and avoid “triggers” that get in the way. Conversations are safe yet courageous spaces where all voices are heard.

**OPPORTUNITIES TO TALK**

Participatory politics begins with talking to our fellow citizens. Mastering the skills of civil, respectful discourse takes practice. At our events we learn the skills and practice them by talking to real people about the issues we care about. We are safe to be ourselves.

**TRAINING**

Crossing Party Lines provides FREE CLASSES teaching the skills we use in our conversations. Look for our Education Brief soon to learn more. Subscribe to our weekly eBLAST for updates.

Education is the key ingredient. Learn about growth opportunities.
Where To Find Us

We host local **meetups** and engage online via **Zoom**.

**OUR EVENTS**

At the present time our events are held virtually — online using **Zoom**. Our trained volunteer moderators work to add warmth online. We allow an unlimited number of attendees and provide a moderator for every 20. Join us by computer, tablet, or phone using the **Zoom application**.

We have 8 chapters nationally. Visit us @ MeetUp.com to get the latest schedule.

**START A CHAPTER IN YOUR COMMUNITY**

Learn how you can organize a local chapter.

CrossingPartyLines.com
WE HAVE NO POLITICAL AFFILIATION.
Our members, volunteers, and board come from all across the country and represent a wide range for political views — Progressive, Liberal, Libertarian, Conservative, and others.

WE ARE 100% DONATION SUPPORTED.
Every penny donated goes to making meetups happen. Our services are free for all who need it, made possible by you.
Donate to support Crossing Party Lines.

Crossing Party Lines, Inc. (CPL) is a 501(c)(3) organization.

WE ARE 100% VOLUNTEER RUN.
We do our work out of love for our fellow Americans — to unite us all, one conversation at a time.
Be the change in your community:
Volunteer to help Crossing Party Lines.

WE OFFER OUR SERVICES FREE OF CHARGE.
We don’t charge for our moderated conversations, workshops, and fun nights. On request, we offer small group classes and custom training. We charge for these private services to support our work.
Contact Lisa Swallow to learn more.
Lisa@CrossingPartyLines.com

WE INVITE YOU TO ATTEND.
We welcome all views,
Appreciate all perspectives,
And give all voices the chance to be heard.

CPL is registered in New York, NY.
57 W 57th Ave, Fl 7, NY, NY 10019

Our head office is in Portland, OR.
PO Box 8913, Portland, OR 97219
503-267-0498

Subscribe to our weekly eBLAST
Learn about events in your community.
Crossing Party Lines is a non-profit all-volunteer platform to unite America through warm and engaging conversations. Our focus is political depolarization using the tools of science. We host local meet-ups and connect virtually through Zoom. Participants register through MeetUp.com.

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Our co-founders are available to talk about the wonderful coincidence that gave rise to Crossing Party Lines coast-to-coast:

NEW YORK NY

Kareem Abdelsadek
Chairman of the Board
Kareem@CrossingPartyLines.com

PORTLAND OR

Lisa Swallow
Executive Director
Lisa@CrossingPartyLines.com

More information, including bios of board members, is available online @ CrossingPartyLines.com

FAST FACTS

We currently have 8 chapters across the country:
Atlanta GA, Chicago IL, Columbus OH, Mesa AZ,
New York NY, Portland OR, Raleigh NC
and Southern Oregon.

We have 3,000+ Members and 43 Volunteers.
We’ve had 275+ conversations since Fall 2016.

We are committed to non-partisan respectful dialogue.