

Westport DTC Communications Expectations

The Westport DTC values diversity in all of its manifestations and works to promote harmony. Members often share common goals but at times may find that they disagree with friends, neighbors and colleagues whom they respect and admire about preferred strategies for achieving these aims. It is critical to keep our core values in mind during conversation and debate, to listen with respect to each other, to keep open minds, and to think creatively about crafting solutions together. The DTC welcomes a range of perspectives and adopts these communications principles (Mnemonic: **DTC ID**) to promote civil and productive discourse.

Diversity—The DTC welcomes diversity and condemns bigotry and hate in all forms. The expectation is openness, tolerance, and respect in every form of expression.

Teamwork—The DTC is strongest when we support each other and integrate disparate perspectives. We encourage members to work cooperatively and creatively.

Civility—The DTC recognizes mutual respect and fairness as the basis of our interactions. The tone with which one expresses themselves cannot be easily separated from the message one wishes to convey. The DTC encourages members to consider the way that social media may, by its nature, distort meaning and accelerate emotional responses. Further, electronic communications have permanence. Frequently a phone call or personal meeting may be more effective.

Integrity—DTC engagement extends to many aspects of community life: in public, on the internet, within social media, and elsewhere. At any particular moment, it can be challenging for others to know whether one is acting in a DTC capacity. The DTC encourages members to value integrity and to consider that their conduct can reflect on the organization as a whole.

Discretion—The Chair of the DTC is the sole spokesperson for the Westport DTC. If any reporters, bloggers, etc. request a member's views on a DTC matter, please direct such inquiry to the Chair. Since it can be challenging for others to know if a member is acting or speaking in a DTC or individual capacity at any particular time, when speaking in a public forum, members should make clear that their views are personal.