The future of… Five select topics to be examined by the experienced and wise

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In this session, topics of education, health/health care, transportation, election processes, and work will be examined from the perspectives of the session participants. Using the model of a topic per session, the SGL will provide session objectives; a basic foundation on which to build ideas, thoughts, opinions, and reactions; and the opportunity to share the outcome of 60+ years of life. The purpose is to sound out viewpoints and beliefs. The goal is to answer the question of how do people with an amazing mix of life experiences analyze and evaluate life as it is and what do they see ahead. What do we glean from Bezos, Gates, Winfrey, the Obamas and previous presidents, Rubenstein, Murdoch, numerous professional athletes, the media, and each other to determine our opinions on trends for the future. This is not designed to be a search for right or wrong answers or an in depth analysis of any topic. The intent is to have a robust discussion from multiple perspectives that values participants’ time and insight.

Session 1. The future of education

Looking over 120 years, education moved from restricted/controlled to available for all. Methods of education shifted from disciplinarian with subjects conveyed in factory-like settings to student driven with information and learning in flexible, open rooms. Subjects expanded from arts and literature to include science, technology, and mathematics. Structure changed from the one room schoolhouse to multi-building campuses. With the introduction of technology, different opportunities emerge.

At the end of this session, the attendee will:

Discuss the pros-cons of various educational formats

Identify the opportunities made available from application of technology

Determine a futuristic view of education in what is currently identified as kindergarten through postsecondary education.

Session 2. The future of health/health care

Looking over 120 years, communicable disease was extensive, controlled and possibly recurred; vaccines evolved; quality of life expanded; carefully designed sick care advanced; health and healthy life style emerged; and cures discovered. Applying education, research, and experience, solutions surfaced for complex problems. The life span increased and new norms materialized .Treatment compliance and non-compliance always existed among segments of the population and individuals in general.

At the end of this session, the attendee will:

Identify the impact on health of the compliant/non-compliant debate

Discuss advantages and disadvantages of singularity of man and machine

Discuss the evolution of a new healthcare system such as telehealth, self/technology administered medication, and gene therapy,

Session 3. The Future of Transportation

Looking over 120 years, transportation evolved from horse and horse and buggy, ship, streetcar, automobile, truck, train, airplane and now rocket. Individuals chose to travel on a multi-passenger device or alone. Bikes, scooters, and motorcycles served the needs of individuals. Means of transportation varied based on space, size of mass to be moved, and industrial development. Each type of transportation influenced the health and mobility of the public.

At the end of the session, the attendee will:

Identify the impact on the individual of various forms of transportation.

Discuss the publics’ need for expansive, large footprint types of transportation if individual mobility declines or remains stagnant

Discuss the future and impact of space travel

Session 4. The Future of Election Processes

Looking over 120 years, the processes for election of public officials changed where and how ballots were marked. Historically, voter came to a polling place on a designated day to obtain, mark and cast a paper ballot. Over time, the decentralized polling place for one geographic district morphed into a centralized large voting center for multiple districts. Equipment to mark, cast, and count became plentiful. More recently, the ballot delivery method changed from the voter coming to the ballot at a voting place to the ballot going to the voter by mail.

At the end of the session, the attendee will

Discuss the future of elections. Do and how do elections matter?

Rate election processes from the voter perspective: equipment, polling place/vote center, vote by mail, electronic or alternatives, one day to 30-45 days.

Examine the most recent election: was the large turnout of voters an anomaly or will it carry over to future elections? Has the public gained or lost trust by participating in an election?

Session 5. The Future of Work

Looking over 120 years, work was basically getting paid something of value for completing a task. The item of value could have been food, a product, money and the task was usually manual. Overtime, very simplified, as tasks became automated and education expanded, different forms of work emerged, rewarded by standardized money. The money was used to obtain needed products and supported emerging retail businesses. More recently, some of the retail businesses faltered and closed rapidly in light of the COVID\_19 restrictions. Work previously available in some of the businesses and elsewhere disappeared, money became scarce, and unemployment ensued.

At the end of the session, the attendee will:

Examine the emerging examples of work: protests, decorating public space, assisting others, raising funds for projects. Do we have two groups – those who need help and those who help? What is the reward for work – are we back to being paid for work by food, product and money?

Discuss the relationship between work and education: what happens to standardized work if there are fewer educated people? Is there such a thing as employment?

Examine the future of buildings that were offices. Since more work is portable, is public space the new office?