

CEC NEWSLETTER

CIVIC VALUES IN ACTION

E PLURIBUS UNUM

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The American Founders created the longest lasting democratic Republic in history, which is now in our hands. They declared in the Great Seal that every generation had to solve critical problems and contribute the next layer of the unfinished pyramid. They gave us the prime directive, E Pluribus Unum, to affirm diversity and freedom, while we work together in unity.

In WWII, our nation came together to produce weapons and support our troops as we faced a grave threat. My father told stories of high school students gathering scrap metal for recycling and families planting victory gardens to serve the national effort to win that war.

Compare that with our response to the COVID-19 pandemic. With a lack of trust in our government and our medical experts, many citizens refused to follow the recommended health practices. What happened to patriotism? Can we agree that the slight discomfort of wearing a mask is worth the health and economic benefits to our community and nation?

Our challenge in civic education is to teach the value of our unique individual qualities and the freedoms in the Bill of Rights, in balance with the obligation to serve a larger purpose and help to create a more perfect union. A critical problem now is students feeling alone and alienated from community. They seek meaningful relationships and opportunities to serve and contribute solutions to real problems, in the spirit of E Pluribus Unum.

