

Meeting summary Chaffee County Patriots Town Hall November 2025

Quick recap

The meeting opened with welcoming remarks and a prayer, followed by discussions about community engagement and the establishment of a student organization focused on principles of freedom and limited government. The conversation centered on the formation and activities of a Turning Point USA chapter at Western Colorado University, including their approach to interfaith dialogue, community service, and weekly meetings that incorporate faith-based discussions. The conversation ended with discussions about expanding the chapter's reach to high schools and promoting biblical principles in educational settings, while emphasizing the importance of community involvement and respectful engagement.

Next steps

- [Anthony: Contact Turning Point USA to get the chapter's Instagram account linked on the TPUSA website](#)
- [Jake Farmer : Collect names and addresses from attendees interested in supporting a local Turning Point chapter](#)
- [Gunnison High School students: Apply online to start a Turning Point USA chapter at the high school](#)
- [Community members: Start a community chapter of Turning Point USA in the local area](#)

Summary

Community Engagement and Guidance Meeting

The meeting began with Rick West welcoming attendees and noting a high turnout, possibly the largest in five years. A prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance followed, led by Rick. He emphasized the importance of community involvement and asked for guidance from the Holy Spirit during the discussion. The meeting was set to focus on a significant topic, though the specifics were not mentioned in the transcript.

Monthly Discourse Event Overview

Tom introduced the monthly discourse event, explaining its purpose and history, and outlined upcoming activities, including flag waving and a Christmas potluck with a silent auction. He handed over to Tom McCracken, who introduced the keynote speaker, Anthony Wallmark, who discussed his involvement in establishing Turning Point USA at Western Colorado University and emphasized the importance of community engagement.

Student Organization's Growth and Impact

Tom discussed the establishment of a student organization at Western, founded by Charlie Kirk, which aims to educate and train students on principles of freedom, free markets, and limited government. He highlighted the initial lack of political engagement among students and the subsequent wave of hostility faced by the organization, which chose to respond with love, discipline, character, and prayer rather than hate. Despite the challenges, the chapter has grown significantly in just over a month, with 40 new members, and is actively involved in community service initiatives like food drives and collaborations with the Gunnison GOP. Tom emphasized that the organization's goal is not division but engagement, aiming to create spaces for respectful debate and foster a sense of community.

Empowering Young Americans Through Faith

Tom discussed the mission of Turning Point USA to empower young Americans to think critically and independently, emphasizing hope for the future. He explained the process of starting a community group, which involves filling out an interest form on the organization's website. Tom also mentioned the existence of Turning Point Faith chapters and shared his experience of getting a chapter approved by both the organization and the school, which involved overcoming various hurdles. The group's first introductory meeting was held on Tuesday, with weekly meetings planned for Tuesdays at 7 PM in Gunnison. They incorporate faith into their discussions through weekly devotionals, or "Devos," at meetings.

Interfaith Dialogue and Debate Training

The discussion focused on the establishment of a Turning Point chapter on campus, with participants discussing their approach to interfaith dialogue and debate training. The chapter, which launched its first meeting with 10-15 attendees, operates under the guidance of Megan, a national representative, and aims to teach students respectful communication skills. While the group respects all faiths, they maintain a focus on Christian principles and acknowledge challenges from social media, attributing some negativity to fear and misunderstanding rather than malicious intent.

Christian Revival and Urban Challenges

Tom discussed the increasing presence of evil and darkness in society, particularly in large cities, and expressed optimism about a recent Christian revival among young people. He reflected on the changing nature of cities like Denver and the loss of community spirit, while emphasizing the importance of standing together against these challenges. The conversation also touched on the need for transparency within organizations and the complexities of reconnecting with the MAGA base, with Tom acknowledging the difficulty of

finding perfect politicians but emphasizing the importance of balancing good and evil in political decisions.

Engaging Communities with Turning Point USA

Tom discussed the importance of staying informed and making independent decisions, sharing his experiences with media and social media in Gunnison. He provided an overview of Turning Point USA chapters in Colorado, including locations in Gunnison, Colorado Mesa, Colorado College, and Northern Colorado. Tom emphasized the need for community engagement and friendliness, contrasting big cities with smaller communities. He encouraged attendees to reach out to unfamiliar people in their community and offered support for high school chapters, mentioning Gunnison High School's plans to start a chapter. When asked about a public discussion at Western Colorado University, Tom explained that while it's not currently planned in the same style as Charlie Kurtz's discussions, there are ongoing efforts to engage with the community.

TPUSA Chapter Growth Strategy

Tom discussed the current status and future plans of the Turning Point USA chapter at Western Colorado University. He explained that while they cannot host open discussions on school grounds, they plan to invite people to talk at their meetings and will share information through their Instagram account. Tom also shared his personal journey of becoming involved with TPUSA and described the organization's philosophy, emphasizing the importance of faith, family, and freedom. He advised the group to focus on establishing chapters in their community and high schools, providing support to students who want to start a chapter.

Turning Point Chapter Launch Initiative

Tom discussed the process of starting a Turning Point chapter, emphasizing the need for community involvement and support. He mentioned that chapters must originate in high schools or colleges, and encouraged attendees to volunteer and get involved. Jake Farmer, a clay target coach, expressed interest in supporting the initiative and mentioned having eager students who want to participate. Tom stressed the importance of signing up to show support for the cause.

Promoting Faith and Freedom in Schools

The meeting focused on supporting high school students and promoting biblical principles, family, faith, and freedom in schools. Tom emphasized the importance of showing love and compassion when engaging with school boards and communities, while also addressing concerns about the perception of Turning Point USA as an exclusionary group. The

discussion highlighted the challenges of discussing faith and values in schools, with some participants expressing concerns about the organization's approach to different faiths and political issues. Tom also mentioned resources available for students and adults to facilitate respectful dialogue and political engagement.