



*PLC is a non-profit organization working with other non-profits organizations. The following comments entitled **Poking Holes in Silos** by Reverend Walt Tietjen may be applied to non-profits, as well as, government agencies*

Poking Holes In Silos

First, a disclaimer!. I wasn't raised on a farm. I recognize a silo but I know little about silos. But some years ago I heard the analogy of silos used to describe organizations which have come into existence for the purpose of helping others. Like silos, each organization has a floor of founders who identify with a particular human need. They develop a statement of mission. The founders of an organization work to enlist like minded folk into their organization silos. They develop programs and raise dollars to implement their programs.



In the meantime other compassionate people see different needs to be addressed. They organize themselves into another silo with support of creative, energetic, and resourceful people. Unfortunately, those on the inside of these organizational silos can see only the sky above. None is aware of the silo standing next to them where ideas are generated, resources are expended, and helping care is given.

Imagine what it would mean if, intentionally, we punched holes in our organizational silos. The result would be a discovery of others who have some of the same genuine concerns shared by those in our silo. We may discover others have developed ideas and used resources unknown to us while we, in turn have designed programs and discovered resources they had not heard about. I believe the word is synergy. The total is greater than the sum of its parts.

For some time I've been frustrated with what is called the two party system in the political world of State and Federal government. I know I'm not alone. Some would support the formation of a new political party. (To me, this sounds like building another silo!) We don't need another party. What we need in leadership is statesmanship, men and women in one silo willing to "cross the aisle" (poke holes in their political organizational silos) to learn from and to share ideas for the good of the State and the Nation. Failure to do this means wasting the valuable and limited resources of gifted men and women who desire to serve, but who limit their service to concerns of what is best for the political party (whichever party that may happen to be).

For the sake of people in our nation and the world, the time has come to poke holes in our organizational silos in order to maximize the effects of resources we have in our collective silos.