

We Before Me

Each of the vibrant communities in our region has its own distinct charm.

And while it's natural to focus on one's own neighborhood or town, there is a better way. Working together—with trust, humility and goodwill—we can help each other tackle shared challenges across our region and harness opportunities to preserve and enhance our collective quality of life.

Most importantly, none of the audacious dreams we have for our community can be achieved by just one person or one organization – that's where you come in!

JANUARY

Set your issue priorities

Focusing on issues that matter most to you will help you remain committed and engage in deeper, more meaningful, and effective ways. Consider which issues best represent your passions, are most urgent, and leverage your unique skills and experience.

MARCH

Vote in local elections

Too many of us don't vote at the government level that most affect our daily lives. Register [here](#). Double check that you are registered at your current address [here](#). (But also make sure you vote in state and national elections too!)

MAY

Submit a letter to the editor

or post a thoughtful comment about an issue you feel isn't getting enough attention. Maybe other people are passionate about it too and it will spark conversation.

JULY

Speak at City Hall in support of something

It could be as simple as sharing a great experience at a city park or as specific as supporting zoning changes. And it is easier than you might think, [check out this quick video tutorial](#).

SEPTEMBER

Support your public libraries

They aren't just for books, they are real civic places where public life and community building happen. And San Luis Obispo's recently got a [major update](#).

NOVEMBER

Pay attention to your city's budget

It's where true prioritization happens. [Take a look](#) at the SLO Chamber's budget advocacy in 2019-21 and mark your calendars for January 2021 when it will be discussed again.

FEBRUARY

Get involved

with community and advocacy organizations, especially ones that are *for* things, not just *against* things. The SLO Chamber of Commerce is a great place to start and ask questions!

APRIL

Put the #CodeOfCivility into action

If you feel inclined to share a less than positive comment online or in-person, think carefully about who the policy/practice is meant to help & put yourself in their place. We aren't saying you should agree with everything, but it might help you be a more constructive & effective part of the discussion. [#CodeOfCivility](#)

JUNE

Start reading (or read more) great books

especially those that are written by someone who's life is dramatically different than yours.

AUGUST

Attend a public meeting

whether it be City Council, the Board of Supervisors or School Board. Feeling like an over achiever? Organize a group of friends to attend and grab a drink after to talk through what you saw and heard.

OCTOBER

Take community service to the next level

and join a board. Volunteer leadership is key to the success of any nonprofit, and a fresh face can invigorate an already great organization.

DECEMBER

Champion something audacious

and make it happen. Need some inspiration? New York's [High Line](#), our local [Skatepark](#), [public art program](#) and [Octagon Barn](#) are great examples of community-led projects.

