

The Village

Overview

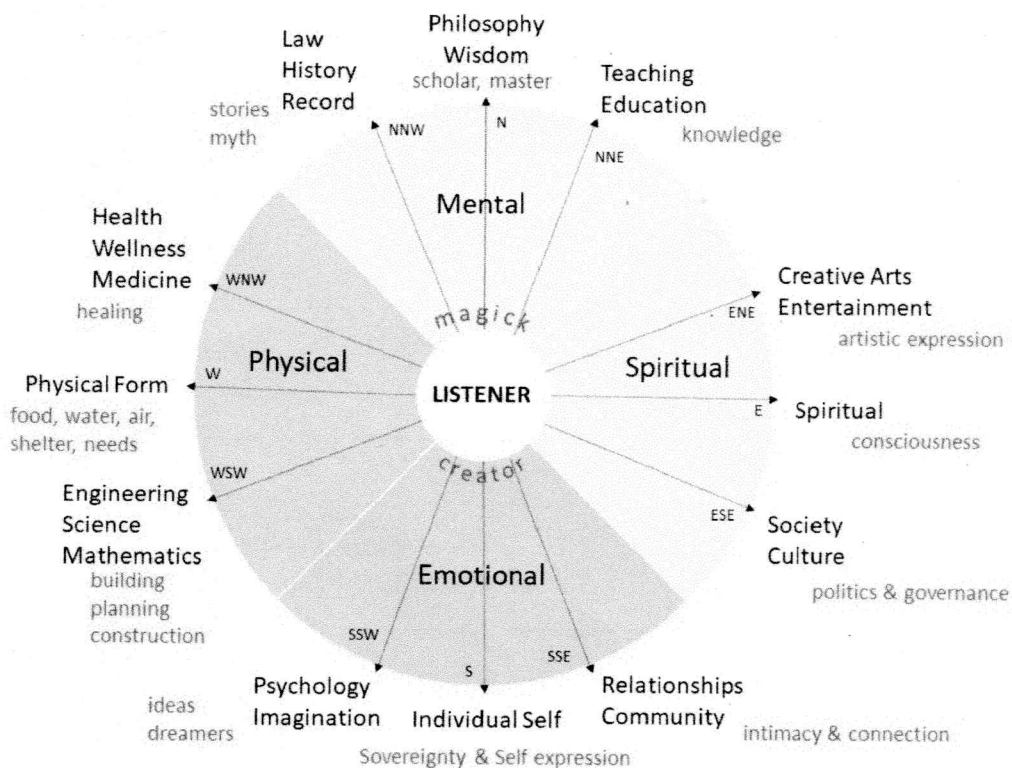
The Wheel of 13 Governance Model is a non-hierarchical governance process based on thirteen representatives sitting in circle or wheel to determine the lore and law of those people who are part of The Village in community.

Thirteen such circles/wheels comprise a “village”.

This neither a ‘consensus’ model nor a ‘majority-rules’ model but can be referred to as a “consent” model in which the decisions are gleaned by consent to proceed after considering a range of perspectives presented by 12 representatives in circle/wheel and distilled into a conclusion by a 13th representative who has listened closely to all perspectives.

In the case of matters which are considered of sufficient import or merit, the entire adult membership of a “village” (169 adults who are active members) exercise the process. As each “wheel of 13” come to their conclusion, the “listener” from each circle/wheel enters a final “wheel of 13”, again comprising 12 representatives who share the perspective and position agreed to by their circle and a 13th representative who distils those sharings to present a conclusion and thus a decision that applies to the entire community or “village”.

In such a situation the ideal situation is that all members who have participated also participate in the final “wheel of 13” by witnessing the final “wheel of 13”.



STEP ONE

This image is a depiction of “The Wheel of 13” also referred to as “The Circle of 13”.

The 13 representatives sit in a circle with one another to address whatever the matter under consideration.

The Village

The positioning of representatives in **the first** such “wheel” is determined by placing tiles in a container with each of the twelve directions (four cardinal directions NSEW and eight non-cardinal directions plus CENTRE). Each representative draws a tile to determine their “sitting place”.

A representative represents the perspective of the position they inhabit in the “wheel” or “circle” rather than a personal perspective.

The representative villager who draws CENTRE is the listener. Their role is to listen with an open heart and an open mind in order to present the “conclusion” they reach having distilled all information presented.

STEP TWO

Having heard each of the perspectives from the twelve directions and the twelve representatives, the LISTENER presents a distillation of what has been heard beginning with the statement:

“This is what I heard you tell me is our decision.....”

The listener does not, of course simply repeat what has been heard, but distils the information into a conclusion based on having heard all perspectives. It is noted too that whenever any representative sitting in any point on the wheel is not sharing, they too are actively listening to each of the other perspectives.

STEP THREE

It is at this point that the sharing of the listener, having also been heard by all, receives a response from the twelve representatives.

Either there is acceptance of the outcome or not. This does not mean that each of the representatives need agree with the proposed “way forward” but that all representatives are willing to consent to what has been presented.

Should this not be so, that is if there are representatives who are not willing to consent to the outcome or “way forward” presented by the LISTENER, return to STEP ONE.

Should this occur, each representative remains in the same position on the wheel or circle, including the LISTENER.

If the second round also fails to reach a place of consent, return once more to STEP ONE. The intent of the three rounds is to take the process into 3, the place of form.

Should the matter not reach a place of consent by the conclusion of three rounds, the matter is closed unresolved for a period not longer than ten days.

In this circumstance, the listener from the first three rounds moves out to the NNE. The representative who was speaking from the North (12 o'clock) perspective becomes the LISTENER. Each of the other representatives moves one place clockwise on the wheel and the process begins again.

The Village

STEP FOUR

A record is kept of the outcome or “way forward” and it is shared with all affected parties.

EXTRAPOLATION to a full Village.

In the case of matters to be decided for a gathering of community members or Villagers, it is to be understood that a “Village” is 169 adults who may or may not reside with one another on a single community.

It is more likely that a range of smaller communities will comprise a Village, though they may well be in close proximity (not a requirement).

Decisions of a nature that will determine outcomes or “way forward” for such a “Village” would wherever possible be conducted at the regular gathering known as “The Village”. These occur approximately four times per year, most often at or close to the equinox and solstice dates. Where such group decisions are required, 169 active “village” members would form thirteen circles of thirteen to consider the same matter. The process occurs for each of the thirteen circles or wheels. Once each circle has consented to a “way forward”, the listeners from each circle gather into a final wheel. Where each of them sits on the wheel, including the LISTENER is decided by tile selection as described above for a single wheel.

This circle/wheel of representatives then also share the outcome from their circle/wheel, considering also the place on the wheel on which they find themselves sitting for this final round.

All villagers are invited/encouraged to witness the proceedings but do not verbally participate. The same process is followed for the final wheel as described above for a single wheel.

FINAL NOTE

Should no outcome be determined by the final circle/wheel by the time three rounds have occurred, the process continues to round four, five and six if necessary – to determine an outcome or way forward. In this case, for round four, the representative who has held the NORTH position for the first three rounds moves into the role of LISTENER for round four, the listener from the first three rounds moves to the NNE position and all other representatives move one place clockwise on the wheel.

Should it be required that there is a round five, the representative who held NORTH position for round four becomes the LISTENER, the round four listener moves to the NNE and so on. Should it be required that there is a round six, the representative who held NORTH position for round five becomes the LISTENER, the round five listener moves to the NNE and so on.

Should no decision by consent be reached after this quite exhaustive process, the whole matter moves back out to the entire Village, with each circle reconvening, the listener moving to the NNE on their original circle/wheel, the representative from the NORTH becomes the LISTENER and each of the representatives moves one place clockwise on their wheel.

The Village

In this instance a single round occurs for each turn of the LISTENER (rather than three as described above). After each round, if the outcome is not determined by consent, the listener moves to the NNE, North representative moves to listener and all representatives move one place clockwise on the wheel, thus presenting different perspectives from different representatives for each round until an OUTCOME or "WAY FORWARD" is determined.