

No-Travel Meetings

Why You Want Pat Esslinger to Facilitate Online/Phone Meetings

- The pressure is on to find substitutes for face-to-face meetings
- The most commonly-used approaches for from-your-own-desk participation aren't good enough for some of the most important meetings.
The technologies everybody knows about are fine for presentations, a little Q and A, and some polling of participants, but...

When you need **robust sharing of ideas** among a group of people and their **collaborative assessment** of which ideas to go forward with, you need Pat to facilitate an online/phone session using ThinkTank to lead your group through

- ✓ Open brainstorming around problems and solutions
- ✓ Focused, in-depth dialog about those ideas and exploration of opinions
- ✓ Identification of priorities
- ✓ Criterion-based evaluation of the most promising proposed solutions
- ✓ Planning for action

With Pat Esslinger's expertise and her own ThinkTank license, there are no technology challenges for your organization. Nothing to install on your system.

A few reasons why you should have used Pat and groupware for your last meeting

- People were reluctant to be identified with their comments.
- "Groupthink" prevailed.
- Creativity was stifled because a few participants dominated the discussion.
- The best ideas came after the meeting from somebody who didn't speak up in the meeting.

Patricia Esslinger Groupware Facilitator



In Pat's *technology-enabled* meetings, participants

- generate lots of ideas fast
- stick to the agenda and follow ground rules.
- participate frankly and fully with anonymous input
- quickly reach consensus--not railroading and surrender -- and extent of agreement is measured
- produce results with full documentation

www.PatEsslinger.com
301-922-6184
Pat@PatEsslinger.com

Pat Esslinger is an independent groupware facilitator and technographer whose client list features government executives and managers. She combines expertise in meeting facilitation and use of collaborative technology with a background in executive level Federal human resources management.

Although Pat's clients are pleased with the results she gets in meetings on any topic, she does have special expertise in public personnel management. During her 25 years with the US Office of Personnel Management, Pat had assignments in various Federal human resources management specialties and held supervisory and management positions in both operations and policy development.

Pat received the William A. Jump Memorial Foundation certificate of recognition for noteworthy service in Public Administration in 1983. During her Federal career, she earned performance cash awards every year from when they were originally authorized by CSRA (1980) until her 1994 retirement. She attended the Federal Executive Institute program in Executive Leadership and Management and holds a degree in political science and English (cum laude) from Vassar College.

Pat Esslinger has been providing technology-enabled facilitation services in the Washington DC area since 1995. In the community of power users of collaborative meeting technology, she is a respected contributor and presenter.

She holds a security clearance at the Secret level.

Ms. Esslinger co-authored "Using Technology to Support ADR," published in *The Public Manager*, Summer 2000 vol. 29, no. 2, pages 29-31 and "Hash it Out in Half the Time," published in *Maryland Municipal*, July/August 2009, pages 15-16.

What Participants Have Said about Pat's Meetings

- *really the best I've ever seen! amazing. I've been a facilitator and this is wow!*
- *I loved the groupware*
- *It's like four days of ideas rolled into one.*
- *Anonymity was great*
- *We all had a chance to express ourselves. The technology equalized our "voices"*
- *Facilitator provided thoughtful and helpful assistance which got us out of traditional slumps*
- *Facilitator was very quick at grasping concepts*
- *The facilitator kept us on track and organized our plan.*
- *This was a great meeting. I felt that I was able to give my thoughts in the area. the meeting was well organized. The facilitator was great. good direction on the use of the computer and kept us on time.*
- *The best facilitator I've seen in my 40 years with the Government*

Pat's client list includes:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Defense
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Federal Aviation Administration
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
U.S. Internal Revenue Service
U.S. Department of Justice
National Academy of Public Administration
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
National Institutes of Health
National Transportation Safety Board
U.S. Office of Personnel Management
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office—
Department of Commerce
U.S. Department of State
Transportation Security Administration
U.S. Treasury Department
World Bank Group/International Finance Corporation

Patricia Esslinger

Groupware Facilitator

301-922-6184

Pat@PatEsslinger.com

www.PatEsslinger.com