Disagreeing Agreeably

Dr. Sandy Willson

In order for officers to benefit fully from every member's contribution, we must all learn to be both honest and tactful – to disagree agreeably.

	Disagreeing Agreeably	Disagreeing Disagreeably
Before the meeting:	Informs opponents of views Caucuses include opponents Seeks consensus/compromise	Surprises opponents Caucuses exclude opponents No discussion
During the meeting:	Respectful, humble Begins by listening	Self-righteous, self-assured Begins with assumptions
	Accurately represents opponent Articulates common ground	Caricatures opponent Strictly adversarial
	Gives clear rationale Proposes alternative Seeks best solution	Gives no rationale Proposes no alternative Seeks to win argument
After the Meeting:	Supports group decision	Seeks to win argument Undermines group decision