



THE LEATHER APRON

Converse and Craft Solutions

A WEEKLY GAZETTE FOR THOSE WHO STILL GIVE A DAMN

FROM THE AUTHOR

Hey you. Welcome to The Leather Apron. Allow me to introduce myself. I'm a doomscrolling, Uber Eats ordering, socially laughable and fiscally catastrophic 20-something American. You actually already know me. I'm the guy on the subway shuffling his Spotify playlist, and I'm in the car ahead of you at the drive-through. I'm a LinkedIn profile, a face in a yearbook, and a notification on your latest post. The point is, who I am doesn't particularly matter. You'll get to know me in time. For now, what matters is what I am.

And that is pissed off. I'm pissed off at the corruption in our government, the brainrot algorithms, the fact I'll probably never own a home, and that all the bugs are dying. I'm pissed at how pathetically lonely my generation is, that I'm a cog in the oligarchs' machine at work, and that I have zero confidence in our parties and leaders. But above all, I'm pissed off that where we're heading looks worse than where we came from.

But you know all of this, because it's more than likely you're pissed too.

Here's the catch. Being pissed off doesn't make us special. Taking to the street with posters and chants doesn't make us extraordinary. Re-posting an article on your story definitely doesn't qualify. Americans have been deeply polarized before, and we're experts at being pissed at our government. It's part of what makes us American.

However, two extraordinary things are happening right now. We trust our public institutions at pathetically low rates.^[1] And we have fewer friendships than past generations of Americans.^[2]

Surprise! That's a recipe for fucking disaster. But you already know that too. And there's only one way out of this cursed timeline...we must start working together to find our own solutions.

1. Jen L. Phan, "Young Americans' Trust in Federal Government Falls to Record Low, Harvard Poll Finds," *The Harvard Crimson*, April 23, 2026.

2. Daniel A. Cox and Sam Pressler, "Disconnected: The Growing Class Divide in American Civic Life," *Survey Center on American Life*, August 22, 2024.



WHY “THE LEATHER APRON”?

This gazette is named after a club for mutual improvement started in 1727 by a 21-year-old Benjamin Franklin, our nation's greatest president. That last part was a JOKE. Just wanna make sure you're still paying attention. Anyway, it was known as “The Junto” (from the Spanish word *junta*, meaning “assembly”) and as “The Leather Apron Club,” hence the name of this publication. Franklin’s concept was beautifully simple: bring together a group of motivated and curious people, have some drinks, and brainstorm how to make themselves, their careers, and their communities the best versions possible.^[3]

The image of a leather apron came from the group's membership of trades and crafts people. We’ve chosen this imagery for our gazette because it encompasses those who are hard-working, industrious, and committed to their craft, whatever it may be and regardless of the color of their collar. But also because those who wear leather aprons don’t just talk; they create. And we’re here to craft a better future. As you’ll see, we've kept the “Junto” at the heart of the Leather Apron’s philosophy. In fact, without the Junto, there is no Leather Apron.

WHAT THE LEATHER APRON IS:

A weekly printable gazette for Americans who want better from themselves, their communities, and their country. Issues that inspire conversations, community, and change. Written independently by someone with as much skin in the game as you. Maybe it’ll even make you laugh.

WHAT THE LEATHER APRON IS NOT:

A manifesto. A political entity. Partisan in any way. The ramblings of a lunatic. Too long for your pathetic attention span. And definitely not written by a fucking clanker (that means AI for any boomers that have snuck in here).

3. “Junto Club,” *Benjamin Franklin Historical Society*.



THIS WEEK'S JUNTO

THE QUESTION:

It seems only right that we go back to the source for our first weekly Junto conversation topic. This one comes straight from Franklin himself, found in his autobiography and dated 1728. We have taken the liberty of updating some of his language so your “reels-ified” vocab can keep up.

*“Have you heard any success stories from people in your community lately?
What happened? What did they do?”*

THE RULES:

1. **Find at least two other people.** No less. You bastards are so horny we can't have you falling in love with each other at the Junto.
2. **Arrange a place and time to meet.** The location and time should be repeatable week to week—a cafe, a bar, the park, your apartment, etc. Eat a meal beforehand, bring a six-pack, roll a joint. Whatever works for you all.
3. **Get rid of your phones.** We don't care how you do it. Power them down, put them in another room, bury them in the backyard. Doesn't matter—just absolutely no phones.
4. **Have a conversation.** Give yourselves at least 30 minutes. The weekly Junto question is a good place to start, but it's meant only to get you going. Remember why you're here (see The Point), and try to stay on topic.
5. **Leave with one idea worth pursuing.** Start small: a question to explore further, a little change in your routine, a person to call. Big ideas take time and trust, and you'll get there.

THE POINT:

You're not here to yap (at least not at first). You're here because you know that reflection and discourse are how you better yourself, your community, and your country. You're probably not going to cure cancer, but we promise the conversation will be a hell of a lot more productive than any comments section.



The Leather Apron can start conversations.
But you must find the answers.

This gazette isn't meant to be read online.
Don't post about us. There is nothing to post about.

Instead, print this out.
Give a copy to a friend.
Leave one somewhere.

Start a Junto.
Converse together.
Craft solutions.

We want to hear about what comes from your Juntos!
Send your anecdotes, successes, and failures to:

hello@theleatherapron.org

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

The Leather Apron is a weekly printable gazette for Americans who want better from themselves, their communities, and their country. Issues that inspire conversations, community, and change. Written independently by someone with as much skin in the game as you.

We make a good-faith effort to cite and represent the sources used in this gazette accurately. If we've fucked something up, tell us. Our opinions do not necessarily represent those of any organization, institution, or person mentioned, and nothing in The Leather Apron should be understood as professional advice.

We encourage readers to print, photocopy, and distribute this gazette. Don't sell them, modify them, or claim them as your own...assholes.

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