

2008 NCSS House of Delegates Resolutions

The House of Delegates (HOD) provides a forum for the general membership of NCSS, as represented by state councils, communities, and associated groups, to bring ideas, principles, beliefs, and actions regarding social studies education to the attention of the Board of Directors. Resolutions are the framework through which the NCSS membership at-large makes recommendations to the NCSS Board of Directors.

Any NCSS member can submit a resolution for consideration following the guidelines established in the House of Delegates manual. Resolutions are debated and voted on during the second session of the HOD meeting at

the NCSS conference. Resolutions passed by the HOD are discussed and voted on by the NCSS Board when the Board meets to discuss implementation of the Council’s short and long-term goals.

The following resolutions were debated and voted on during the second session of the 2008 House of Delegates meeting in Houston on November 15. NCSS members can access a transcript of the resolutions debate as well as Article IX of the HOD manual concerning resolutions at www.socialstudies.org

Resolution 08-01-1

Online Professional Development

Sponsored by: California, Florida, Indiana, Kentucky, Texas and Wisconsin

Co-Sponsors: Colorado, Connecticut, Maine, Northern Nevada, New York State, and Tennessee

RATIONALE: An objective of the NCSS strategic plan is “to increase professional development opportunities to strengthen theoretical, pedagogical, and content knowledge.”

WHEREAS, online professional development is a growing and proven model for distance learning;

WHEREAS, online professional development provides an opportunity to reach a national and international audience; and

WHEREAS, individuals currently entering the social studies profession are increasingly proficient and reliant on technology;

BE IT RESOLVED, NCSS will formulate a plan to develop and implement online professional development programs including, but not limited to, workshops and/or sessions from the fall conference, summer leadership institute, lectures and interactive NCSS workshops.

HOD Passed: 89% supported; 10% opposed; 1% abstained

Resolution 08-01-2

Recognition of Members of Congress Who Support the Social Studies

Sponsored by: California, Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota

Co-Sponsors: Colorado, Connecticut, Maine, New York State, Northern Nevada, Tennessee, Washington State, and Wisconsin

RATIONALE: NCSS seeks to increase legislative, media and public awareness that social studies is fundamental to an educated citizenry and seeks to increase the effectiveness and influence of NCSS and its members as advocates for social studies with public policymakers at the local, state, and national levels.

WHEREAS, resolutions of courtesy and commendation are a part of Article IX, Section 2, e;

BE IT RESOLVED, Members of Congress who actively support NCSS and its goals, and address NCSS leaders and members will be recognized in a timely manner through:

- (a) Letter of appreciation from the President and Executive Director with much gratitude and thanks;
- (b) Recognition on the front page of the NCSS website to include available photograph for at least 30 days;
- (c) Press release from NCSS to said Congressperson’s largest state newspaper(s) and/or newspaper within the Congressional district.

HOD Passed: 92% supported; 8% opposed

Resolution 08-01-3

Stewardship for Our Planet: Go Green

Sponsored by: Kansas, Texas, and Wisconsin

Co-Sponsors: Colorado, Connecticut, Elementary Education Community, Maine, Middle States, and Northern Nevada

RATIONALE: Currently, the National Council for the Social Studies is in need of a FORMAL “Green Policy” to guide its normal operating procedures.

WHEREAS, NCSS has a moral obligation to model responsible citizenship and stewardship for our planet;

WHEREAS, the electronic dissemination of materials would reduce costs, trash, and promote ecological responsibility;

WHEREAS, the majority of members are technologically savvy;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCSS make every effort to reduce, reuse, and recycle in its publications, conferences, meetings, and daily operations by enacting a formal Green Policy.

HOD Passed: 95% supported; 2% opposed; 3% abstained

Resolution 08-01-4

Simplified NCSS Legislative Updates

Sponsored by: ATSS/UFT (New York City) and Texas

Co-Sponsors: Georgia, Maine, New York State, Northern Nevada, and Wisconsin

RATIONALE: The NCSS staff does an excellent job of frequently e-mailing Legislative Updates and information to key state and local personnel but the frequency of the updates and the legislative language can be very overwhelming to the recipient, hard to decipher and therefore difficult to use.

WHEREAS, the e-mail legislative update information sent to key personnel is important, timely, welcome and ultimately useful;

WHEREAS, the recipients are often overwhelmed by the length, frequency, and legal language of these updates;

WHEREAS, the key personnel would like to transmit this information to council members and to act upon it in an effective manner;

BE IT RESOLVED, that NCSS distill and simplify into a bulleted format the information and materials contained in the Legislative Updates which are already e-mailed to key state and local council personnel so that it is more manageable and the formal legislative language is reduced and clarified to be more useable in our respective councils.

HOD Defeated: 48.5% opposed; 47.3% supported; 4.2% abstained

Resolution 08-01-5

Creation of Automatic Membership Linking Between the National Council and State Councils

Sponsored by: Minnesota

Co-sponsors: California, Colorado, Connecticut, Maine, North Dakota, Northern Nevada, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, and Washington State
RATIONALE: Membership is a stated goal of national and state councils.

WHEREAS, increasing membership is a priority at both the state and national level, we need to find ways to link the two;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Council for the Social Studies investigate a method of automatically linking national-membership online registration to state-membership registration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the National Council for the Social Studies would encourage states to institute an automatic national registration, and make recommendations to states for how to best institute this change logistically, with the goal of implementing a standardized, nationwide procedure.

HOD Passed: 83% supported; 14% opposed; 3% abstained

Resolution 08-01-6

Increasing State Council Relevance Beyond Annual Conference

Sponsored by: Connecticut, Georgia, Maine, Nebraska, and New Mexico

Co-sponsors: Colorado, New York State, Northern Nevada, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Wisconsin

RATIONALE: Although many state and local councils have and are developing ideas and strategies to increase their relevance beyond their individual conferences, there is currently no effective means of communicating these successes between councils.

WHEREAS, the National Council for the Social Studies website (www.socialstudies.org) provides an ideal format to share successful ideas from state and local councils;

WHEREAS, communicating these ideas can be important in increasing local council relevance within their community;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Council for the Social Studies will add a section in the affiliation paper for councils to highlight creative and innovative member benefit and professional development achievements of the past year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National Council for the Social Studies will compile the aforementioned state and local information and include it (with contact information of the originating council) on the website so that it will be available for all state and local councils to access freely.

HOD Passed: 74% supported; 19% opposed; 7% abstained

Resolution 08-01-7

Creating Standards and Resources for Quality Social Studies Assessments

Sponsored by: Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho, Illinois, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, and Tennessee

Co-sponsors: Northern Nevada, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin

RATIONALE: Teachers across the nation need tools to develop valid and effective curriculum-driven assessments.

WHEREAS, NCSS will be the leading resource for professionals who seek social studies knowledge and learning opportunities throughout their careers;

WHEREAS, powerful and authentic social studies requires powerful and authentic assessment;

WHEREAS, there are many more examples of ineffective, poorly constructed and redundant assessment items available to social studies teachers than there are of powerful and authentic assessment instruments and tools;

BE IT RESOLVED, that NCSS convene an assessment task force to identify standards for quality assessment, including test construction and administration, providing website resources to model best practices in assessment development with sample items in various formats;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NCSS provide outreach opportunities to local affiliates and their state meetings on assessment development and best practices;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NCSS will solicit specific presenters with professional credentials in assessment and encourage submission of proposals on assessment for presentation at the annual conference.

HOD Passed: 86% supported; 11% opposed; 3% abstained

Resolution 08-01-8

Alignment of Awards

Sponsored by: ATSS/UFT, Middle States, New York State, and Tennessee

Co-Sponsors: Colorado, Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, Northern Nevada, and Wisconsin

RATIONALE: Because social studies educators are often under-recognized both locally and nationally and it is important to increase the number and range of award nominations, especially from unrepresented groups.

WHEREAS, NCSS has the capacity to electronically distribute materials readily useable by the print and visual media;

WHEREAS, state and local councils may be publicized and energized through the recognition of local award winners in national, state, and local media;

WHEREAS, best practices are shared and encouraged through the celebration of their accomplishments;

WHEREAS, NCSS has creative award criteria already in place;

BE IT RESOLVED, that NCSS will collaborate with state and local councils to highlight the criteria and significance of awards, to encourage state and local councils to align award criteria with national award criteria.

HOD Passed: 80% supported; 16% opposed; 4% abstained

Resolution 08-02-1

Establishment of Guidelines for Social Studies Clubs

Sponsored by: Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Missouri, Ohio, and South Dakota

Co-Sponsors: Connecticut, Maine, Northern Nevada, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee

RATIONALE: The social studies curriculum is being scaled back in schools across the country and this has reduced student interest in the social studies. Clubs in the K-12 schools restore student involvement in the field.

WHEREAS, social studies knowledge and critical thinking skills are central to sound decision-making and engagement in civic life; and

WHEREAS, many teachers have independently formed social studies clubs but the continued success of these clubs often relies on the effort of that particular educator;

WHEREAS, with an effective set of guidelines, these clubs could become effective organizations promoting social studies;

BE IT RESOLVED, NCSS should support the creation of guidelines for the development of social studies clubs in the K-12 schools.

HOD Passed: 82% supported; 16% opposed; 2% abstained

Resolution 08-02-2

Developing Connections Between Literacy and Social Studies

Sponsored by: Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Maine, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Ohio, and South Dakota

Co-sponsors: Colorado, Middle States, New Hampshire, New York State, Northern Nevada, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Wisconsin

RATIONALE: Nationwide, time allotted for teaching social studies at the elementary level is decreasing while there is increased focus on literacy, therefore escalating the need for integrating social studies within literacy instruction. Elementary teachers are increasingly in need of creative ways to incorporate social studies into the curriculum.

WHEREAS, in the strategic plan, a goal of the National Council for the Social Studies is to improve a variety of information and materials for effective social studies instruction; and

WHEREAS, the National Council for the Social Studies makes available notable trade book lesson plans and encourages educators to provide multimedia presentations of best practices implementing national standards;

WHEREAS, literacy is an essential social studies skill and can be taught through social studies;

BE IT RESOLVED, that NCSS promote the connections between literacy and social studies by providing a platform on the NCSS website for teachers to share ideas and information about

how they have successfully taught literacy skills through the social studies

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NCSS provide resources to teachers that facilitate the advancement of integrating social studies with literacy.

HOD Passed: 69% supported; 26% opposed; 5% abstained

**Resolution 08-02-3
Expanding Public Awareness of the
Multidisciplinary Approach of the Social
Studies**

*Sponsored by: Kansas, Texas, and Wisconsin
Co-Sponsor: Connecticut, Elementary
Education Community, Maine, Middle States,
New Hampshire, New York State, and Northern
Nevada*

RATIONALE: A general public misconception exists regarding the term social studies.

WHEREAS, social studies is a systematic study drawing from anthropology, economics, history, geography, psychology and many other disciplines to promote the knowledge of and involvement in civic affairs (e.g., health care, crime, foreign policy);

WHEREAS, the understanding of these issues and developing resolutions to them require the multidisciplinary approach of the social studies;

BE IT RESOLVED, that NCSS expand the public awareness of the multidisciplinary approach of the social studies.

HOD Passed: 85% supported; 14% opposed; 1% abstained

**Resolution 08-04-1
NCSS to Encourage Teaching about the Eight
Millennium Goals of the United Nations**

Sponsored by: ATSS/UFT, Connecticut, Illinois,

Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Minnesota, Nevada, New York State, Oregon, Tennessee, Texas, Washington State, and Wisconsin

Co-Sponsors: Elementary Education Community

RATIONALE: The National Council for the Social Studies has long been an advocate of education about international organizations and supporter of efforts to improve the quality of life of the world's people


WHEREAS, the United Nations established the eight Millennium Goals in the year 2000, to (1) eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; (2) achieve universal primary education; (3) promote gender equality and empower women; (4) reduce child mortality; (5) improve maternal health; (6) combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases; (7) ensure environmental sustainability; (8) develop a global partnership for development, with target dates set for 2015, and has monitored their implementation annually;

WHEREAS, an educated and engaged citizenry is necessary to promote awareness and action of individuals and government bodies to advance the UN Millennium Goals;

BE IT RESOLVED, NCSS should encourage and support teaching about the United Nations eight Millennium Goals by creating policies that encourage educators to focus on these goals in their instruction and provide links/publications to lessons and information to enhance instruction.

HOD Passed: 71% supported; 26% opposed; 3% abstained

Courtesy resolutions were also passed in honor of the late James J. Sheehan and in recognition of the service to the social studies community of NCSS President Michael Yell and NCSS Conference Committee Chair Stephen Johnson.



The University of South Florida social studies education faculty invites applicants to apply for its 2010 Fall Cohort. You will have an opportunity to earn a doctorate from one of the largest, Carnegie Doctoral/Research Universities-Extensive colleges of education in the nation with a program of five full professors with over 75 books, 250 journal articles, 1000 presentations, and \$12 million in grants to their credit. The program will prepare graduates to assume positions as teacher educators and leaders for curriculum and instructional reform. For detailed information, go to <http://www.coedu.usf.edu/main/departments/seced/SocialS/ssePhDchoices.html> or contact Dr. Michael J. Berson at berson@coedu.usf.edu or (813)974-7917.

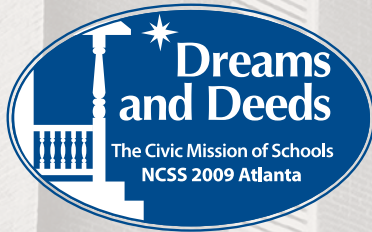
Advertising

For inquiries about advertising, call Doran Communications at 302-644-0546, or e-mail advertising@ncss.org. Information about advertising rates and specifications can also be found at www.socialstudies.org/advertising

ABC CLIO.....cover 2	James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation... 182
American Public University..... 163	Terry L. Baker (The Longest Walk)..... 182
C-SPAN.....cover 4	University of South Florida..... 192

ATLANTA

Cradle of the Civil Rights Movement
Heartbeat of the New South



**Join us November 13–15
for the social studies
event of the year!**

Keynote speakers

Maya Soetoro-Ng, peace educator and
President Obama's sister

Greg Mortenson, author of *Three Cups of Tea*

Eric Foner, leading Lincoln scholar

**Clinic, tours, and visits to the Martin Luther
King National Historic Site and King Center**

**Evening reception at the Jimmy Carter
Presidential Library**

**Teaching American History grant workshop
and 100+ sessions on US History**

**Saturday Night Film Festival, featuring the
educators of "Paper Clips"**

**Bring five teachers
for the price of four!**

For details, and to register, go to
[www.socialstudies.org/
conference](http://www.socialstudies.org/conference)



Join us in congratulating our 2009 Teacher Fellows! They will spend a month at C-SPAN this summer developing lessons and ideas for social studies classrooms. C-SPAN Classroom members can use these new resources this fall!



Tracey Van Dusen
AP U.S. Gov't,
U.S. Gov't, &
American Studies
Pioneer High School
Ann Arbor, MI



Eliot Waxman
AP U.S. Gov't & Politics
Oakton High School
Vienna, VA



Sean Gibbons
Modern U.S. History
& AP Economics
Mount Saint Joseph High School
Baltimore, MD

Announcing...
C-SPAN's 2009 *Summer*
Teacher Fellows

For information about teacher fellowships & FREE classroom resources, **join C-SPAN Classroom today at www.c-spanclassroom.org.**

C-SPAN
30 YEARS

Created by Cable. Offered as a Public Service.