

Nebraska State Council For the Social Studies

Spring 2000

Teaching for Results: A Social Studies Conference on Instruction and Assessment for Nebraska Teachers

NSCSS will join with the Lincoln Public Schools, the Nebraska Department of Education, and various organizations to sponsor a conference on assessments which will be held at Lincoln High School August 17. Fred Czarra, International Education Consultant and Specialist in Social Studies and Interdisciplinary Learning at the Council of Chief State School Officers in Washington D.C., will be the keynote speaker. There will also be four "break-out" sessions related to the various disciplines such as geography, history, psychology, world cultures, etc. that teachers can attend.

Details:

Date: Thursday August 17, 2000

Time: 7:30-3:30

Place: Lincoln High School -Lincoln, NE

Phone: 402-471-2449

Cost: **FREE** and includes breakfast and lunch

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President's Message

President's Message and NSCSS Spring Conference Report

Approximately 28 Social Studies educators gathered at Mahoney State Park for dinner and a presentation by UNL Professor Robert Haller on "Human Rights and Indian Rights: Las Casas to Standing Bear." Saturday educators met for a short meeting at Millard North High School. Field trips were then made to Joslyn Art Museum and Western Historical Trails. The museum representatives were very cordial and provided many suggestions on how to integrate their resources into social studies classes.

Unfortunately, attendance at the Saturday program was very disappointing. The NSCSS Board of Directors will meet June 9 at 3 p.m. at the Lincoln Public Schools District Offices to discuss the direction NSCSS should take with reference to Spring and Fall conferences. You are invited to attend the meeting and offer your suggestions on how we can both increase attendance at these conferences and increase membership in our organization. I make a very earnest plea to those of you who are currently members to encourage other teachers to join NSCSS and get actively involved in the organization, whether it be providing lesson plans, comments for our publication, attending NSCSS workshops, or conferences, etc. Let us know what we can do to help you "sell" NSCSS.

Nothing is more relevant to Social Studies educators than the many changes that are going to occur in the very near future with reference to the "Standards" and assessments. You will have a wonderful opportunity to gain valuable insight with reference to both the "Standards" and assessment techniques that you might use in your classrooms. NSCSS will be joining the Nebraska Department of Education and the Lincoln Public Schools in providing a program in Lincoln on August 17th that deals with both issues.

Please take a few minutes to fill out the enclosed "Outstanding Educator" form and send your nominations to me. There are many Social Studies educators who merit recognition for the outstanding work that they do. This is one small way NSCSS has of recognizing those educators.

On a personal note, I would like to extend my thanks to Sally Fellows who has been editor of the NSCSS publication. It is no small undertaking to be the editor, and I appreciate the time and effort Sally expended. Susan Toohey will assume the duties of the NSCSS editor, and begins her "tour of duty" with this Issue. Thank you Susan and Sally.

Michael Young, NSCSS President

Useful Websites

African-American History. <http://Africana.com/>

Offers a black perspective on everything from daily news and history to practical advice. It contains a wide variety of lesson plans that vary from Dred Scott and the Geography of Sectionalism to the Zulu Chief Shaka. The site accompanies a CD-ROM that is called Encarta Africana.

Marco Polo. <http://www.wcom.com/marcopolo/>

Provides a standards-based Internet content for K-12 teachers. There are professionally developed lesson plans and classroom activities for the following general areas: economics, geography (which allows you to print a map of any foreign nation or state in the US), humanities courses, mathematics, or art. The humanities site has an excellent lesson using powers of persuasion to support war efforts.

Lewis and Clark.

http://www.homeworkcentral.com/knowledge/vsl_files

Provides a listing of documents located in the National Archives and Records Administration that are related to the travels of Lewis and Clark. The documents range from an 1804 encounter with a Grizzly Bear to an 1805 report from Lewis to President Jefferson.

American Memory Collection. <http://memory.loc.gov/>

Contains 70 collections of documents and text that represents a wonderful range of topics.



Congressional Mega Sites:

<http://lcweb.loc.gov/global/legislative/mega.html>

<http://www.lib.udel.edu/ud/spec/congress.html>

<http://www.pekin.net/dirksen/index.html>

Congress related lessons: <http://www.congresslink.org/>

Library of Congress: <http://lcweb.loc.gov/>

National Archives' center for Legislative Archives:

<http://www.nara.gov/nara/legislative/>

Links to Cemetery Pages:

<http://www.angelfire.com/ky2cemetery/links.html>

Examples: Stones and Bones: Using Tombstones as Textbooks, Cemetery Architecture, The Political Graveyard:

<http://politicalgraveyard.com/index.html> Contains many

links that relate to where dead politicians are buried, circumstances of death, etc. Tombstone Mysteries:

<http://home.flash.net/~leimer/mystery.html>





NDE Social Science Resources Home Page.


<http://www.edneb.org/SS/ss.html> John LeFeber has designed a web page that contains a wealth of information related to social studies education that includes links to: the Nebraska K-12 Social Studies/History Standards, K-1, Social Studies Dates and Activities, Educator Web Resources, etc. The Educator Web Resources is especially valuable as it has a link to "Social Studies" which contain over one hundred lessons plans for a variety of social studies topics that include geography, world history, multimedia resources for social studies, etc.

Professional Opportunities



 John LeFeber seeks help from NSCSS members to rewrite Nebraska statute 79-724, which deals with American citizenship. Anyone interested should contact John at jlfeber@edneb.org.

 Doug Kluth and Rich Brown agreed at the January 30th NSCSS meeting to help revise the NSCSS constitution. If anyone would like to assist with this task, please contact Doug: dkluth@gilligan.esu7.k12.ne.us and Rich at rbrown@esu3.esu3.k12.ne.us

 Nebraska Capitol Forum on America's Future
Teachers from throughout Nebraska are invited to apply for this year-long program which seeks to educate students about their stake in the political process and to combat political apathy among youth. Selected teachers will attend a training workshop this fall and will be provided with two complimentary curriculum units designed by the Choices for the 21st Century Project. Teachers then prepare students by implementing this curriculum and other provided materials. The program culminates with a forum in the spring of 2001 at the State Capitol, where student representatives meet with each other and elected officials to discuss America's future role in the world. Nebraska is one of four states to participate in this program, which is sponsored by the Office of the Secretary of State Scott Moore and the Nebraska Humanities Council. Co-sponsors include the Cooper Foundation, the Nebraska Department of Education, and the Nebraska League of Women Voters. For more information, visit the Choices website at www.choices.edu and click on "Capitol Forum." For an application, contact Lisa Johnston at the Nebraska Humanities Council. PHONE: 402-474-2131 E-MAIL: ljohnst@alltel.net



History Trivia: Life in the 1500's

- ❖ Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May and were still smelling pretty good by June. However, they were starting to smell, so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odor. ✂
- ❖ Baths equaled a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children. Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water".
- ❖ Houses had thatched roofs. Thick straw piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the pets...dogs, cats and other small animals, mice, rats, bugs lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying, "It's raining cats and dogs." ☔
- ❖ There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could land on the bed. They then made beds with big posts and hung a sheet over the top. Hence four- poster beds with canopies. 🛏
- ❖ The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt, hence the saying "dirt poor." The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet. So they spread thresh (grain husks) on the floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on they kept adding more thresh until when you opened the door it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed at the entry -a "thresh hold".
- ❖ Sometimes they could obtain pork and would feel really special. When company came over, they would hang bacon to show it off. It was a sign of wealth and that a man "could really bring home the bacon." They would cut off a little to share with guests and would sit around and "chew the fat."
- ❖ Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or the "upper crust".
- ❖ Lead cups were used to drink ale or whiskey. The combination would sometimes knock them out for days. Someone would assume death and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of holding a "wake". ☠


Trans-Mississippi Exposition Historical Association, Inc., Omaha. Organized to commemorate the Centennial of the Exposition in 1898, promote research, and share the grandeur of this key event in Nebraska history. Six meetings are held annually to promote the history of the Exposition and provided educational programs on the Exposition and the era when the Exposition occurred. Membership dues for individuals are \$10. Contact: Trans-Mississippi Exposition Historical Association, Inc., P.O. Box 55063, Omaha Nebraska 68155 for membership forms or more details.

Nebraska History Project. The Nebraska State Historical Society, Nebraska Technology Communications and the Nebraska Department of Education are developing an educational multimedia package related to Nebraska history. The project will include a rich database of multimedia materials from the archives of the Nebraska State Historical Society and film footage from NETV programs that will be include on a CD-ROM and on a web site. The primary emphasis of the project is to provide resources that teachers can access electronically that will assist them in teaching Nebraska history, and also help them integrate Nebraska history into US history and other related disciplines. Comments from educators are solicited with reference to what content areas of Nebraska history should be emphasized and what format would be most beneficial to social studies educators. Please contact Michael Young, project director, at myoun1@unlnotes.unl.edu or 402-472-9333 ext. 224 for more details or voice your suggestions.

National Council for the Social Studies Annual Conference. November 16-19 in San Antonio, Texas.

DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge

In the Omaha area, one of the most delightful places for social studies teachers to visit is DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge has a large modern visitor center which houses the cargo artifacts removed from a Missouri River steamboat that sank in 1865. It was a typical steamboat carrying the goods needed by new towns in the American west. It was a sort of Wal-Mart of its day, carrying hundreds of kinds of items, ranging from lamps and shovels, to ale and clothing. DeSoto Bend is located approximately 25 miles north of Omaha along U.S. Highway 30 between Blair, Nebraska and Missouri Valley, Iowa. The visitor center is open daily from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. On weekends, special films are shown at 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 2:45 p.m. Other nearby areas of historical interest includes Harrison County Historical Museum in Iowa and the Washington County Museum and Ft. Atkinson in Nebraska. For more information, you can check out DeSoto Refuge on the Internet at www.recreation.gov or call Bruce Weber at 712-642-2772.

 **Please check your mailing label. If it has a date of April 2000 or earlier, your membership has expired. Please renew today!**

NSCSS Membership Application Form

Name _____ Home Phone () _____

Home Address _____

School Name _____ Work Phone _____

School District _____

E-mail address _____

Membership Dues: (Membership dues are tax deductible for educators)

_____ **\$15.00 (Regular, one year)**

_____ **\$10.00 (Student)**

_____ **\$25.00 (Institutional)**

_____ **\$50.00 (Lifetime)**

Make checks payable to: NSCSS

Mail to: Bev Johnson

306 South 51 Street

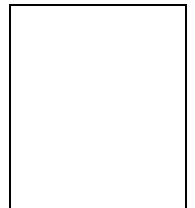
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



Nebraska State Council for Social Studies Awards

Each year the NSCSS recognizes outstanding social studies educators. Please consider nominating a deserving educator. Awards are made for the following categories:

Paul Beck Award for Outstanding Achievement in Social Studies Education

This award is in honor of the late Dr. Paul Beck who was a professor of history at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Dr. Beck was the consummate professor who not only excelled in the university setting, but he was also a true friend to the social studies teachers in public and private education. He is a past president of the NSCSS and one of its founding fathers. Any college/university professor or teacher at the public or private level is eligible for this award.

NSCSS Outstanding Educator Award

In addition to the Paul Beck Award, the NSCSS also recognizes one outstanding social studies educator in each of the three legislative districts.

The only requirements for nominating educators for these awards are:

1. Check the appropriate awards (listed below) for which you are nominating someone.
2. Write a brief statement indicating why you think the person you have nominated should receive the award
3. Indicate the pertinent information for the person being nominated and the name of the person nominating
4. Return this nomination form by **June 2, 2000** to: Michael Young: 15808 Patrick Ave. Omaha, NE 68116

___ 1. Paul Beck Award for Outstanding Achievement in Social Studies Education

___ 2. Outstanding educator for the 1st Congressional District

___ 3. Outstanding educator for the 2nd Congressional District

___ 4. Outstanding educator for the 3rd Congressional District

Name of the person being nominated: _____

Address _____ zip code _____

Telephone number _____. E-mail address _____

Statement of support:

Name of person doing the nominating: _____

Address _____ zip code _____

Telephone number _____. E-mail address _____

Please write a brief statement of support for the educator you are nominating on the back of this form.

FEEL FREE TO COPY THIS FORM AS NEEDED.

