

The Constitution for the Nebraska State Council for the Social Studies

CONSTITUTION OF THE NEBRASKA STATE COUNCIL FOR THE SOCIAL STUDIES, INC.

Article I Name and Purpose

Section I

This association shall be known as the Nebraska State Council for the Social Studies, Inc. The term "social studies" is used to include history, economics, political science, geography, anthropology, sociology, psychology, and all modifications or combinations of subjects whose content and aim is predominantly social and which are organized for the purpose of instruction.

Section II

The Nebraska State Council for the Social Studies, Inc. is designed as the official Nebraska affiliate of the National Council for the Social Studies. The Nebraska State Council for the Social Studies, Inc. supersedes and replaces the organization formerly named the Cornhusker Council for the Social Studies.

Section III

The purpose of this Council shall be:

A. To assume leadership in Nebraska

In improving the teaching of the social studies.

In promoting the professional growth of social studies teachers.

In promoting and encouraging research and other activities, designed to improve the social studies program in the schools and colleges of the state.

B. To cooperate with all agencies in the state including state and local education associations in improving the teaching of the social studies.

C. To serve the interests of the National Council for the Social Studies in Nebraska.

D. To promote and encourage the establishment of local councils for the social studies if deemed appropriate and necessary.

Article II Membership

Section I

Membership in this Council shall be open to all elementary, secondary, and college teachers of the social studies and others interested in the social studies curriculum and instruction. Membership in the Council shall be divided into three classes: active, honorary, and associates.

A. Active members shall be persons who have paid dues to this Council. The annual dues for active membership in this Council shall be proposed by the Executive Committee and ratified by a majority of those members attending the annual business meeting.

B. Honorary members shall be:

Retired social studies teachers who have previously been members of this Council.

Those persons on whom membership may be conferred by a majority vote of those present at any regular meeting.

Entitled to all of the privileges of active members, with the exception of voting and holding office.

C. Associate membership is open to all individuals enrolled in an undergraduate teacher education program in any college in the state. The cost of the student membership will be one-half of that of an active membership. Associate members are not permitted to vote or to hold office.

Section II

Membership fees must be paid on a yearly basis.

Article III Officers

Section I

The officers of this Council shall be a president, president-elect, an executive secretary, a treasurer, an advisor, an editor or editors, and one representative from each of the legislative districts.

Section II

The duties and terms of the officers: They shall have the duties and shall perform the functions customarily attached to their respective offices, with such others as may be listed below or from time to time prescribed.

A. The President - He/She shall preside over the annual and/or semi annual conferences, special meeting of the Council, and shall be primarily responsible for planning the annual and/or semi annual meeting (s). He/She serves as president for a two-year period following his/her term as president-elect. He/She shall chair the Program Committee.

- B. The President-Elect - He/She performs any duties the president is unable to fulfill and succeeds to the office of president following his/her term as president-elect. He/She shall chair the publicity committee. He/She serves for a term of two years.
- C. Immediate past-president – serves as an advisor to the program committee for a term of two years.
- D. Treasurer - He/She is responsible for keeping a record of the Council's expenditures and receipts, and for the safekeeping of the Council's funds. The treasurer may not disperse funds without the approval of either the president or the executive secretary. He/she serves for a period of two years.
- E. Executive Secretary - He/She is responsible for taking minutes at all meetings of the Council, and coordinating decisions made by the Council or the Executive Committee. His/Her term of office is for five years.
- F. Advisor - The advisor shall be the director of social sciences for the Nebraska Department of Education. His/Her term shall be as long as he/she holds that position. He/She shall chair the curriculum committee.
- G. The Editor (s) - He/She/or They shall be responsible for the publication of the *Chronicle* and newsletter and serve at the discretion of the Executive Committee but normally for terms of one year renewable. The editor/or editors are entitled to a vote in the Executive Committee and may be given a stipend for their services. - He/she is the person responsible for solicitation, collection of dues, and maintenance of the membership roster. He/she serves for a term of two years. He/She shall chair the publications committee.
- H. NCSS Delegates - The Council shall elect a delegate or delegates to the National Council for the Social Studies. The delegate-at-large serves for a one-year term. Additional delegates, if necessary, also serve a one-year term. The Council may contribute funds to send the delegate (s) to the NCSS Convention and Assembly of Delegates.
- I. The Legislative District Representative. He/She shall serve as a communication agent to and from members in his/her legislative district. They shall conduct a membership drive in the legislative district primarily at the beginning of each school term. They will secure at least one article concerning activities in their legislative district, which shall be submitted each year to the editor (s) of the *Chronicle* for publication. Legislative district representatives shall be appointed by the council and shall serve for a term of two years.
- J. The Executive Committee - It shall consist of the president, president-elect, immediate past-president, treasurer, executive secretary, advisor, the editor or editors, and the legislative district directors. The Executive Committee shall direct the affairs of the Council between annual and/or semi annual meetings. It shall

have administrative responsibility for the publishing of its official journal, *Chronicle*, and shall appoint/or remove the editor or editors and shall make final decisions concerning the overall organization and administration the official journal and newsletter.

Section III

Officers shall be eligible for re-election with the exception that the president may not be eligible for immediate re-election to the post of president or president-elect. The Executive Committee may select a person to fill a vacancy until the next election is held.

Section IV

An elected officer may be removed for just cause by a two-thirds majority vote of the Executive Committee. The individual in question must be notified in writing that such action is being contemplated and must be given no less than two weeks nor more than four weeks to respond to the Executive Committee.

Section V

The members within the legislative districts may organize district or local councils with the approval (two-thirds vote) of the Executive Committee

Article IV Meetings

Section I

The regular annual meeting shall be held in the spring or fall of each year at a time and place designated by the Executive Committee.

Section II

The Executive Committee may call special meetings.

Article V Committees

Section I

The standing committees of the Nebraska State Council for the Social Studies, Inc. may include but are not limited to the following:

- A. Nominations
- B. Membership
- C. Curriculum
- D. Publicity
- E. Program
- F. Publications

Section II

The Executive Committee shall make the appointments to any and all committees.

Section III

The functions of these committees shall be:

A. Nominations Committee

The Nominations Committee shall have the responsibility to propose a slate of officers for the Council for consideration by the membership of the annual meeting. It shall also make recommendations to the Executive Committee for individuals to serve on the several standing committees. The names of those individuals nominated for office shall be, if possible, published in the official journal of the Council at least one issue prior to the annual meeting. Nominations for office may be made from the floor at the annual meeting.

B. Membership Committee

The Membership Committee shall have the responsibility to provide leadership in securing new members for the Council, to organize ways of drawing prospective members' attention to the work of the Council, and to make studies on the composition of the membership, which may have an effect upon the work of the Council. It shall also have the responsibility to continually assess the needs of the members of the Council in order to more effectively improve the services offered by the organization.

C. Curriculum Committee

The Curriculum Committee shall have the responsibility for providing leadership in all matters related to the organization of the social studies curriculum and the instruction used in elementary and secondary schools. This shall include: (1) Identifying promising practices in the schools, (2) Conducting studies on trends in the social studies, (3) Proposing research studies designed to provide data upon which a better social studies program could be organized, (4) Suggesting innovative approaches to the social studies, (5) Collecting curriculum and instructional materials which shall be useful for schools, and (6) Making the results of their investigations available to the members of the Council.

D. Publicity Committee

It shall be the responsibility of the Publicity Committee to carry on any activities designed to create a more favorable impression of the Council by working with the various communications media, to coordinate the relationship between the Council and communications media, to actively publicize the programs offered by the Council, and to prepare materials which may be used to publicize the work of the organization to prospective members.

E. Program Committee

The Program Committee shall have the responsibility to: (1) Organize the program for the annual meeting, (2) Organize any special programs suggested

by the Executive Committee or suggested by the membership, (3) Provide liaison between the Council and other organizations in designing programs for social studies teachers, (4) Suggest additional program services to the Executive Committee or the membership for their consideration, (5) Conduct studies of needs of members relative to program desires, (6) Evaluate the effectiveness of the content or format of existing or future programs.

F. Publications Committee

The Publications Committee shall have the responsibility to work under the direction of the editor or editors in preparing and distributing the official journal of the Council and such other publications as shall be considered necessary by the Executive Committee or by the membership of the Council. Through these publications, it shall have the responsibility to keep the membership informed of the various activities of the Council, and to make available to all members information which would be helpful in improving the quality of social studies programs in the elementary and secondary schools. This committee shall also have the responsibility of suggesting to the Executive Committee or to the membership any additional publications, which they feel, are necessary to promote the work of the Council or to stimulate effective social studies programs.

Section IV

The Executive Committee may establish additional committees.

Section V

Vacancies on any committee may be filled by appointment by the Executive Committee and/or the President.

Article VI Affiliation of Local Councils

Section I

Any local social studies council in Nebraska that may be established may become affiliated with the Nebraska State Council for the Social Studies by adopting a resolution to that effect and forwarding a copy of that resolution and a copy of the constitution, thereafter the Executive Secretary shall issue a certificate of affiliation to the local council.

Section II

All officers and members of such local councils must also be members of the Nebraska State Council for the Social Studies, Inc.

Article VII Dissolution

Upon dissolution of this corporation, if such should occur, the Executive Committee of the Nebraska State Council for the Social Studies shall distribute all of the assets of the corporation, remaining after the payment of debts and liabilities, to such institution or institutions or association or associations as the majority of the members of the

Executive Committee shall direct, which are exempt from tax under section 501 (co 3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 and Regulations.

Article VIII By-Laws

Section I

The Council shall have the power to make any by-laws, not in conflict with the constitution, at any business meeting of the Council. Proposed by-laws shall be presented to the general membership at the annual business meeting at which time the vote is to be taken. The proposed by-laws shall become effective when given approval of the majority of the members present and voting at that time.

Section II

The parliamentary authority on all matters not covered by this constitution or by the by-laws shall be Robert's Rule of Order Revised.

Article IX Amendments

This constitution may be amended by a majority vote of the members present and voting at the annual business meeting of the Council. The proposed amendments shall be presented in printed form to the general membership at the annual business meeting at which time the vote is to be taken. A notice of amendment to be proposed shall be printed in the official journal of the Nebraska State Council for the Social Studies, Inc., at least one issue, if possible, prior to the annual business meeting at which the amendment is to be considered.

Article X Ratification

This constitution will be ratified upon receiving a favorable vote of two-thirds of the membership present and voting at the annual business meeting.