

# The POINT!

E-Letter for Western Pennsylvania Social Studies Educators  
Vol. 12 No. 8 August 2019

---



## Korea: The Forgotten War

One of the most neglected episodes of American History in most classrooms over the past 50 years has been the Korean War. Addressing this problem is a new book, *The Korean War and Its Legacy: Teaching about Korea through Inquiry*, published by the National Council for the Social Studies and The Korean War Legacy Program. (ISBN: 978 0 87986-115-5)

A quick glance at the table of contents reveals suggestions for age appropriate elementary and middle school students as well as for high school classes. Questions are posed to help develop inquiry at all levels. One high school heading addresses the opening of this review. **Why was the Korean War “Forgotten”?**

As a veteran of the Korean Era, my recollection of the time may shed light on the why it became the forgotten war. I had just finished my Junior year in College when the War erupted. This interrupted my life, even though I did not serve in Korea. My senior year in college was filled with anxiety, as I was called up in mid-semester and then deferred until graduation. A good friend in college who had been drafted at the end of WWII and served only a few weeks without training, was recalled in 1950. After a three week refresher course he was sent to Korea. Two months later he was dead.

I still recall the announcement that North Korea had invaded the South. My future was at stake. I remember the controversy about sending troops into battle at the time. Congress never declared war so there was no official war. It was first designated as a “police action” to safeguard the integrity of a member of the United Nations. While in training we were often reminded that we would be taking part in a “police action.” Every time we lined up in the morning, the Corporal in charge would holler, “Everybody fall out and police up the area.”

Our response was “Guess we are getting extra training for Korea.”

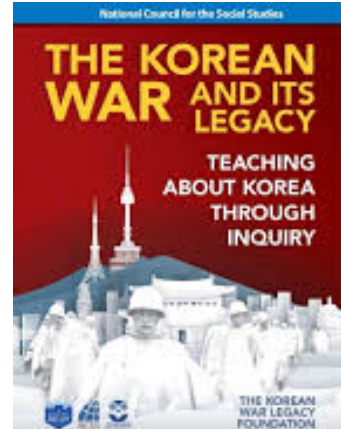
At the induction depot we were tested thoroughly for all branches of the army. I remember listening to Morse code and as the speed increased my attention decreased. I assumed that the Signal Corps was not my bag. I also could not type so clerk typist was out. When my orders came to report to Camp Gordon Georgia Southeastern Signal School, I was confused. I became more confused when I learned that I would be trained for Teletype Maintenance and repair.

Six weeks of basic training and three months of specialist training prepared us for our military career. At the end of the three month program we had a graduation ceremony and received our orders. Two went to Germany, one to Guam and the rest of us went to Austria to the 541st Signal Depot Co. We heard through the grape vine that the class following us all went to Korea.

.For two anxious years, one in college and all through training, I had no idea where I would end up. It was always possible that I would end up in Korea until the orders came for Austria.

Why is this era the forgotten war? I do remember coming home and no one noticed except my family. Because Congress did not declare war, there were many discussions. There was some difficulty in getting eligibility for the GI Bill. It would not be as generous as the original given to WWII Vets. After all this was not “a War.”

•• Leo West ••



## Soldiers & Sailors Hall!

Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall & Museum houses a vast collection of primary and secondary documents and military artifacts. It is their mission to promote the use of these educational items and create an understanding for all groups who visit the museum. They provide a rich learning experience for all people by exploring the deeds and sacrifices of ordinary citizens during extraordinary circumstances.



### The Warhol: 25th Anniversary Community Day

Sunday, October 20 10am–7pm

We will be open and free to the public in celebration of our 25th anniversary. Activities throughout the day include hands-on artmaking, gallery talks and activities, live performances, and a participatory art installation created by interdisciplinary artist Alisha Wormsley. The *Andy Warhol: Revelation* exhibition will also be on view. Community Day is sponsored by The Benter Foundation, The Caliban Foundation, and Nova Chemicals. **Free**



### Labor Day is the last day for Da Vinci The Exhibition Don't miss it

Whether you've already seen the exhibition at Carnegie Science Center, or you're still planning a visit, our lineup of **special guests in the gallery** will likely help you pick your family's date with da Vinci.

**3 Stones Arts – Live Sculpture!**

**Sat., July 13 from 11 am–3 pm**

Join artist Justin Harvilla of 3 Stones Arts as he sculpts a bust of da Vinci inspired by the original Renaissance man's self-portrait. Explore multiple dimensions of your own creativity as you observe his sculpting techniques.



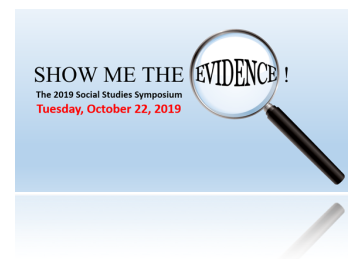
### Show Me The Evidence

I am excited to announce the date for the second biennial **Social Studies Symposium** at the *Allegheny Intermediate Unit*! Stay tuned for more information but please save the date for the morning of Tuesday, **October 22, 2019**. Our last symposium in 2017 totaled nearly 200 K-12 educators and 20 partners from around the region. This symposium is **free** for all so please plan to have your organization host a table to share your Social Studies offerings. Please contact me if you have any questions.

[paul.cindric@gmail.com](mailto:paul.cindric@gmail.com)

[paul.cindric@aiu3.net](mailto:paul.cindric@aiu3.net)

Dr. Paul Cindric, Program Director  
Curriculum, Instruction, & Professional Education



*Patience is the companion of wisdom. St. Augustine of Hippo,  
theologian and philosopher*

**The Point**

For  
**Western Pennsylvania  
 Social Studies Educators**  
**EDITORS**  
**Leo R. West**  
**John Warner**

*The Point* is the  
 e-newsletter  
 of the former WPCSS  
 issued monthly via e-mail.

WPCSS was a non-profit 501c  
 organization dedicated to promoting  
 the teaching and learning of social  
 studies in Western Pennsylvania

Leo West  
 11533 Clematis Blvd.  
 Pittsburgh, PA 15235-3105

**Middle States Social Studies Conference:**

Submit By **Monday, Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>**,

Educators are invited to submit session proposals for the 117<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the Middle States Council for the Social Studies, to be held Friday-Saturday, Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at the Sheraton Baltimore North in Towson, MD (just north of Baltimore). The conference will bring together hundreds of social studies educators from across the middle states region (i.e., DC, MD, PA, DE, NJ, NY, and beyond!) for two days of programming, including: 36 hour-long full sessions, 18 hour-long poster sessions, a field excursion to the Jewish Museum and Reginald Lewis African American History and Culture Museum, a President’s Awards Breakfast and a keynote speaker luncheon. Social studies educators are also invited to [nominate colleagues for awards](#) in 12 categories with award winners receiving plaques/certificates, free conference registration (\$115 value), recognition at the conference, and, for the Samalonis and Teacher to Teacher Awards, cash prizes. Not sure about attending the conference yet? Sign-up for a [FREE membership](#) in the Middle States Council for the Social Studies and keep up to date as more conference details are finalized as well as about social studies in the middle states region. Visit the 2020 Conference Landing Page for all the details or email Middle States SS Council President Scott Abbott at [president.msccs@gmail.com](mailto:president.msccs@gmail.com)

**Why teaching handwriting matters for reading fluency**

Learning to write by hand before moving on to keyboards can build and reinforce young students' reading and writing fluency, writes Brooke MacKenzie, founder of a tutoring program and a former teacher. Classroom efforts should focus on pencil grasp, letter formation, legibility and pacing when teaching handwriting to young learners, MacKenzie writes in this article. [Edutopia online \(7/2\)](#)



**Teaching America History Webinars  
 American Minds**

[The American Minds](#) series will be held at 11 am on Saturday mornings.

Our American Minds webinar series will help you integrate a broader selection of important Americans into your history and government courses, and will also provide English teachers with an easy avenue to consider some literary icons from a historical perspective. Here are the upcoming webinars in this series:

- **Jonathan Edwards** – 17 AUG 19 • **Benjamin Franklin** – 7 SEP 19
- **Alexander Hamilton** – 5 OCT 19 • **Henry Clay** – 2 NOV 19
- **Harriet Beecher Stowe** – 7 DEC 19 • **Frederick Douglass** – 11 JAN 20
- **William Jennings Bryan** – 1 FEB 20 • **Jane Addams** – 7 MAR 20
- **Douglas MacArthur** – 4 APR 20 • **Ralph Ellison** – 2 May 20



## Teaching America History Webinars Documents in Detail!



Documents in Detail offers a close read and in-depth discussion of a single document in each episode.

- **Federalist No. 1** – 25 SEP 19 • **Thomas Jefferson's First Inaugural Address** – 23 OCT 19
- **Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom** –28 AUG 19 • **The Webster-Hayne Debates** –20 N OV 19
- **John C. Calhoun's Speech on the Oregon Bill** – 18 DEC 19
- **Abraham Lincoln's Fragment on the Constitution and Union** – 22 JAN 20
- **Plessy v. Ferguson** – 19 FEB 20 • **1912 Progressive Party Platform** – 25 MAR 20
- **Speech on the 150th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence** – 22 APR 20
- **Herbert Hoover's Speech on the New Deal** – 13 May 20

Readings will be posted one month before each show date, and will be accessible through live links.

[Register for Documents in Detail](#)

### Pa. social studies teachers become history guides

Matt Maris and Chris Morris, a pair of Pennsylvania high-school social studies teachers, are spending their summer guiding residents through tours of local history in partnership with the Centre County Library and Historical Museum in Pennsylvania. The walking tour, researched with the help of other teachers and a student, began as a local history orientation for district staff but has expanded deeper into the county's rich history. [Centre Daily Times \(State College, Pa.\) \(6/30\)](#)



### IUP students, Salvation Army team up for mentoring effort

Indiana Gazette

Indiana University of **Pennsylvania** students are keeping The Salvation Army of ... Eckert, a member of IUP's **Social Studies Education Club**, needed ...



### Let your classroom become a museum

The Mobile Museum Project has created a handbook on how to turn your classroom into a museum by having students create their own exhibits using personal or historical artifacts. Resist using speeches to explain the exhibits but instead rely on storytelling, according to the handbook, which was created by Kew Royal Botanic Gardens and Royal Holloway, University of London. [Edutopia online \(6/27\)](#)



### N.J. students learn to about global citizenship

One New Jersey high school is using a Socratic seminar-style class to get students thinking critically about the world and global citizenship. Students conduct research on political, environmental and social issues and prepare presentations and projects in the class that is co-taught by Bailey Verdone, an English teacher, and social studies teacher Antony Farag, who says students learn to use logic to reason their way to answers. [Patch/Westfield, N.J. \(6/30\)](#)

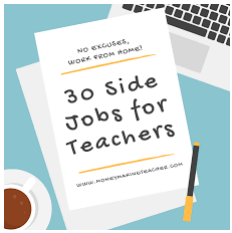


*One who imagines himself to be all-knowing will surely suffer on account of his ignorance. Ali ibn Abi Talib, imam*

### **Research: Some teachers hold second jobs**

One in six teachers report having a second job, according to a report by Pew Research. Researchers found that 16% of teachers held a second job during summer break before the 2015-2016 school year, with some data collected from the National Center for Education Statistics and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

[24/7 Wall St.](#) (7/2)



### **Teachers' Unions Expected Big Membership Losses. Here's Why Those Haven't Panned Out**

The labor groups have lost members since last year's *Janus* Supreme Court case, but not as many as anticipated. Is that because the unions have reenergized teachers, or because teachers don't understand their rights? [Read more.](#)



### **PA district scraps first-of-kind plan to arm teachers**

The Tamaqua Area School District will scrap a groundbreaking policy that would have allowed teachers and staff to carry weapons anonymously on school grounds. Keystone Crossroads' Avi Wolfman-Arent reports [a change in state law ultimately scuttled the proposal and sent local officials back to the drawing board](#)



### **Are Students Customers or Just a Crop?**

**Book: *Teaching Isn't Rocket Science, It's Way More Complex: What's Wrong with Education and How to Fix Some of It* <http://bit.ly/2VdP82o>**

In 1982, I became the director of computer services for a city school district in Upstate New York. Prior to that, I taught science and programming and served as science and computer chair in a smaller district.

With my new job came exposure to the world of business as company representatives competed for the district's business. That led me to believe that as an educator there were things that my field could learn from the world of business.

Unfortunately, too many people in business think that schools should be run like businesses with periodic reports that contain important metrics, hence the push from the business world for standardized tests and using them to rate schools and teachers. Unlike business metrics, **standardized-test** results are a flawed way to judge schools and teachers, but details on why that is the case belong in another article.



### **Auditor general wants to scrap keystone exams**

Pennsylvania's fiscal watchdog says the state should discontinue its high school standardized tests. Keystone Crossroads' Naomi Brauner reports Auditor General Eugene DePasquale [says it could save the state up to \\$1.2 million by scrapping Keystone Exams in favor of the SAT or ACT](#). He says students don't benefit from the taking Keystones.



### **Career training shifts to lower grades**

Some elementary and middle schools are introducing students to career options and technical skills training to help them make decisions about college and the workforce, writes Stephanie Strom. Some individuals have voiced concerns that these programs constitute "tracking," but educators say their only goal is to equip students and families with information. [The Hechinger Report](#) (7/7)



## New Coalition (PA Civics) Formed to Promote and Expand Civics Education in Pennsylvania.

*The coalition consists of former and current bipartisan public officials and organizations from across the state.*

**(Philadelphia, PA - July 9, 2019)** – Today, the Pennsylvania Delegation of the United States Association of Former Members of Congress announced the formation of a statewide, bipartisan coalition of former and current public officials and organizations interested in the promotion and expansion of civics education in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The Coalition's name is PA Civics.

The coalition's lead non-governmental organizations are:

1. United States Association of Former Members of Congress (USAMOC)
2. National Constitution Center
3. Senator John Heinz History Center
4. Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge
5. PA Council of Social Studies
6. Pennsylvania Bar Association
7. Annenberg Public Policy Center
8. Committee of Seventy
9. Rendell Center for Civics and Civic Engagement

The coalition's initial work encompasses a support role for the PA Department of Education as it begins to implement Act 35's mandate to test the civic knowledge of PA students grades 8-12 beginning in the 2020-21 school year. PA Civics is focused on assisting PDE in assembling curriculum resources for civics teachers, establishing an ongoing professional teacher development program, and creating a recognition program for exemplary civics.

[ecs.force.com/mbdata/mbstcprofancg?rep=CIP16ST&st=Pennsylvania](https://ecs.force.com/mbdata/mbstcprofancg?rep=CIP16ST&st=Pennsylvania)

### Pa. students share WWII veterans' stories online

Students in a Pennsylvania high-school Advanced Placement US History course spent time researching the lives of veterans who died during World War II using photographs, stories from relatives, letters, war diaries and other resources. So far 109 stories gathered for the Silent Heroes Project have been posted to a website with more to be added soon.

[The Sentinel \(Carlisle, Pa.\) \(6/2\)](#)

### Mo Valley HS Receives Environmental Education Grant

GANT News

HOUTZDALE – The **Pennsylvania** Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) ... He noted that when school resumes teachers from Science, **Social Studies** and Technology **Education** will be collaborating on ways to integrate this ...

By integrating a solar-powered system to maintain a stable temperature, our students will benefit from being able to prolong the growing season into the later fall months in addition to being able to start growing earlier into the Spring.

### Effective Group Work Starts With Classroom Culture

Group work can be an engaging and academically rewarding instructional strategy—when done well. Of course, as with most instructional strategies, it can also turn into a disaster when done poorly.



## Classrooms Without Borders initiatives

In commemoration of the Tree of Life shooting, Classrooms Without Borders encourages educators to propose lesson plans aimed to help teachers tackle issues of racism, hate, and antisemitism in classrooms; teach their students about the shooting; and help them act to prevent more violence. First, Second and Third place awards will be granted for both middle and high school lesson plans. Learn more at <https://classroomswithoutborders.org/events/show.php?230>.

Classrooms Without Borders is organizing a conference on Antisemitism, Hate, and Social Responsibility that will take place on Sunday and Monday, November 10-11 at Rodef Shalom synagogue in Pittsburgh. Renowned scholars will give lectures, and leading anti-hate organizations will offer breakout sessions. The conference is geared toward educators, academia, and clergy members, and is open to students and members of the community as well.

If anyone has any questions about either of these initiatives, they can contact me at [daniel@classroomswithoutborders.org](mailto:daniel@classroomswithoutborders.org) or 216-408-2304



## NEW FROM CHOICES!

### International Trade in a Globalized World

Students explore the controversies surrounding international trade and consider the issues that affect trade, including globalization in the United States and abroad.

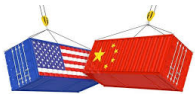
[Explore the unit](#)

### Stage: Weighing the U.S. Response

Students explore the history of Western relations with China and the global effects of China's economic growth, societal transformation, and increasing international involvement. [Explore the unit](#)

### Immigration and the U.S. Policy Debate

Students explore the history of immigration to the United States and current policy as they consider the complexities of U.S. immigration policy and prepare to articulate their own views about this issue. [Explore the unit](#)



### Play the Broken Record When Questioning Students

Every time I go to Target for something specific, say a toy for my niece's birthday, I leave with a bagful of things I didn't plan to buy. Sometimes, those bags are missing something I actually intended to purchase like a ribbon to decorate the gift. When there are so many distractors, it's easy to lose focus of the purpose for the shopping trip.

Why then, are we surprised when the focus for a lesson is blurred?

[Teachable moments are everywhere.](#) It is tempting to chase a rabbit trail down a hole and lose sight of the original learning intention.

### Schools mull approach to climate science education

Teachers and schools in the US are considering how best to teach students about the politically polarizing topic of climate change. The National Center for Science Education reports that 37 states' science standards recognize human-caused climate change. [The Hechinger Report \(7/6\)](#)



# Hands on History

## Day Camp

Bradford House Museum  
August 5 – 9 9:00 – 12:00

Experience 18<sup>th</sup> century living

through activities, crafts, games, food, music,  
lessons, and clothing.

Meet David & Elizabeth Bradford and other  
historic persons.

For boys & girls who have completed grades 3,  
4 or 5. \$100 per child

Register online at [www.bradfordhouse.org](http://www.bradfordhouse.org)

