

The POINT!

E-Letter for Western Pennsylvania Social Studies Educators
Vol. 15 No. 5

May 2022



NCSS Philadelphia 2022

Dear Pennsylvania social studies educators:

NCSS is excited to currently be planning our 102nd National Council for the Social Studies Conference. The conference will take place December 2 – 4, 2022 in Philadelphia and we are planning for an *in-person* conference. PCSS is actively involved with PCSS President Jason Raia heading up the conference planning committee and our President-Elect, Georgette Hackman, on the NCSS Board and handling local arrangements. This note is sent on behalf of Jason and Georgette. As an educator in Pennsylvania, we would like you to participate in one or more of the following opportunities leading up to the conference.

- ★ • ***Serve on a Conference Program Team.*** Conference Program Teams will make the final recommendations for which conference proposals to accept. Each team will have a leader who will work with the team to schedule 1-2 virtual meetings between ***April 20 – May 6*** during which time you will collaboratively complete the final selections. You will also need to devote time to independently review the proposals prior to the meeting(s).
- ★ • ***Serve on the Local Arrangements Committee.*** The Local Arrangements Committee will work over the next few months to prepare to host over 4,000 educators in Philadelphia in December. The work will consist of meetings to identify evening and other activities for educators to participate in while in Philadelphia as well as organizing the hundreds of volunteers that will be needed. ***This work will take place from May – December.***
- ★ • ***Volunteer for the Conference.*** We need hundreds of regional volunteers who will meet and greet attendees, work registration, facilitate session rooms, monitor buses for tours, clinics, and excursions, and work in the Exhibit Hall. There are registration discounts for volunteers. ***This work will take place from December 1 – 4 and you will get to choose the days/times that work for you.***

If one or more of these opportunities interest you, [please complete this Google Form](#) by April 11, 2022.

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 circumstance

Education Department 412-621-4253-Ex.210

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Freedom's Foundation at Valley Forge

History Encounters

First Amendment - June 19 - 24

MOH Legacy: War on Terror - June 26 - July 1

MOH Legacy: World War II - July 24 - 29

Constitutional Convention & Ratification - July 31 - August - 5

- Classrooms Without Borders -

- **In-School Programs Menu: A Collection of Educational Units and Classrooms Sessions with CWB Scholars**
- **And don't forget about our Online Curriculum Support Center**
- Find Lesson Plans, Digital Resources and the CWB Film Discussion Catalogue for your classroom

Many of our events are eligible for [PA ACT 48 credit hours](#).

Out of State Educators will be given a certificate of attendance that they can submit for PD credit in their districts.

- **Holocaust Museums and Memorials Around the World:**

Museums and Memorials in Austria with Tali Nates

THURSDAY, May 24, 2022

2:00PM EASTERN TIME

ZOOM | [Click here for more information](#)



We all require and want respect, man or woman, black or white. It's our basic human right. Aretha Franklin

The Point

For
Western Pennsylvania
Social Studies Educators
EDITOR
Leo R. West

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

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Baseball Diplomacy, Pirates, and Environmental Challenges.

Register for New Summer Online Offerings from TEA-NCTA.
<https://www.colorado.edu/ptea/>

- **Webinar. *More Than A Game. A Look at US-Japan Relations through Baseball.* May 16, 7-8 pm ET.**
- US diplomatic historian Thomas Zeiler explores baseball as a window to teach about power, culture, and profits in US-Japanese/Asian relations, with a focus on the 20th century.
- **Seminar. *Reconsidering East Asia in the Early Modern World: Maritime Histories, 1350-1750.* June 13 – July 21.**
- Developing research in the field of maritime history offers new perspectives and understandings of diplomatic, economic, and cultural connections that intertwine the countries of East Asia from the 14th to 18th centuries. Through asynchronous and live sessions with leading scholars, participants will explore early modern geographies and mapping, Zheng He's tribute missions, and the contributions of pirates and family trade dynasties in linking the region.
- **Contemporary Issues Course. *China's Search for a Green Future: Clean Energy, Air, and Water.* July 9 – 31.**
- China has committed to becoming a leader in renewable energy technology. Still, air pollution, water scarcity, and overall environmental degradation continue to impact the health of local people and challenge China's continued economic growth. Through three week-long case studies, participants will examine how the Chinese government and citizen activist groups are responding to these challenges. Open to secondary teachers who teach about China.

Data: Teachers need second jobs to pay the bills

Eighteen percent -- or around 600,000 -- of US public-school teachers have a second job outside of the classroom during the school year, according to data from the National Center for Education Statistics. In a National Education Association Research survey of more than 1,300 teachers of prekindergarten through grade 12, 41% reported having a second job -- such as delivering groceries or working in a restaurant -- during 2019, with most of those interviewed for this article saying it was demoralizing that their teaching salaries are insufficient to meet their expenses. **Full Story:** EdSurge (3/30)



Have humans been in North America for 100K years?

Indigenous people have been in North America far longer than the 12,000 or 13,000 years that is commonly believed, asserts archeologist Paulette Steeves, who identifies as Cree-Metis. In this Q&A, Steeves details her background, the risks of going against popular beliefs in her field and explains why her "job is just to change world history and reclaim hundreds of thousands of years of Indigenous history for Indigenous people." **Full Story:** [Broadview \(Canada\)](#) (3/31)



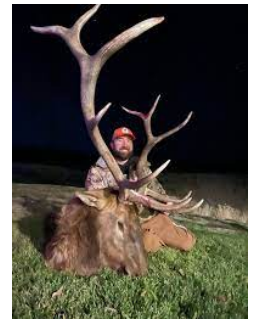
465 acres reclaimed by Va. tribe after 400 years

Land that was stripped away from the Rappahannock Tribe in Virginia by English settlers in the 1660s has been returned with the help of private donations, grants and the Chesapeake Conservancy. The 465 acres of land, where Captain John Smith fought and displaced Native Americans, will soon feature a historically accurate 16th-century village ...



How 2 First Nations are restoring the caribou population

The **Saulteau and West Moberly First Nations in British Columbia** have been trying to increase the local caribou population, which once was a source of food for Indigenous peoples before the arrival of European settlers, mining, logging and dams, says West Moberly Chief Roland Willson. Working with universities since 2013, the efforts -- including restoration of habitats, hunting wolves to reduce predators and protecting pregnant caribou -- have increased the herd from 38 to 114 animals, which researcher Clayton Lamb calls remarkable and "**unprecedented.**" **Full Story:** [National Geographic](#) (tiered subscription model) (4/7)



Project leads to legislative push for Pa. state candy

A group of high-school students in Pennsylvania lobbied the state legislature to make the Hershey's Kiss the state's official candy as part of a civics project that began when the students were in middle school and was designed to teach them about the legislative process. The Senate State Government Committee recently voted to advance the legislation. **Full Story:** [Pennsylvania Capital-Star](#) (Harrisburg) (4/6)



Pa. House approves schools serving whole milk

The Pennsylvania House overwhelmingly adopted legislation that would allow schools to serve whole milk, which is restricted by federal mandates that require schools to offer either skim or 1% milk. Officials say it is unclear whether the bill would hold up in court if it is challenged, though bill sponsor Rep. John Lawrence says the measure was created to ensure that the milk is processed and sold in Pennsylvania and therefore would not fall under the federal government's regulation of interstate commerce. **Full Story:** [Lancaster Farming](#) (Pa.) (4/14)



Biology gives you a brain. Life turns it into a mind.
Jeffrey Eugenides, writer



Ore. middle-schoolers' mini boat makes it to Hawaii

The Columbian (Vancouver, Wash.) (tiered subscription model) (3/30)

The boat, named the Neptune, was launched off the coast of Garibaldi, Ore., by a class of seventh-graders at Wy'east Middle School in Vancouver in July 2021. Devices inside the boat had been remotely sending GPS coordinates and readings on water temperatures back to the students for a few months before going fully dark in December



Veterans National Education Program - V-NEP.org

has been partnering with high schools throughout Pennsylvania through PCSS since 2009 to provide free educational material including more than 1000 short videos on 57 countries where the United States has a strategic interest. You will see below that V-NEP is supported by the Pennsylvania Council for the Social Studies and the Intermediate Units throughout the State.

Veterans National Education Program is Pleased to Partner With PCSS

Below is a work in progress initiative V-NEP is planning to produce for students in PA, Based on videos narrated by Colonel Cedric Leighton [bio below]:

New Ukraine and Russia videos (no background, work in progress)

Cyber Videos (no background, work in progress)

Cyber Security

Cedric Leighton has narrated several videos for the Veterans National Education Program over the last 7 years.

Cedric is a retired US Air Force Colonel who served 26 years as an intelligence officer. His assignments ranged from the tactical to the strategic. He deployed five times to the Middle East and is a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He commanded the Air Force's premiere intelligence training squadron, managed critical compartmented intelligence operations at US Special Operations Command, and served twice at the Pentagon. His final Air Force assignment was as the National Security Agency's Deputy Training Director. Colonel Leighton's decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Bronze Star, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, and seven Meritorious Service Medals. Colonel Leighton is a Distinguished Graduate of Cornell University's Air Force ROTC program and a magna cum laude honors graduate of that university. He holds a Master's Degree in International Studies from Angelo State University. He is Chairman of Cedric Leighton Associates, a strategic risk consultancy he founded in 2010. He also currently serves as a CNN Military Analyst where he provides strategic insights to the network's global audience.

Interested in learning more?

Please contact - Bob McMahon — V-NEP Chairman

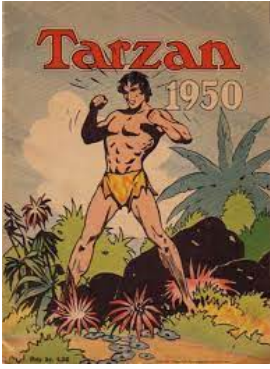
bob.mcmahon@v-nep.org - 610-565-7909



*To be agreeable while disagreeing -- that's an art.
Malcolm Forbes, businessperson, magazine publisher*

(Editor's Note) **The World, Once Upon a Time**

In 1957, world history texts usually had less than 10 pages devoted to Africa. Apparently little has changed in textbook treatment of Africa and CHOICES has opted to fill the gap. The following is an excellent attempt to correct this omission.



CHOICES - choices@brown.edu (p) 401-863-3155

Africa is the world's second-largest continent consisting of 54 countries and a population of more than 1.2 billion people. Yet this important continent is often overlooked in history books. Three units from the Choices Program can help you integrate Africa into your world history curriculum:

- *Colonization and Independence in Africa*
- *Nigeria: History, Identity, and Change*
- *Freedom in our Lifetime: South Africa's Struggle*

These curriculum units include four case studies and lessons that explore geography, fiction, artifacts, poetry, politics, resistance, activism, and more! Explore the curriculum units below.

Colonization and Independence in Africa

How did Africans resist European colonialism? This unit examines four case studies of colonization and resistance: Algeria, Ghana, Kenya, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It explores the challenges of independence and the legacies of colonialism. [Explore the unit.](#)

Nigeria: History, Identity, and Change

This unit invites students to explore the history of Africa's most populous country and the world's largest Black country. It probes the country's history and examines concepts such as colonialism, nationalism, independence, military dictatorships, and more. [Explore the unit.](#)

Freedom in Our Lifetime: South Africa's Struggle

In this unit, students explore the history of South Africa and the development of a race-based society, the effects of apartheid, challenges to the system of apartheid, and South Africa's transition to a democratic, multi-racial society. [Explore the unit.](#)

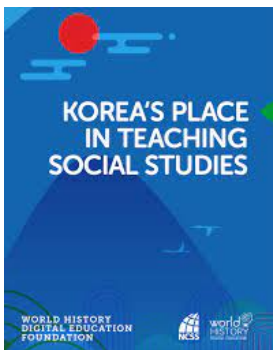
SEE: [Explore World History Series](#)

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KOREA'S PLACE IN TEACHING SOCIAL STUDIES

NCSS and World History Digital Education Foundation

Just finished reviewing *Korea's Place in Teaching Social Studies*, a powerful volume for teachers. As I perused the materials designed for distribution to students, I began to recall my time as Dept. Head, teaching four classes, and having three preparations. Then I remembered Fenton's "*New Social Studies*" which furnished ample reproducible handouts with the textbooks. Teachers with multiple preps do not have time to reproduce the handouts in this book. Would it be possible to offer these on-line for a fee? Maybe this service is already available but I did not see any evidence that it is. The service could be accessed for a fee with availability via a pass word. This could be a definite way to serve teachers as well as improve the teaching of social studies and provide some much needed material on Asia.



Hands on History Day Camp

Bradford House Museum

August 1 - 5, 2022 9:00 - 12:00

Be a Young Rebel!

Experience 18th century living through activities, crafts, games, food, lessons, and clothing.

Learn about Farm & Home of the 18th century.

For girls & boys who have completed grades 3, 4, or 5.

\$100 per child



Register at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hands-on-history-day-camp-tickets-271185522197?aff+ebdsop>