



MCSS NEWSLETTER

MCSS CONFERENCE TO BE HELD AT EAGLE RIDGE

Inside this issue:

Chairman's Remarks	2
NCSS Conference	3
New Admin. Structure	3
Ex. Council Named	3
Registration Form	4
Proposal Form	5
Jesse Palmer Award	6
Decision 2012	7
FYI	8

To begin making your plans **now** to attend this year's conference...

- Mail your pre-registration **now** and save \$10!
- Call the Eagle Ridge Conference Center **now** and request the MCSS conference rate.
- Invite your colleagues **now** to come along!
- For more information, see page 5 of this newsletter for the pre-registration form.

The Mississippi Council for the Social Studies will hold its 2012 conference at Eagle Ridge Conference Center on Thursday, October 18 and Friday, October 19. The conference proper will begin on Thursday evening with a reception and will conclude at on Friday afternoon with a general closing session. Current and prospective members are invited to attend the annual meeting of the Mississippi Council.

The Eagle Ridge Conference Center is located in Raymond, just west of Jackson on Highway 18 West. A block of rooms with special conference rates of \$70 for single occupancy and \$80 for double occupancy is being held until September 27 for conference attendees. Please call 601.857.7100 to reserve a room and make certain to request the special conference rate.

The theme of this year's conference is ***Opening Windows to the World***. In keeping with the overarching conference theme, concurrent and break-out sessions will be offered to conference participants that focus on the following social-studies related "windows": Windows to Literacy in a Digital Age, Windows

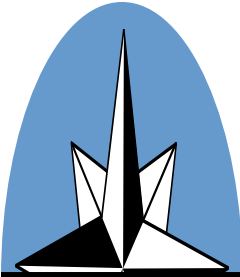
to the Past, Windows to a Sustainable Future, Windows to Global Interdependence, and Windows to the Work We Do.

In addition to some 20 concurrent sessions, the conference will include a plenary session, a keynote luncheon, exhibits by vendors, and the highlighting of a Mississippi author.

Classroom teachers interested in obtaining Continuing Education Units (CEU's) for their participation in the conference may do so for a fee of \$20. Information concerning CEU'S will be disseminated at the Conference Registration desk on Thursday evening and again on Friday morning. Those interested in securing CEU's must be in attendance at both the Opening Session on Friday morning and the Closing Session on Friday afternoon. No partial credit will be awarded.

For more information about this year's conference, contact MCSS Executive Chairman David Houston at history1976@att.net or visit the MCSS web site at www.mcass.org.msstate.edu/. See you in Raymond!

Chairman's Remarks...



In a completely rational society, the best of us would be teachers and the rest of us would have to settle for something less, because passing civilization along from one generation to the next ought to be the highest honor and the highest responsibility anyone could have.

Lee Iacocca,
automobile
executive

(1924-)

It is my honor and privilege to serve you as the Executive Chairman of the Mississippi Council for the Social Studies. As I look forward to this upcoming year there are three objectives I would like to see us achieve as an organization. These would include a successful annual conference in the fall, increased membership, and a concentrated effort to advocate for state and federal resources to be allocated to the study of social studies.

I am excited to inform you that we will be holding our annual conference this year on Friday October 19th at Eagle Ridge Conference Center at Hinds Community College. We will be holding a welcoming reception the night before which always provides a wonderful opportunity for fellowship with your social studies colleagues from around the state. This year's conference will offer a variety of content-rich professional development opportunities, Continuing Education Units, and interesting guest speakers. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to share your expertise by presenting at this year's conference. Mark your calendars and recruit a friend to join us this year's conference! My second objective is to increase our membership base this year. Membership in our organization offers a network of professional educators from around the state with expertise in the field of social studies. We are currently exploring ideas for ways that MCSS can provide new benefits to its members, and I ask that you offer

suggestions for how we as an organization can provide beneficial opportunities to our members. As an organization, our greatest asset is our membership, and it is my goal to serve our members well!

This brings me to our third objective, which is advocacy. It saddens me to know that many school districts around the state are cutting back on time and resources being allocated to social studies. Both our state and federal governments have cut back social studies funding to be able to appropriate more dollars to math, language arts, and reading. Many districts currently have little or no emphasis on social studies curriculum in the elementary grades so that that time can be spent on tested areas. Several districts are planning to use reading specialists for Common Core social studies instruction. Now more than ever it is vital that we as an organization of professional social studies educators make a concentrated effort to advocate for funding and resources from both our state and federal government, and we —the membership of the Mississippi Council for the Social Studies — should be at the forefront of this advocacy initiative. Our voice should be heard loud and clear in both our state and national capitols.

If you are not a member of MCSS, I invite you to join the Council, and I strongly encourage you to not only become a member, but to also help our organization grow larger and stronger. For it is through the time and effort of our membership that our organization can continue to promote social studies

National Council for the Social Studies to Hold Annual Conference in Seattle, Washington

The 92nd National Council for the Social Studies Conference will be held in Seattle, Washington on November 16-18 at the Washington State Convention Center. The theme of this year's conference will be *Opening Windows to the World*. Highlights of the conference will include nationally known keynote speakers such as Former Supreme Court



Creating Effective Citizens

Justice Sandra Day O'Conner, novelist Jamie Ford, and journalist Blaine Hardin as well as hundreds of break-out sessions, workshops, and excursions.

With over 25,000 members, NCSS is the leading professional organization for social studies educators. To learn more about the annual conference and other member benefits, visit www.ncss.org.



You must be the change you wish to see in the world.

Mohandas Gandhi

(1865-1948)

Board of Directors Dissolved—MCSS Piloting New Administrative Structure

Having determined the need to experiment with a new administrative structure, the MCSS Board of Directors unanimously voted to dissolve itself in October of 2011. Prior to its dissolution, the Board designated the newly elected president, David Houston, as the lone administrative officer for the organization, and authorized Houston to appoint members to a new administrative entity. The new entity, an Executive Council, has assumed responsibility for administering the affairs of MCSS on a pilot basis. Members named to the Executive Council include:

- ◆ *Council Chair* – David Houston
- ◆ *Council Executive Director*—Dr. Susie Burroughs—Ellisville
- ◆ *Council Parliamentarian* – Dr. Ellen Foster
- ◆ *Council Secretary* – Steven White—Madison
- ◆ *Council Treasurer* – Marlo Hendrix—Tupelo
- ◆ *Conference Program Committee Chair* – Bert Nokes
- ◆ *Government & Public Relations Committee Chair* – James Reed
- ◆ *Membership Committee Chair* – Vickie Vance
- ◆ *Professional Development Committee Chair* – Dr. Kenny Anthony
- ◆ *Scholarship & Awards Committee Chair* – Jim Johnson
- ◆ *Vendors Committee Chair* – Judy Doolittle

The Executive Council held its first meeting on January 7, 2012 in Pearl, during which time plans were made for the 2012 conference.



Lots of people want to ride with you in the limo, but what you want is someone who will take the bus with you when the limo breaks down.

Oprah Winfrey, talk show host, philanthropist

(1954-)

**MISSISSIPPI COUNCIL FOR THE SOCIAL STUDIES
 FALL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION AND MEMBERSHIP FORM**
 Conference Theme: *Opening Windows to the World*
Eagle Ridge Conference Center — Raymond, Mississippi
October 18-19, 2012

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Day Telephone _____ Evening Telephone _____

E-mail Address _____

Check One: Elementary School Teacher Middle School Teacher Secondary Teacher
 College Instructor University Professor Pre-Service Teacher
 School Administrator Vendor Other

Circle the CD in which you vote: CD 1 CD 2 CD 3 CD 4

SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS:

I. Conference Pre-Registration (October 1 postmark deadline): _____

To pre-register for the conference, enter **\$70.00** on this line.
 (Note: Lifetime MCSS Members enter **\$45.**)

II. Conference Registration (after October 1): _____

To register by mail after October 1 or to register on site, enter **\$80** on this line.
 (Note: Lifetime MCSS members enter **\$55.**)

III. Payment of Membership Dues ONLY: _____

If you will not be able to attend the conference but would like to renew your membership or would like to become a new member, enter \$25 on this line.
 (Note: Students and retirees enter **\$15.**)

***** Please note: Conference registration includes the welcome reception on Thursday evening, all conference sessions, the luncheon and business meeting on Friday, and membership dues for the 2013 calendar year.**

Mail this form along with a check, money order, or pre-approved purchase order to:
MARLO HENDRIX; MCSS TREASURER; 159 HIGH FOREST LANE; TUPELO, MS 38801

***** *Checks, money orders, and purchase orders must be made payable to MCSS.* *****

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

To pay by purchase order, a pre-approved purchase order must accompany your registration form when it is submitted to the Treasurer. There are no exceptions to this policy.
 Requests for cancellation of registration and refund of monies paid must be made in writing to the MCSS Treasurer two weeks prior to the conference.

MISSISSIPPI COUNCIL FOR THE SOCIAL STUDIES
FALL CONFERENCE SESSION PROPOSAL FORM
 Conference Theme: *Opening Windows to the World*
Eagle Ridge Conference Center — Raymond, Mississippi
October 18-19, 2012

Abstract: Provide a brief description of the session (i.e., purpose and content) as you would like it to appear in the conference program. (30 words or less).

Audience: _____ elementary _____ middle/junior high _____ high school _____ general

Strand: _____ Windows to Literacy in a Digital Age _____ Windows to the Past
 _____ Windows to a Sustainable Future _____ Windows to Global Interdependence
 _____ Windows to the Work We Do

Equipment needed: _____ overhead projector _____ laptop/projector _____ VCR & TV

Lead Presenter _____

Street Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone _____ **E-mail** _____

Co-Presenter _____

Street Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone _____ **E-mail** _____

(If more than two presenters, attach a second page with duplicate information.)

Statement of Agreement to Present: *Should this proposal be accepted, I agree on behalf of all presenters to conduct the session on the date and time scheduled. I understand that as presenters for the conference, we will serve on a contributing basis and each presenter will be required to register for the conference. I further understand that session presenters will not be reimbursed for travel expenses, equipment fees, or conference registration.*

Lead Presenter's Signature _____ **Date** _____

*** **DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING CONFERENCE PROPOSALS: October 1.*****

Mail completed proposal to:
 Conference Program Committee
 Bert Nokes, Chair
 125 Post Hill Cove
 Brandon, MS 39042

Lead presenters will be notified (via e-mail) by October 15 concerning acceptance status of proposals submitted.

**MISSISSIPPI COUNCIL FOR THE SOCIAL STUDIES
THE JESSE PALMER SOCIAL STUDIES
EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD**

The Mississippi Council for the Social Studies invites nominations of educators to be considered for the 2011 Jesse Palmer Social Studies Educator of the Year Award. Established in the memory of Dr. Jesse Palmer, this award is given each year to an educator who demonstrates exemplary knowledge, skills, and dispositions in promoting quality social studies education in Mississippi schools. To be considered for this award, an educator must have at least three years of teaching experience, be currently involved in a social studies-related profession, and submit an application packet that includes the following:

I. Vita

- A. Name and contact information (address, phone number, e-mail)
- B. Current and past education-related employment
- C. Educational background (degrees held, specialized training, other)
- D. Positions of leadership held (professional, civic, other)
- E. Honors and awards received
- F. Participation in professional organizations (memberships, service, other)
- G. Workshops, seminars, professional development of note (organized, presented, attended)
- H. Other relevant information as deemed appropriate

II. Questionnaire (Answer each of the following in a paragraph or more.)

- A. Why did you choose to become a professional educator?
- B. What is your philosophy of teaching?
- C. What is your approach to social studies education?
- D. In what ways do you “go above and beyond” to be the best professional you can be?

III. Supporting Documentation

- A. Letter of recommendation from a current supervisor
- B. Letter of recommendation from a current colleague
- C. Letter of recommendation from a current or former student

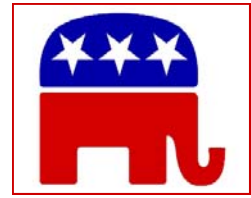
To be considered as an award recipient for this calendar year, an application packet must be postmarked no later than October 1 and mailed to:

Awards Committee
Jim Johnson, Chair
P.O. Box 6693
Jackson MS 39282

Questions about this application process should be e-mailed to David Houston at history1976@att.net.



DECISION 2012



As the campaign heats up and the election nears, here's a sampling of web sites that teachers can use to help their students learn about the candidates and the process of electing a president in the United States of America.

- ◆ Newseum.org explores the intersections of elections and news media through the lenses of history, media literacy, and civics.
<http://www.newseum.org/digital-classroom/modules/decision-2012/default.aspx>
- ◆ This website provides a fun writing activity to encourage students to imagine how campaigning would change if the voting age was lowered.
<http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/08/27/how-would-the-presidential-campaigns-change-if-the-voting-age-wer-13/>
- ◆ PBS.org provides clips of the Republican National Convention.
<http://www.pbs.org/search/?q=2012%20election>
- ◆ Whitehouse.gov provides information on President Obama's current policies concerning, health care, the economy, education, and foreign affairs.
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues>
- ◆ This website presents information about Mitt Romney's platform, including his plans for foreign policies, economic growth, and a simpler government.
<http://www.mittromney.com>
- ◆ This website offers printouts, information on the nominees and candidates, lesson plans, historical resources, and federal government resources.
<http://www.teachervision.fen.com/elections/teacher-resources/6615.html>
- ◆ Larry Ferlazzo has put together several activities for a wide range of students including English Language Learners. Channel 1, CNN, PBS and others contributed classroom activities on the presidential election.
<http://larryferlazzo.edublogs.org/2012/06/25/the-best-resources-for-learning-about-the-2012-u-s-presidential-election/>
- ◆ By answering a few questions on this web site, you will be able to decide exactly where you stand politically.
<http://www.people-press.org/political-party-quiz/>
- ◆ The Center for Civic Education provides students valuable information on voting and provides teachers with valuable lesson plans and activities.
<http://new.civiced.org/cns-teachers>
- ◆ C-Span offers a variety of information concerning the 2012 election such as podcasts, the Democratic and Republican National Conventions and the upcoming debates between Romney and Obama.
www.c-span.org

MCSS Newsletter Editor

Mississippi State University
Dept. of Curriculum, Instruction,
& Special Education
Box 9705
Mississippi State, MS 39762

Phone: 662.325.7124
Fax: 662.325.7857
E-mail: susie.burroughs@msstate.edu



MISSISSIPPI
COUNCIL FOR THE
SOCIAL STUDIES,
AN AFFILIATE OF
THE NATIONAL
COUNCIL FOR THE
SOCIAL STUDIES

Visit us on the web at:
mcss.org.msstate.edu

F.Y.I.

- The Mississippi Civil Rights Project website serves as a resource for teachers and students interested in learning about the Civil Rights Movement in Mississippi. The website houses articles, documents, videos, and pictures that can be used to support implementation of Mississippi Senate Bill 2718, the Civil Rights Education bill.
- Did you know you can “connect to the world” at www.mga.olemiss.edu/? Follow this link and discover what all the Mississippi Geographic Alliance has to offer!
- The James Madison Fellowship program offers support to secondary school teachers of history, government, and social studies interested in master of arts graduate study. For information on how to apply for a fellowship, visit www.jamesmadison.gov/ or call 1.800.525.6928.
- Interested in gaining access to MILLIONS of FREE historical artifacts and lesson plans created by teachers for teachers? Visit the Library of Congress website at www.loc.gov/teachers/ to learn how you can enhance your students’ learning by teaching with primary sources.
- The Constitutional Rights Foundation publishes the *Bill of Rights in Action*, a free resource for teachers. To learn about the Foundation and how to receive this FREE publication, visit www.crf-usa.org/.
- Have you heard about the National History Education Clearinghouse? Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, this resource for teachers offers FREE access to teaching materials, history content, and best teaching practices. Visit www.teachinghistory.org/ to learn more..
- In search of resources and information to support the teaching of economics? The Mississippi Council on Education can help you! Visit www.mscee.org/.