

**Resolutions Accepted by the House of
Delegates Resolutions Committee**

For the 2015 NCSS House of Delegates

RESOLUTION # 15-01-1

A REQUEST TO BUILD TANGIBLE REWARDS FOR MEMBERSHIP

SPONSOR: Missouri Council for the Social Studies

CO-SPONSORS: The Association of Teachers of Social Studies - New York City (ATSS/UFT-NYC), Texas Council for the Social Studies

RATIONALE: Membership should have tangible rewards, including group discounts.

WHEREAS, Social Studies appreciate museums, historic sites, and other sites related to the Social Studies that represent our disciplines; and

WHEREAS, The National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) has the full power of the membership body to pull in supporting organizations; and

WHEREAS, NCSS members tend to visit locations with family and/or friends; and

WHEREAS, NCSS members can better promote said organizations to our students and to other interested parties; be it

RESOLVED, That NCSS should seek opportunities to partner with both national, state, public and private organizations to offer discounts related to membership with the organization, upon presentation of a member's card; and be it further

RESOLVED, NCSS should amend membership cards to reflect membership in state councils or affiliated groups, thereby allowing for rewards to be collected locally, and allowing states to create their own rewards programs for members.

Resolution passed by the HOD

RESOLUTION # 15-01-2
CREATE PRE-SERVICE TEACHER STRAND AT FUTURE NCSS ANNUAL CONFERENCES

SPONSORS: Pre-Service Community, Wisconsin Council for the Social Studies

CO-SPONSORS: The Association of Teachers of Social Studies - New York City (ATSS/UFT-NYC), Texas Council for the Social Studies, Minnesota Council for the Social Studies, Arizona Council for the Social Studies

WHEREAS, One of the challenges that the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS), state councils, and affiliated councils face is maintaining and growing membership as current membership continues to age; and

WHEREAS, Many current teachers are retiring and persons coming into teaching will be significantly younger and less experienced than the current teacher workforce, and there will be noticeable implications for education; and

WHEREAS, NCSS has established a goal to increase membership participation and value derived from NCSS for currently un- or under-represented constituencies; and

WHEREAS, Reaching educators and future educators early in their careers, has the potential to yield increases in pre-service membership in NCSS; and

WHEREAS, Pre-service educators attending the conference are looking for sessions that will be of immediate use to them as they enter their professional careers; be it

RESOLVED, That the National Council for the Social Studies encourage future conference planners to include a strand focused on issues (i.e. resume writing, interviewing skills, surviving student teaching/first year, passing the Praxis, etc.) that would appeal to pre-service and early career educators.

Resolution passed by the HOD

RESOLUTION # 15-01-3

ENGAGING CONSTITUENTS WITH 21ST CENTURY TECHNOLOGIES

SPONSORS: Anthony Roy, Connecticut Council for the Social Studies; Laura Hunter, North Carolina Council for the Social Studies; Texas Council for the Social Studies; Megan List, Ohio Council for the Social Studies; and Tammy Ponder, Georgia Council for the Social Studies

CO-SPONSORS: Jeffrey Benes, Missouri Council for the Social Studies; Janna Lind, Montana Council for the Social Studies; Eddie Bennett, Georgia Council for the Social Studies; Brian Cameron, New Jersey Council for the Social Studies; Minnesota Council for the Social Studies; Jennifer Morgan, Wisconsin Council for the Social Studies; Wesley Hedgepeth, Virginia Council for the Social Studies; Nicole Roper, Pennsylvania Council for the Social Studies; The Association of Teachers of Social Studies - New York City (ATSS/UFT-NYC); and New York State Council for the Social Studies

WHEREAS, Technology is a prime avenue for accessing and engaging social studies teachers, and many others, with an organization's mission and objectives; and

WHEREAS, The National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) House of Delegates and NCSS Board passed resolution 13-01-01 to investigate the continued use of technology; and

WHEREAS, Advancements in technology often outpaces the professional development of leaders of the various state social studies councils; and

WHEREAS, Leaders of the state councils often have full time professional commitments; and

WHEREAS, State councils would benefit from guidance on how to engage members using digital platforms; and

WHEREAS, Many state councils are implementing successful digital programming strategies; be it

RESOLVED, NCSS will identify current successful practices employed by state councils and disseminate practices to state councils with the intent to bolster their online engagement of members and parties interested in Social Studies matters in the respective states; and be it further

RESOLVED, NCSS will provide opportunities for presentation sessions at NCSS Annual Conferences and investigate the creation of how to videos, illustrating the creation and management of various digital outlets.

Resolution passed by the HOD

RESOLUTION # 15-01-4

INVESTIGATE THE CREATION OF A USER-FRIENDLY NCSS RESOLUTION DATABASE

SPONSORS: Minnesota Council for the Social Studies, New Mexico Council for the Social Studies, Tennessee Council for the Social Studies, Texas Council for the Social Studies

CO-SPONSORS: The Association of Teachers of Social Studies - New York City (ATSS/UFT-NYC)

WHEREAS, The National Council of the Social Studies (NCSS) House of Delegates and Board has passed a resolution 2013-01-01 to investigate the continued use of technology; and

WHEREAS, The NCSS House of Delegates and Board has passed resolutions on the commitment of the organization to 'go green' in 2008, 2010, and 2011; and

WHEREAS, The engagement of NCSS membership is dependent on the transparency of the resolutions; and

WHEREAS, The Members of NCSS can not adequately nor easily access resolutions for reference; and

WHEREAS, NCSS resolutions should continue to be archived; be it

RESOLVED, That the NCSS board investigate the organization of the resolutions archived online, to include a search by keywords, year, and current status of resolutions.

Resolution passed by the HOD

RESOLUTION # 15-01-5

KEEP THE UNCONFERENCE IN THE CONFERENCE

SPONSORS: Wisconsin Council for the Social Studies, Virginia Council for the Social Studies, Colorado Council for the Social Studies, Maine Council for the Social Studies, and Pennsylvania Council for the Social Studies

CO-SPONSORS - Minnesota Council for the Social Studies, Texas Council for the Social Studies

WHEREAS, The National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) Unconference, first held at NCSS St. Louis in 2013, attracts new and younger members to the NCSS Conference; and

WHEREAS, There has been continual growth in the number of attendees that have participated in the Unconference session during the past two years; and

WHEREAS, Participants are actively engaged in a variety of educational technology strategies to be used immediately for and in their classrooms; and

WHEREAS, The Unconference session allows attendees to share ideas, links and resources from all of the sessions and allows ongoing collaboration; be it

RESOLVED, That NCSS commit to continue to include the Unconference session during the NCSS Conference on an annual basis, through publicity in the program and signs at the conference site; and be it further

RESOLVED, that there be a suggested introductory session prior to the Unconference that would allow attendees the opportunity to create and learn to use a Twitter account and QR codes to use and actively participate throughout the conference.

Resolution passed by the HOD

RESOLUTION # 15-02-1

A REQUEST TO SUPPORT EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

SPONSOR: The Missouri Council for the Social Studies

CO-SPONSORS: Texas Council for the Social Studies

RATIONALE: Quality education should be made available to all members of society, in order to create a just and civil society.

WHEREAS, Parents have a fundamental right to educate their children; and

WHEREAS, Public and private schools were established to provide educational opportunities to all students with a trained and qualified faculty; and

WHEREAS, An educated public benefits an entire civil society, creates stability, offers greater opportunities, and generally leads to positive effects; and

WHEREAS, Some families have the resources to school their children at home or in private schools, but this option is not available to all; and

WHEREAS, Some state governments are working to reduce funding to public education in attempts to weaken or strip the costs associated with public education; and

WHEREAS, These reductions in funding are having lasting effects on the general welfare of the civil society; be it

RESOLVED, That the National Council for Social Studies supports the role of education for all by means of universal education through state funding of an adequately funded public school system.

Motion Passed to Lay on the Table

RESOLUTION # 15-02-2

ACKNOWLEDGE THE HARD WORK OF NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

SPONSORS: Pennsylvania Council for the Social Studies, Maine Council for the Social Studies, Virginia Council for the Social Studies, Texas Council for the Social Studies, Georgia Council for the Social Studies, Wisconsin Council for the Social Studies

CO-SPONSORS: New York State Council for the Social Studies

WHEREAS, National History Day fulfills many of the requirements of the College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) framework and independent state standards; and

WHEREAS, National History Day is aligned to the Common Core Learning Standards; and

WHEREAS, National History Day engages students in rigorous historical research; and

WHEREAS, National History Day engages teachers in rigorous professional development; be it

RESOLVED, That the National Council for the Social Studies work as closely as possible to further encourage teachers to get involved in the National History Day program.

Motion Passed to Lay on the Table

RESOLUTION # 15-02-3

PROMOTING CURRENT INSTRUCTIONAL PRACTICES THROUGH QUALITY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

SPONSORS: Connecticut Council for the Social Studies, North Carolina Council for the Social Studies, and New York State Council for the Social Studies

CO-SPONSORS: Georgia Council for the Social Studies, Maine Council for the Social Studies, Virginia Council for the Social Studies

WHEREAS, Teacher quality and educator growth are crucial in shaping student learning outcomes; and

WHEREAS, Professional development for K-16 social studies educators should support current research-based practices and methodologies; and

WHEREAS, State social studies councils can provide a conduit to connect classroom teachers to current social studies frameworks and curricula; and

WHEREAS, Social studies education spirals through K - 16 learning environments and teacher preparation programs; and

WHEREAS, Professional development is recognized by state and federal government entities as a critical component to the development of educators; be it

RESOLVED, That K-16 social studies educators should be provided opportunities to engage in professional development that promotes researched based current instructional practices; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the National Council for the Social Studies should promote the development of networks to support professional development on current instructional practices for social studies educators.

Resolution passed by the HOD

RESOLUTION # 15-04-1

DISSEMINATION OF EDUCATIONAL VOTING MATERIALS

SPONSOR: The Association of Teachers of Social Studies - New York City (ATSS/UFT-NYC)

CO-SPONSORS: New York State Council for the Social Studies

RATIONALE: Increasing ballot access is in line with "taking action" in the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) supporting the College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework for Social Studies State Standards, and is essential for the democratic process to function by improving voter participation rates, which is at a low level.

WHEREAS, Voter turnout has been at a low level in recent elections; and

WHEREAS, Improving low voter turnout is often hindered by the absence of election rules and procedures which would achieve access, including early voting, voting by mail and same day registration, and

WHEREAS, Since the recent decision of the Supreme Court overturning sections of the Voting Rights Act, legislatures in various states have succeeded in repealing or limiting measures that facilitate voting, such as early voting and voting by mail, and imposing measures that hinder voting, such as requiring voters to produce a valid photo ID; and

WHEREAS, The absence of these measures has been used in court cases in some states as a rationale for eliminating early voting; be it

RESOLVED, That NCSS work with various voting rights organizations to disseminate useful educational materials and learning strategies to teach about increasing voter turnout.

Resolution passed by the HOD

RESOLUTION # 15-04-2

CREATING A POLICY REGARDING TROUBLING SITUATIONS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES CONCERNING CRIME, POLICE ACTIVITY, RACE, POVERTY, AND VIOLENCE

SPONSOR: The Association of Teachers of Social Studies - New York City (ATSS/UFT-NYC)

RATIONALE: In light of the troubling situation across the United States stemming from the increased sharing of information through social media of the death of unarmed minority community members, leading to mass demonstrations and sometimes violence, the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) should take a stand on this important social issue affecting our schools, our educators, our students and our neighborhoods and our families.

WHEREAS, In recognition of the troubling situation in several parts of the United States, that involved the deaths of unarmed minority community members, mass demonstrations and sometimes violence, and the spotlight it shines on fundamental social issues of concern to us all; be it

RESOLVED, that the NCSS Board of Directors create a policy statement regarding the issues addressed in this resolution, a representative statement of which to be used as a guideline is found below:

"NCSS, in concert with other education groups across the United States who have already done so, is heartbroken over what has happened in far too many communities, resulting in violence and loss that cast shadows on the lives and dreams of our students. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of the unarmed minority community members who have lost their lives, and the police officers and their colleagues and families who are under investigation. We are saddened for those hurt in the cycle of violence that has erupted.

"NCSS calls for peace and justice across the nation. We understand the frustration that mounts with each incident where an unarmed minority community member loses their future. We understand too, the hopelessness that stems from poverty, racism, joblessness, and underinvestment in education which leads to continuous cycles of violence. We also understand the need for responsive policing to keep neighborhoods safe. We join with communities across the nation in condemning inequality and racism wherever it exists. We affirm that violence is never the answer to the fundamental issues that must be addressed.

"NCSS commends our colleagues in those areas most affected for their compassion and commitment to providing for the well-being of their students and their communities, as all educators are committed to do, during a time of sorrow and unrest.", and be it further

RESOLVED, that NCSS encourage the production of materials and identification of educational resources that support the ability of educators to address these key issues in the classroom.

Resolution passed by the HOD

RESOLUTION # 5-04-3

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE SOCIAL STUDIES TO ENDORSE THE RENAMING OF COLUMBUS DAY TO INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY.

SPONSOR: College and University Faculty Association of The National Council for the Social Studies

RATIONALE: Recognition of Columbus as a United States national hero perpetuates a false understanding of history, trivializes the struggles of the Indigenous peoples of the Americas, and should not be supported by any national organization dedicated to the education of our diverse, multicultural citizenry and the social, cultural, political, economic, and religious leadership of tomorrow.

WHEREAS, The National Council for the Social Studies has stated that “ideals proclaimed in the name of ‘We the People’ and conduct tolerated in actual practice have sometimes been in conflict.” (Human Rights Education Position Statement); and

WHEREAS, A core value of the National Council for the Social Studies, “affirms cultural diversity, combats discrimination and recognizes multiple perspectives.” (Strategic Plan); and

WHEREAS, Portrayals of Christopher Columbus represent Columbus as an explorer of heroic nature, rather than as a conquistador who treated the Indigenous peoples of the Americas with cruelty in pursuit of economic gain for himself and the Spanish Empire; and

WHEREAS, Indigenous people are marginalized in national discourses by popular representations of Columbus as hero, rather than presenting all conquistadors as oppressors of the Indigenous peoples of the Americas; and

WHEREAS, Several states have already renamed “Columbus Day” to “Indigenous Peoples’ Day” in recognition not only of Columbus’s actions but also in solidarity with Indigenous peoples’ decolonization efforts; be it

RESOLVED, That the National Council for the Social Studies issue a position statement supporting the renaming of Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples’ Day.

Resolution passed by the HOD

RESOLUTION # 15-04-4

AFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR THE #BLACKLIVESMATTER MOVEMENT

SPONSOR: College and University Faculty Association of The National Council for the Social Studies

RATIONALE: In order for NCSS to live up to its vision as outlined in the “Human Rights Education” position statement (see http://www.socialstudies.org/positions/human_rights_education_2014), NCSS needs to call for an end to racism and racial prejudice that continues to plague society and its institutions, including schools and the criminal justice system. Our organization must acknowledge and vocalize support for the #BlackLivesMatter movement which identifies and challenges discriminatory and oppressive practices in institutions that should serve and protect the rights and interests of all citizens. By remaining silent we fail to model the very values, dispositions, and skills we advocate.

WHEREAS, The structure of opportunity and experience for people of color in the United States has been shaped by historical and contemporary inequality and injustice; and

WHEREAS, National attention and conversations surrounding the deaths of Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, Eric Garner, Renisha McBride, Tamir Rice, Freddy Gray, and the Charleston 9 (just to name a few) have brought to the forefront our country’s history of contentious and unsettling discussions on race and racism and illustrate the long and detrimental legacy of racism in this country; and

WHEREAS, Young people of color in high poverty communities have radically different experiences with civic institutions and their agents (schools, police, teachers) than do their more affluent peers in predominantly white communities; and

WHEREAS, Social studies classrooms are sites within which young people have the opportunity to make sense of the issues that impact them on a daily basis; and

WHEREAS, Experiences of injustice and inequality become salient within the social studies classrooms of the United States as students learn about the history and civic values and commitments of the country; and

WHEREAS, Social studies educators have a key role to play in fostering critical understandings of issues of race and inequality among their students and have a great impact on how students who experience these inequalities make sense of civic life in the United States; and

WHEREAS, An acknowledgement, by social studies educators of the persistence of racism and racial prejudice and its profoundly negative impact on children, society, and our democracy, will clarify the role of the social studies in supporting racial justice and human rights; and

WHEREAS, The recognition and inclusion of the racialized and lived experiences of students and educators of color in the social studies challenges the dominant ideology currently presented in the social studies curriculum; be it

RESOLVED, That the National Council for the Social Studies and its affiliate organizations acknowledge the persistence of racism and racial prejudice and its profoundly negative impact on children, society, and our democracy, and commit to providing social studies education that includes this analysis of these concerns. Further, that NCSS issue a position statement acknowledging their support for groups that draw attention to and advocate for an end to institutionalized racism, social injustice, and racial prejudice.

Relevant Resources:

Histories of Social Studies and Race: 1865-2000 (Edited by Christine Woysner, Chara Haeussler Bohan)

Critical Race Theory Perspectives on the Social Studies: The Profession, Policies, and Curriculum (Edited by Gloria Ladson-Billings)

Race, Culture, and Education: The Selected Works of James A. Banks

Doing Race in Social Studies: Critical Perspectives (Edited by Prentice Chandler)

Ferguson USA by Teaching Tolerance

Resolution passed with Amendment by the HOD

RESOLUTION # 15-05-1

RECOGNITION OF NCSS PRESIDENT KIM O'NEIL

WHEREAS, Kim O'Neil has been a leader for years in the field of Social Studies Education, and

WHEREAS, Under President O'Neil's leadership, great gains have been made for the benefit of students and teachers across the country, and

WHEREAS, Kim O'Neil is a scholar, advocate, leader, and friend of the social studies, be it

RESOLVED, the National Council for the Social Studies formally recognizes and thanks President Kim O'Neil for her service and contribution to the social studies community and in particular for her term as president of the National Council for the Social Studies.

RESOLUTION # 15-05-2

COMMENDATION OF NCSS STAFF

WHEREAS, the NCSS Staff has worked diligently through economic hardships, periods of public assaults on education, and legislative disenfranchisement with our field, and

WHEREAS, the NCSS Staff has consistently served as a rock of support, action, and encouragement to member leadership and the organization at large, and

WHEREAS, it is sometimes taken for granted all of the things that the NCSS Staff does for the membership, be it

RESOLVED, the NCSS Staff has done tremendous good and have produced yeoman's work in doing their best for the benefit of the social studies organization.

RESOLUTION # 15-05-3

COMMENDATION OF CONFERENCE PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

WHEREAS, Stacey Alexius, the Louisiana Council for the Social Studies, and the entire Local Arrangements Committee has worked tirelessly in preparation and implementation of the 2015 National Conference, and

WHEREAS, The aforementioned have produced an outstanding conference to "Celebrate Social Responsibility", and

WHEREAS, The aforementioned have worked with great diligence and collaboration, be it

RESOLVED, The National Council for the Social Studies staff and membership thank Stacey Alexius, the Louisiana Council for the Social Studies, and the Local Arrangements Committee for the outstanding work and service to the entire organization for “letting the good times roll!”