



NEWSLETTER

educating tomorrow's citizens

May, 2005

editor: Linda McKean Logan

OCSS Election Results

Vice-President - Theresa Mengerink

Theresa has been an educator at the Vantage Career Center in Van Wert for the past 18 years. She has served as Vocational /Career Center representative on the OCSS Executive Board for five years.

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District 8 Representative - Tom Shreve

Dateline Columbus

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Tom is a twenty nine year veteran of the social studies classroom in Orange City Schools. He has served on the OCSS Executive Board for 10 years and has is a past president of OCSS.

MS Teacher of the Year

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District 10 Representative - Bob Jenkins

2006 Conference Info

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Bob has taught social studies at Zanesville High School since 1972. He is returning to the OCSS Executive Board where he has served for four years as District 10 Representative.

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Opportunities

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Primary Grades Representative - Linda Graham

Linda has served in several capacities in over twenty years as an educator in the Cleveland area, including teacher, administrator, and librarian. She is returning to the position of Primary Grades Representative on the OCSS Executive Board.

Jr. High/Middle Grades Representative - Kathy Chitwood

Kathy has been teaching at John Sells Middle School in Dublin for the past 17 years. She received the 2004 OCSS Middle Grades Social Studies Teacher of the Year Award.

Higher Education Representative - Dr. James Shiveley

Jim is Associate Professor and Chair in the Department of Teacher Education at Miami University. He has served in various roles in his fifteen years on the OCSS Executive Board.

The changes to the OCSS Constitution and By-laws were approved by the membership and become effective immediately.

Dateline Columbus . . .

William J. Muthig, Ohio Department of Education

OCSS Mission Statement:

The Ohio Council for the Social Studies serves as the premier voice for social studies professionals in Ohio. We advocate for the vital role of social studies and assist educators through professional development for the delivery of effective and innovative instruction. Our conferences and publications provide a network of services to members throughout the state.

Social Studies Institute of Ohio Offers Professional Development

A new round of the Social Studies Institute of Ohio (SSIO) is being conducted at several sites this summer. The institute will address Ohio's social studies standards for the ninth and tenth grades. A special focus will be on economics content and how to integrate that content into the instructional expectations for those grades. Preparation for the Ohio Graduation Test will also be addressed. Each institute is seven days in length with five consecutive days during the summer and the equivalent of two full-day sessions during the 2005-06 school year. There may be additional requirements to earn college credit. Registration is limited and several sites are close to capacity. Priority will be given to teachers from high-need school districts and those needing to meet highly qualified teacher status. For dates, locations, and registration information, go to the STARS registration system at http://webapp2.ode.state.oh.us/stars_

Fifth- and Eighth-grade Achievement Tests Continue Development

The Fifth-grade and Eighth-grade Content Advisory Committees will be meeting over the summer to review possible test items for field-testing in the spring of 2006. Committee members will be checking to see that items are aligned to the appropriate benchmarks and contain material appropriate for the grade level at which the test will be administered.

A test blueprint for each test should be available later this summer. The test blueprints will outline the standards encompassed by each reporting category as well as the number and types of items to be used in each category. The total number for each type of item on the test will also be provided.

Social Studies Resource Center Underway

The new Ohio Social Studies Resource Center (OSSRC) has begun its work to provide social studies teachers with valuable teaching resources. It plans to post its first instructional resources this summer. The Ohio Social Studies Resource Center is a collaborative effort of eleven partnering agencies, funded by a grant from the Ohio Board of Regents, and supported in-kind by the Ohio Historical Society. The OSSRC will identify and disseminate effective instructional and professional development resources and best practices to schools, school districts, and higher education institutions. It will also foster an integrated educational research and development capacity through a collaborative approach with Ohio's schools, school districts, and colleges and universities involved in teacher preparation.

Before the OSSRC posts any instructional resources on its web site, each resource must be peer reviewed. To do this the Center employs review boards. Review board members verify that each resource is in alignment with the academic content standards for social studies, is of strong quality and usability, and meets other considerations such as reflecting high expectations for all students for acquiring and applying knowledge.

The first review boards are evaluating instructional resources for 9th and 10th grade teachers. As the Center's work expands, the OSSRC will be organizing review boards for the 6-8 and 3-5 grade bands. Teachers wishing to serve on a review board can complete an on-line application at www.ossrc.org.

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Dateline Columbus...

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OGT Cut Scores Recommended

Standard setting to determine achievement levels on the social studies portion of the Ohio Graduation Tests took place on April 25, 26 and 27, 2005. Committee members received training on standard setting procedures, reviewed test materials, engaged in a process to associate test items with achievement levels and discussed the relationship between standards and achievement levels.

The achievement levels, recommended cut scores, applicable percent of total points for each level based on the recommended cut scores, and percent of sampled students at each level based on the recommended cut scores follow:

Executive Director
James Sheehan
President
Chad Doll
President Elect
Theresa
Mengerink
Secretary
Ro Eckman
Treasurer
Abbejean
Kehler
Conference Director
James Sheehan

	Cut Score (Out of 48)	Percent of Total Points for Level	Percent of Students at Level
ACHIEVEMENT LEVELS			
Limited	—	—	9.4
Basic	15	31%	11.1
Proficient	21.5	45%	32.1
Accelerated	33	69%	22.1
Advanced	39	81%	25.3

The recommendations of the committee were forwarded to the State Board of Education for consideration at its May meeting. The State Board approved a motion of “intent to adopt” the recommended achievement level cut scores at that meeting.

School districts will be receiving student scores during the latter part of May. Although the final achievement level cut scores will not have been determined, the cut scores included in the “intent to adopt” are available. School districts will be able to make planning decisions based on received scores and the proposed cut scores. The State Board is scheduled to vote on adoption of achievement level cut scores at its June meeting.

OCSS Middle School Teacher of the Year

Chris Underwood, a seventh grade social studies teacher at Mason Middle School, has been selected as the 2005 Ohio Council for the Social Studies Middle School Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Underwood received the award on April 8th at the OCSS Annual Conference in Columbus. OCSS is the largest and oldest organization representing social studies educators in Ohio, serving approximately 2,000 members.

The OCSS Teacher of the Year award is presented yearly to an effective educator who combines solid content presentation with student-centered strategies, conveys a love of the subject, and demonstrates professional leadership. Letters of support from her

principal, curriculum leader, a parent, and the assistant superintendent in charge of curriculum and instruction highlighted Mrs. Underwood’s achievements in each of those areas.

Mason Middle School principal, Tonya McCall, wrote: “Mrs. Underwood’s students describe her as someone who ‘makes learning fun.’ This is, indeed, a great compliment coming from seventh grade students. Chris uses her sense of humor to activate the learning environment while still having high expectations for student achievement.”

Mrs. Underwood is an eight-year veteran of Mason City Schools where she also serves as social studies department chairperson and a varsity tennis coach.

The Ohio Council for the Social Studies

Presents its Annual Conference for 2006

Patriot Acts: From Nathan Hale to John Ashcroft; Citizen Rights and Responsibilities

April 6-8, 2006

The Radisson

Worthington, Ohio

Preconference April 6, 2006

In an era of increasing global threat and opportunity, the rights guaranteed to Americans and the responsibilities associated with them have become more important than ever.

Featured speakers to be announced.

For the latest information on the conference, view the OCSS web page at www.ocss.org
Presentation proposal forms are available on the web.

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presenters page 2

Wanted: OCSS Conference Director

OCSS is searching for an Assistant Conference Director. The Assistant Conference Director will work with the current Conference Director to plan the 2006 annual conference. After the 2006 conference, the assistant conference director will become the conference director. Any interested individual should contact either James Sheehan or Chad Doll. Please submit a brief letter of interest addressed to President Chad Doll by July 15, 2005. Chad can be reached at: kcdoll@bright.net

Landmarks of American History: Congress and the Capitol

NEH Landmarks in American History: Workshops for Teachers: Claremont Graduate University, with a grant from the NEH Landmarks of American History program, is offering a summer workshop: *A Vast and Many Voiced Creation: Congress and the Capitol*. Two, one-week residential workshops will give teachers the opportunity to study in depth and tour the US Capitol with experts on its architecture and art and to attend seminars on the framing of the U.S. Constitution, the ratification debates, and the establishment of the U.S. Congress. The residential workshops will be held August 1-5 and August 8-12 in the Library of Congress. Please go to mysite.verizon.net/sgpatton/uscapitol. Contact Susannah Patton at sgpatton@verizon.net

Civil War Teacher Institute

August 5-7, 2005 Lexington, KY

Join the nonprofit Civil War Preservation Trust and the Kentucky Heritage Council in Lexington for the 4th annual Civil War Teacher Institute! Education professionals who work with students in grades 3-12 are encouraged to attend. Activities support professional development contact hour requirements. There is no registration fee and meals are included. James Klotter, Kentucky State Historian, will be our keynote speaker. Eminent historians Richard McMurry, James I. Robertson, Jr. and William C. Davis will lecture on historic topics and about teaching the Civil War. Living historians will demonstrate various aspects of life as a soldier. Our high point will be a field trip to Perryville battlefield. And, on Saturday evening we will have period entertainment by Olde Towne Brass, who will also discuss period music and allow teachers to view period instruments. In addition, teachers will be able to select their choice of focused workshops.

For more information, call 888-606-1400 X 204 or e-mail Jennifer Rosenberry at jrosenberry@civilwar.org.

Is There a Hate Group Near You?

The Southern Poverty Law Center's Intelligence Project found hundreds of hate groups operating across the U.S. in 2004. Is there one in your town?
newsletter.tolerance.org/cgi-bin4/DM/y/eniY0FN1e50E1S0BaSI0E5

Find out how to fight hate where you live:
<http://newsletter.tolerance.org/cgi-bin4/DM/y/eniY0FN1e50E1S0SMG0Ec>

Learn to spot symbols of hate groups:
<http://newsletter.tolerance.org/cgi-bin4/DM/y/eniY0FN1e50E1S0BhMX0EM>

Connect with local anti-hate organizations:
<http://newsletter.tolerance.org/cgi-bin4/DM/y/eniY0FN1e50E1S0CZEP0Er>

Combining Africa exploration with global education and awareness

Tire Tracks, a global, interactive, web-based education program based on a two year overland expedition through Africa. With a specific focus on 35 African countries, this innovative program highlights the importance of incorporating useful and relevant online resources into the classroom, in ways that help students develop a deeper understanding of concepts taught.

By zooming into day-to-day life in 35 African countries, the Tire Tracks expedition team (www.tiretracks.org) provides students and teachers the opportunity to discover the sights, sounds and stories of Africa's diverse regions and cultures, by accessing interactive, multi-media content sent continuously from the field. This real time educational pilot aims to actively involve over 1,000 classrooms with our pilot schools in the UK, USA and Africa, and incorporates students and teacher feedback into the development and delivery of the program. This resource will help teachers engage students with concepts that are rich, real, and relevant, while also reinforcing concepts currently taught

in social studies, science, technology and reflective writing courses (pilot targeted at ages 9-12).

Interested Schools

We would like to extend the reach of this program and *invite schools around the globe* that would like the opportunity to:

- participate now in the *special development phase* of this pilot program (which provides the opportunity to contribute feedback, and to trade ideas with pilot teachers in countries as the USA, UK, South Africa, Nigeria, Ghana, etc.)

- learn more about *linking* to our pilot schools in the UK, USA and Africa, and/or
- learn more about using this interactive education program when it goes live in August 2005

If you are interested in learning more about participating in this interactive education program now or in the future, go to www.tiretracks.org or email Corinne Overman at info@tiretracks.org.

The Art of Diego Rivera

The Ohio State University Center for Latin American Studies, with US Department of Education Title VI funding, has developed an interdisciplinary exhibit on Mexico as seen through the art of Diego Rivera to circulate to K-12 schools.

The traveling museum includes...

- An exhibit of three 48" x 66" panels on which to display information on Rivera's life and work, a brief overview of the history of Mexico, and ten 22" x 28" (or larger) posters of the works of Diego Rivera organized by theme and accompanied by a short description. The panels are intended to be displayed in an area of the school where they may be viewed from both sides, and they may be configured to fit available space.

The Center for Latin American Studies will provide the exhibit and accompanying materials *free of charge* to interested schools and asks only that teachers complete an evaluation and share with CLAS how they used the exhibit with their classes.

Contact Stace Rierson at the Center for Latin American Studies for more information.

Stace Rierson
OSU Center for Latin American Studies
1712 Neil Avenue, 310 Oxley Hall
614-688-4881
clas@osu.edu

GATE

The Global Association of Teachers of Economics

GATE Teacher of the Year Award

The GATE Advisory Board and Awards Committee are pleased to announce a new award—the GATE Teacher of the Year Award. It is intended to honor teachers who create classroom experiences that are innovative and engaging for students and who lead their students in finding success in their study of economics.

The application form is available on the GATE Web site. You may nominate yourself or be nominated by another teacher, department chair, principal or superintendent. The deadline for submission of applications is June 30, 2005. More information about the award is available on the Web site.

We encourage you to nominate yourself or a colleague for this award and look forward to presenting the GATE Teacher of the Year Award to a distinguished teacher at the NCEE Annual Conference in October.

If a colleague forwarded you this newsletter, sign up for a FREE GATE membership at www.ncee.net/gate/

Fund for Teachers

Fund for Teachers provides funds for direct grants to teachers to support summer learning opportunities of their own design. Maximum Award: \$5,000.

Eligibility: teachers who work with students from pre-K through 12th grade, with a minimum of three years teaching experience, full time, spending at least 50% of the time in the classroom at the time grants are approved and made. Deadline: varies by state.

www.fundforteachers.org/how.html

Be A Guest at An Ohio Center for Law-Related Education Spring Event!

Join hundreds of your colleagues who have discovered that the unique programs of the Ohio Center for Law-Related Education (OCLRE) can enhance your curriculum and prepare your students for state testing. All OCLRE programs are tied to the state benchmarks and standards. Many OCLRE programs are grant-funded and so are available to budget conscious schools at low or no cost.

You are cordially invited to be the guest of the Ohio Center for Law-Related Education at any of its 2005 competitions, summits and showcases. By spending the day at an OCLRE event you will watch students take part in the culminating activities of *We The People*, Mock Trial, Youth for Justice, Middle School Mock Trial or Project Citizen. You can talk with students, teachers, and OCLRE staff to gain valuable perspective on how to use OCLRE's civics and law-related education programs in your classroom. A certificate of attendance for contact hours will be provided. Project Citizen, Youth for Justice, Middle School Mock Trial and *We the People* are middle school level programs that help students work toward the sixth through eighth grade benchmarks. They emphasize writing, using evidence to support a position, identifying critical information, evaluating policies and drawing conclusions. For a calendar of events go to www.oclre.org. To see how each program aligns with academic content standards, visit www.oclre.org and click on "Go to Information for Teachers" or contact Jared Reitz at jreitz@oclre.org or call 877/485-3510.

Also available for no cost at www.oclre.org is the Ohio Center for Law-Related Education's 2004-2005 Winter Reporter, a 24-page on-line resource newsletter. "Prepare for the OGT with OCLRE," by ODE consultant Virginia Ressa is this edition's cover story and readers will find much more inside!

Federal Resources for
Educational
Excellence (FREE)

More than 30
Federal agencies
formed a working
group in 1997 to
make hundreds of
federally supported
teaching and learning
resources easier to
find. The result of that
work is the FREE
website.

www.ed.gov/free/

Teacher-to-Teacher Initiative 2005 Summer Workshops

Building on the success of last year's teacher workshops, the U.S. Department of Education will again host a series of workshops for teachers and principals in the summer of 2005. Some of the nation's best teachers and researchers will share their strategies for raising student achievement and informing teachers of the latest, successful research-based practices. The upcoming Teacher-to-Teacher Summer Workshops will be geared toward K-12 teachers and principals, and the subjects covered will be evenly distributed among elementary and secondary school instruction. Breakout sessions will cover the content areas of literacy, reading, mathematics, science, history and the arts. Additional sessions will be held on special education, English language learners, school leadership, the *No Child Left Behind Act*, using data effectively, federal grant

writing, and teaching strategies that can enable all levels of students to improve academically.

The 2005 Summer Workshops are scheduled in these six cities on the following dates: Cincinnati, Ohio (June 20-22); Phoenix, Arizona. (June 27-29); Minneapolis, Minnesota (July 11-13); Tampa, Florida (July 18-20); Bethesda, Maryland (July 25-27); and San Jose, California (August 1-3).

The registration and professional development sessions are free-of-charge. Meals and refreshments will be provided during scheduled workshop activities, but participants will be responsible for their own transportation and lodging expenses.

For more information or to register for the workshops visit: <http://www.ed.gov/teachers/how/tools/initiative/index.html>.

epic ad

The American Promise

For the past several years, National Council for the Social Studies and Farmers Insurance Group have joined forces to conduct education outreach activities for *The American Promise*. We are pleased to offer you an opportunity to receive complimentary copies of *The American Promise Teaching Guide* and the two classroom-formatted video cassettes.

As you may already know, National Council for the Social Studies endorsed the series *The American Promise*, which aired in October 1995 as the kick-off for the PBS Democracy Project. The series, subsequent classroom materials, and their free distribution have been made possible by Farmers Insurance Group. NCSS is proud of its association with this innovative tool for fulfilling the primary purpose of social studies education, “to help young people develop the ability to make informed and reasoned decisions for the public good as citizens of a culturally diverse, democratic society in an interdependent world.”

In nine acts, *The American Promise* tells the story of individuals meeting the challenges of democracy—freedom, responsibility, participation, hard choices, information, opportunity, leverage, deliberation, and common ground. Each act explores a theme through four or more documentary stories about grassroots heroes and heroines who are practicing the arts of citizenship and giving life to democratic ideals. The stories embody the conflicts, compromises, victories, and frustrations that are part and parcel of a working democracy. The accompanying standards-based teaching guide suggests ways for classroom teachers to capitalize on the series’s teaching potential

Content is most appropriate for middle level and high school students.

To order The American Promise Teaching Kit

Visit www.americanpromise.com

If you are interested in getting your social studies message to Ohio teachers, consider using our Newsletter. The rates are:

Full page:	\$250.00
1/2 page:	135.00
1/4 page:	75.00
Classified:	.50 per word

We reserve the right to refuse advertising which is not appropriate. For further information, contact Linda McKean Logan at 614/527.9079 or e-mail: llogan@columbus.rr.com

**Deadline for submissions for the next OCSS Newsletter:
September 14, 2005**

PLEASE JOIN US!

_____	Professional Membership	\$25.00
_____	New NCSS Regular/New OCSS	65.00
_____	First-time NCSS Comprehensive/New OCSS	80.00
_____	Full-time Student	5.00
_____	Retired Educator	5.00

New Renewal

Name _____ Home Phone _____
Home Address _____ County _____
City _____ Zip _____
Institution/School District _____
Position/Grade Level _____
Fax/Internet _____
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