

# Resolutions Passed

## The 2006 NCSS House of Delegates

*These resolutions, presented by delegates from NCSS affiliates, were passed at the annual House of Delegates (HOD) Assembly, December 1-3, 2006, in Washington, D.C. See [www.socialstudies.org/about/hod](http://www.socialstudies.org/about/hod) for more details about the HOD proceedings.*

### 06-01 Resolution to Increase Membership through Online Registration

Supported by: Colorado, Georgia, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, and Tennessee

Rationale: The use of technology to increase national and affiliate membership strengthens NCSS and professional teaching of the social studies.

WHEREAS, all affiliates duplicate the same functions of membership maintenance and registration,

WHEREAS, streamlining the registration process will increase efficiency, saving time and money for local affiliates,

WHEREAS, affiliates are looking for strong ties between NCSS and local organizations,

WHEREAS, younger teachers are more likely to pay online, and NCSS is trying to increase membership from that group,

WHEREAS, increased membership enhances our voice in pursuing social studies issues in Congress and state legislatures,

BE IT RESOLVED that the NCSS Board explore contracting centralized online membership registration for interested affiliates where affiliates receive direct deposit of funds.

### 06-02 NCSS Enabling Local, Regional, or State Councils in Hosting National Conferences

Supported by: Washington State, Prince George's County (Md.), Tucson (Ariz.)

Rationale: Often local, state, and regional councils are faced with financial losses and the foregoing of local retreats and conventions resulting in loss of membership and income to support their local activities. Additionally, local, state, and regional councils often suffer a great commitment of time and effort to support the national conference resulting in fewer resources for continued local efforts throughout the year.

WHEREAS, local, state, and regional councils often forego their fall conferences and other activities resulting in loss of income and placing a financial burden on operating budgets,

WHEREAS, local, state, and regional councils make a large manpower and resource commitment to the national effort resulting in fewer resources for local, state, and regional efforts,

WHEREAS, having NCSS conferences increases memberships in local, state, and regional and national councils,

WHEREAS, having the NCSS conference in a variety of locations increases geographical awareness and diversity among its members,

BE IT RESOLVED that NCSS will actively explore efforts to

support the financial well being and survival of the local, state, and regional councils.

### 06-03 Historical Resources Access

Supported by: Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and ATSS/UFT

Rationale: Social studies education, testing, and assessment are focusing increasingly on historical records and artifacts.

WHEREAS, archivists, curators, and other primary source specialists are crucial members of social studies education and,

WHEREAS, the study of any social science demands access to historical records and artifacts to document our collective heritage and,

WHEREAS, one function of social studies education is to permit students to become social scientists and use an array of historical records and resources,

WHEREAS, in recent years public funding for these purposes has decreased,

BE IT RESOLVED that NCSS pursue legislative action to restore adequate funding for national, state, and local archives, historic sites, and history focused museums.

### 06-04 Professional Development Funding for Social Studies Education

Supported by: Illinois, South Carolina, Texas, and Wisconsin

Rationale: Because professional development opportunities are crucial for effective social studies instruction, the continuation and enhancement of national funding is vital.

WHEREAS, Title II professional development funding is often not available to social studies educators on the local level,

WHEREAS, the Teaching American History grants are excellent opportunities for classroom teachers,

WHEREAS, social studies integrates and has positive impact on other content areas in the curriculum,

BE IT RESOLVED, NCSS provides an endorsement to local and state councils conveying the importance of present and future funding for professional development opportunities for social studies education.

### 06-07 State Social Studies Alliance

Supported by: Florida, Michigan, Missouri, and Tennessee

Rationale: Social studies are vital to maintaining our democracy. The future of social studies education is at a critical point in our nation and limited collaboration and dialogue exists between state

social studies councils and other state and local social studies content organizations.

WHEREAS, social studies is increasingly marginalized in schools,

WHEREAS, all society has a vested interest in creating literate citizens,

WHEREAS, currently, content organizations work on advocacy in isolation,

WHEREAS, resources for professional development are limited,

BE IT RESOLVED that NCSS will continue to encourage and support state councils to take leadership roles in forging social studies alliances with other state and local social studies content organizations.

### 06-08 National Social Studies Alliance

Supported by: Florida, Michigan, Missouri, and Tennessee

Rationale: Social studies are vital to maintaining our democracy. Because the future of social studies education is at a critical point in our nation, we recognize the need for collaboration and dialogue between NCSS and other national content organizations.

WHEREAS, social studies is increasingly marginalized in schools,

WHEREAS, all society has a vested interest in creating literate citizens,

WHEREAS, currently, content organizations work on advocacy in isolation,

BE IT RESOLVED that NCSS will continue to take a leadership role to form alliances and partnerships with other content organizations.

### 06-09 Conference Director Help from NCSS

Supported by Ohio

Rationale: Since the planning of a conference at any level (local, state, regional, or national) demands a great deal of skill and attention to detail, as well as specialized business acumen;

WHEREAS, state councils have limited resources (financial and organizational, personnel, and time availability) to put on these conferences, and

WHEREAS, the training of state and regional conference directors is spotty and often learned by experiences encountered while on the job,

BE IT RESOLVED that NCSS will continue to share the exper-

tise of the NCSS Conference Director with state and regional conference directors at the Summer Leadership Institute, Annual Conference, or other such functions.

### 06-10 Intelligent Design/Creationism in Social Studies Curriculum

Supported by: California, Indiana, Minnesota, Ohio, Tennessee and Texas, ATSS/UFT

Rationale: Efforts are currently underway to have social studies curricula serve as venues for instruction in alternatives to evolutionary theory. It is imperative that the NCSS take a position on this issue before it becomes a *fait accompli* in the nation's school districts.

WHEREAS, proposals to incorporate instruction in alternatives to evolutionary theory within social studies programs are currently being made in various states and,

WHEREAS, proposals to incorporate instruction in alternatives to evolutionary theory within social studies programs are being endorsed by public and non-public officials, school board candidates, and an attorney for the National School Boards Association and,

WHEREAS, instruction in topics such as intelligent design and creationism have been proposed as alternatives to the scientific theory of evolution and,

WHEREAS, the scientific theory of evolution is not an essential element of any social studies discipline and,

WHEREAS, the proponents of alternatives to evolutionary theory want those alternatives taught as legitimate scientific challenges to evolutionary theory and not as beliefs with religious origins or as part of a study of comparative religious beliefs and,

BE IT RESOLVED that the National Council for the Social Studies Board of Directors take all appropriate measures to aid social studies teachers, school administrators, and local school boards in resisting efforts to include instruction in alternatives to evolutionary theory within social studies programs and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Council for the Social Studies disseminates a clear, concise rationale for not including instruction in alternatives to evolutionary theory within social studies programs and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Council for the Social Studies endorses the study of controversies surrounding the teaching of evolution, creationism, and intelligent design in the context of courses addressing public policy issues, comparative religious beliefs, or other similar topics. 🌐

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