

NJ Social Studies Network News

A Publication of the New Jersey Center for Civic and Law-Related Education

Fall 2009

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Professional Development

In addition to the workshops listed below, the Center offers [in-service workshops](#) to meet the specific needs of your district.

New Jersey Council for the Social Studies Annual Conference—October 27, 2009. The New Jersey Council for the Social Studies (NJCSS), the umbrella social studies organization for the state, will be holding its annual conference, "The Role of Social Studies in a Democratic Society," on Tuesday, October 27, 2009 at Busch Campus Center, Rutgers University in Piscataway. The conference program schedule, conference registration form and membership form are available on the Council's [website](#) and are attached. Combined membership and conference fee is \$65. Don't wait to register!

New Jersey Social Studies Supervisors Association Meeting—October 8, 2009. To become a member or sign up for the meeting, contact Phyllis Bruno, President, at pbruno@franklinboe.org or Steve Maher, Treasurer, at smaher@chatham-nj.org.

New Jersey and the Bill of Rights, a conference sponsored by the New Jersey Historical Commission, will be held on November 21, 2009. To register go to the Commission's [website](#).

***We the People* Workshops for upper elementary, middle and high school teachers—December 3, 2009.** Focused on the history and principles of the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights, the *We the People* materials are easily integrated into a civics, U.S. History or U.S. Government class, or as a stand-alone curriculum. The curriculum enhances student understanding of the institutions of American constitutional democracy as well as the contemporary relevance of the Constitution and Bill of Rights. This five-hour workshop will focus on Unit Three: What challenges might face American constitutional democracy in the 21st century? It will connect *We the People* with the new 2009 state social studies standards. Participating teachers will receive certificates for five hours of professional development and may order a free classroom set of *We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution* materials, which includes 30 student textbooks and a teacher's guide. [Click](#) to access the registration form.

***Project Citizen* Workshops for middle and high school teachers—January 13, 2010.** We will be offering a 5-hour *Project Citizen* [workshop](#) in New Brunswick at the New Jersey Law Center demonstrating *Project Citizen* materials on *January 13, 2010*. *Project Citizen* is a project-based, service learning program that involves students in developing citizenship skills by identifying, investigating and developing a public policy solution to a community problem. The materials (also free!) can be integrated into almost any course and correlate with language arts, math, science and technology as well as social studies core content standards. [Click](#) to see comments by teachers who have used the materials, click. Teachers will receive 5 professional development hours and may order a *free* classroom set of textbooks. [Click](#) to access the registration form.

The 2009 Diversity Workshop, *Dispelling Myths and Stereotype: A Way to Reduce Prejudice*, will be held on **October 22, 2009**. For additional information contact Karen Small, Associate Director of the Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life at ksmall@rci.rutgers.edu.

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Upcoming Student Events in New Jersey

Winter 2010

The annual **New Jersey State *We the People* High School Simulated Legislative Hearings** will take place on Friday, February 12, 2010 at the New Jersey State House in Trenton. Teachers planning on bringing a class to participate to this event must contact civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu by November 1, 2008. [Additional details](#) about the simulated legislative hearings, including district and state level questions, can be found on our website. Teachers who are not bringing a class to participate are welcome to observe the hearings. Please contact our office for additional details. State Hearing Questions for high school can be found [online](#).

Spring 2010

The annual **New Jersey State *We the People* Middle School Simulated Legislative Hearings** will be held at Rutgers University in Piscataway on Friday, March 26, 2010. Please contact us at civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu if you are interested in bringing a class to the event, or if you would like to observe it. [Click](#) for more information on the *We the People* simulated legislative hearings, including middle school hearing questions.

This academic year's **Project Citizen Portfolio Showcase and Oral Presentation** will be held on Wednesday, May 26, 2010 at Rutgers University in Piscataway. The New Jersey *Project Citizen* Showcase is open to grades 5 - 12. Please contact us at civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu if you are interested in bringing a class to this event, or if you would like to observe it. [Click](#) for more information on the *Project Citizen* portfolio showcase.

Resources for Teachers

On September 17, 1787 the delegates to the Constitutional Convention signed the U.S. Constitution. Federal law requires publicly funded educational institutions to present a program focused on the U.S. Constitution each September 17th. Materials to help you celebrate **Constitution Day** may be found at: constitutionday.civiced.org, www.abaconstitution.org, <http://crf-usa.org/constitution-day>, www.constitutionday.us, www.justicelearning.org/constitutionday/index.asp, www.pbs.org/georgewashington/classroom/constitution_day.html and www.archives.gov/national-archives-experience/charters/constitution/constitution-day.html.

The ***Conflict Resolution and United States History*** curriculum package for grades 5-12 is an innovative approach to teaching U.S. history. The package includes two printed volumes with 20 case studies of conflicts in American history ranging from the colonial period through the 1990s. Each volume includes a CD with primary source documents, student overheads and power points for each case study as well as a DVD showing middle and high school students engaged in role-playing historical figures using conflict resolution. You only need to order one package per teacher rather than one per student. Additional information on the curriculum package, a [sample lesson](#), and an [order form](#) are available on our website.

International Partnerships for high school students who have participated in ***Project Citizen***. Contact Arlene Gardner at agardner@njclre.rutgers.edu or 732-445-3413 if you would like to have your class work with students from other nations on international human rights issues that the students jointly identify.

Africa Lessons. Through our 5-year partnership with Senegal via the [Civitas International Program](#), we have developed a number of lessons on African history - from the early African kingdoms of the 7th century to the emerging democracies of the 21st century. These [free lessons, in 8 separate units](#), are available on our website. Most of the units are designed for grades 6-12, while others are more appropriate for high school students.

Law, Literature and Society. [20 online interdisciplinary lessons](#) that integrate literature, history, geography and law for grades 4-12.

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Legislators Back to School Program. To have your legislator(s) visit your school, go to [Find Your Legislator](#) on the New Jersey Legislature's website, www.njleg.state.nj.us, for the name and contact information about your state legislators. For more about the Legislators Back to School Program, [click](#) or call 609-292-4661. NJCLRE also offers lessons for you to use with your legislators. We will send you any of the listed lessons if you complete an [online request form](#).

Tours of the New Jersey State House. Want to learn about your state government first-hand? State House tours are available Mondays through Fridays for grades 3-12 (one hour) or grades 2-3 (30 minutes) or take a 15 minute peak (grades K-12) by calling 609-633-2709. Eagleton Institute of Politics' [State House Express Program](#) provides \$300 grants to schools to offset the costs of bringing middle and high school classes to the State House and to enable your students to participate in a "Make a Law" mock legislative session. For more information contact Gloria Minor at gminor@rci.rutgers.edu or at 732-932-9384, ext. 245.

Educators can sign up their grade 4-6 classes to participate in **VOTE 2009**, a statewide mock election program, by calling 609-633-2709. Deadline October 2, 2009. Participation is limited to the first 120 schools registered.

Revolution '67 recounts the black urban rebellions of the 1960s, often relegated to footnotes in U.S. history. Focusing on the six-day outbreak of violence in Newark, New Jersey, **Revolution '67** reveals how the disturbance began as spontaneous revolts against poverty and police brutality and ended as a fateful milestone in America's struggles over race and economic justice. Voices from across the political spectrum recall lessons as hard-earned then as they have been easy to neglect since. Video clips and accompanying curriculum are available [online](#).

Social Studies Issues

Update on the New Jersey Social Studies Standards. Following the criticism by New Jersey social studies groups, the proposed 2009 social studies standards were reviewed and revised over the summer by experienced supervisors, teachers and curriculum writers. While the revised social studies standards still follow the cumbersome structure of all the New Jersey core content standards, they have been significantly improved: they are better integrated, less redundant, provide greater scaffolding and articulation among grade levels, include essential questions and four clear-cut strands throughout all grade levels, as well as a focus on key ideas and concepts, active citizenship and social studies skills. You can find the revised standards [online](#). On August 19, 2009, the New Jersey State Board of Education passed the 2009 revised social studies standards on first reading. On September 16, 2009 the State Board of Education will hear testimony about the 2009 revised state social studies standards and most likely pass them. Curriculum application documents and professional development will follow to better enable social studies teachers to meet the new standards.

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Thanks for your support, and please feel free to contact our office with any questions, or for additional information on any of the programs we offer.

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