

42nd Northeast Regional Conference
on the
Social Studies

**DEFINING MOMENTS:
PEOPLE, PLACES AND EVENTS**

Monday April 11 through Wednesday April 13, 2011

**Sturbridge Host Hotel & Conference Center
Sturbridge, Massachusetts**

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

PROPOSAL DEADLINE MAY 30, 2010

CONFERENCE CHAIR

Robert Kostka

**Bridgewater Raynham High School
Bridgewater, Massachusetts**

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DEFINING MOMENTS: PEOPLE, PLACES AND EVENTS

As historians and advocates of the social sciences, we all remember pivotal events and people in our lives, those of our country, and of the world, that have helped shape us and our beliefs. All of you remember where you were, what you were doing, how you felt and, many of you, even what you were wearing when you heard about the destruction of the Twin Towers on 9/11/01. Some of us can recall the same details when we learned that JFK had been assassinated. In short, many of us became interested in the social studies as we reflected on the defining moments that we had witnessed in our lives. How many of you went into your classes the day after the House of Representatives passed the Senate's version of healthcare reform and told your students to remember today: it will be one of those historical milestones like the passage of Social Security and Medicare? Remember your enthusiasm as you anticipated connecting this recent event to the economic principles of a free market society or the sociological and psychological impact of this new government policy on its citizens?

We understand that people have shaped the world that we live in whether we are focusing on Medal of Honor winners, space pioneers, rank and file Civil War soldiers, or philosophers, all of whom have a story to tell and a lesson to teach. When we travel, those of us who cherish the study of social sciences, always look for the historical significance of places that we visit; we can't help ourselves. What effect did the environment, physical as well as social, have on the events? Was there a ripple effect abroad? Has time altered our view of the event? What we learn from history and studying our environment may not be the same from person to person. Indeed many of us may observe the same event and come away with very different understandings of its consequence. This only makes the study of history, people and places that much more interesting.

With school districts eroding the study of social studies in the lower grades, eliminating high school electives to save money, asking teachers of other disciplines to teach one or more social studies classes, our society is in danger of losing that connection to our past and missing the significances of events occurring around us. Many of us had defining moments, people, places and events that pointed us to this profession. This conference should help to remind you of those moments and reinvigorate you for the challenges that we face as we continue the struggle to keep social studies relevant. Inspire and be inspired!

Sponsored by the
Massachusetts Council for the Social Studies
Co-sponsored by the
Connecticut Council for the Social Studies
Maine Council for the Social Studies
New Hampshire Council for the Social Studies
Vermont Alliance for the Social Studies
Rhode Island Social Studies Association
New Jersey Council for the Social Studies
New York Council for the Social Studies
New England History Teachers Association
Northeast Regional Geographic Alliances
New England, New York, and New Jersey State Departments of Education
Sanctioned by the
National Council for the Social Studies

For more information contact:
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Purposes

The 42nd Northeast Regional Conference on the Social Studies is designed to provide educators and vendors with the opportunity to:

- establish a forum to test ideas
- highlight the work of exceptional individuals
- demonstrate technology
- focus on critical thinking skills
- improve teaching of related subjects, especially literacy
- increase awareness of innovative programs
- discuss common problems with colleagues
- address "no child left behind" mandates
- encourage the implementation of Advanced Placement courses
- meld a relationship between museum educators and classroom teachers
- encourage excellence in curriculum and instruction
- further professional development through an exchange of ideas
- promote university/school collaboration
- advance civic engagement/service learning activities

Nature of Planned Meetings

Clinics-Clinics are two-hour workshops for the dissemination of new ideas and materials through audience participation and hands-on activities. Clinics are scheduled on **Tuesday** and **Wednesday** mornings.

Sessions-Sessions are sixty minute presentations that may include discussion or audience participation. Sessions are scheduled on **Tuesday** and **Wednesday** afternoons.

Full and Half Day Workshops-Workshops are scheduled for **Monday**. Please attach a sheet with a timetable for the workshop's events and biographical information and photos for major speakers.

Selection of Proposals

All proposals are reviewed, evaluated, and selected by the Program Committee. They must be received by the NERC Coordinator by **May 30, 2010**.

Proposals which address and develop the conference theme, which respond to the general purposes of the conference, and which state clearly the objectives, content, and techniques of the presentation will be given first consideration. Presentations which adhere to the conference theme are preferred, as are those that are content-based.

The Program Committee attempts to diversify programs as much as possible; therefore a person's name will not appear twice on the program unless the Program Chairperson deems it necessary. If a proposal is accepted, professional standards imply a commitment to register, attend and present. Presenters will be notified of action taken by **August 15, 2010**.

Professional Development Points

Certificates of presentation will be awarded to all presenters. Please check with your school district/state department of education to see how you can use these to acquire professional development points (CEU's).

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**Please feel free to copy and distribute this
proposal form to your colleagues.**

**Check the MCSS Web Site at
<http://www.MassCouncil.org>
for up-to-date information on the Conference.
This form is available for downloading.**

**Proposals from publishers, vendors, and other organizations
that produce educational materials will be considered
only if these organizations are exhibitors at the conference.**

**Proposals must be received by the
May 30, 2010 deadline to be considered.**



M.C.S.S.
35 Mohawk Street
Sharon, MA 02067

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