

THE INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY CONSTITUTION

Approved by the International Assembly
November 18, 1994
Phoenix, Arizona, USA

Revised and Approved by the International Assembly
November 19, 2004
Baltimore, Maryland, USA

RATIONALE

For the past twenty years the annual conference of NCSS has attracted numbers of social studies educators from many countries. Canadians, Australians, and, increasingly educators from the European Community, in particular, have become active members of NCSS. Moreover, in recent years, educators from Africa, Asia and South America have offered significant contributions. These educators have taken advantage of the NCSS conference to interact and network among themselves and with their American counterparts on issues of common concern in teaching and learning social studies. This interaction has heightened awareness among all members of the international dimension of the social studies and the transnational nature of issues, developments and concerns in social education of the people of this planet.

To its credit, NCSS has proved the major, if not the sole forum for an international gathering of social educators. The leadership of the Council in offering this forum to all social educators has been very much appreciated by U.S. and “foreign” members alike. In turn international delegates have provided a diversity of perspectives which have enlivened and enriched both the formal program of the annual conference and its informal debates and discussions. The international community welcomes, therefore, the Council’s decisions to grant affiliated status to the International Assembly. Hence, this proposed constitution is put forward for information in order that it will be discussed, revised if necessary, and approved by the membership of the International Assembly at its meeting in Phoenix on November 18, 1994.

PURPOSE OF THE ASSEMBLY

The Assembly provides a forum, within the National Council for the Social Studies, for collaboration and interchange of ideas among members of NCSS from the United States and other countries.

OBJECTIVES

The Assembly promotes the following:

- 1 establishment of an annual meeting under the auspices of the annual conference of NCSS,
- 2 planning of sessions with an international perspective at the annual conference of NCSS,
- 3 linkages among NCSS educators from all countries in order to promote their professional development,
- 4 enhancement of the study of social studies from an international perspective,
- 5 opportunity to share learning and teaching activities and research findings which would enhance the study of social studies from an international perspective,
- 6 opportunities for social and professional interaction among members,
- 7 liaison with the International Activities Committee of NCSS on matters of common concern, e.g. advice on the appropriate sites for international conferences,
- 8 development of an international network of social studies educators.

MEMBERSHIP & DUES

All members of NCSS would be eligible for membership. Members from the United States and other countries are invited to participate. An annual membership fee is required.

ORGANIZATION

To promote the purpose of the Assembly the following organization is proposed.

1. **The General Assembly**, consisting of all members of the International Assembly meeting annually at the NCSS conference, elects officers, receives reports, enacts by-laws, passes resolutions and generally serves as the legislative or policy-making body of the Assembly.
2. **The Executive Committee**, consisting of the President, Vice President, Past President, Secretary-Treasurer, Editor, Webmaster Ex-Officio and four Members-at-Large, enact the policies and by-laws passed by the General Assembly and forwards recommendations for consideration of the General Assembly, and is at the call of the President. The Executive Committee is responsible for establishing and maintaining regional contacts for promoting the Assembly. Terms of office commence immediately after the election at the annual meeting

3. **The President**, after completing two years as Vice-President assumes the role as President for two years. The President is responsible for chairing the meeting of the General Assembly and meetings of the Executive Committee and acts as the representative of the International Assembly with the Board and officials of NCSS. The President is responsible for calling meetings of the Executive Committee.
4. **The Vice-President**, elected for two years by the General Assembly at its annual meeting serves as chair of the Conference Program Planning Committee and serves as the alternative to the President at the meetings which the President is unable to attend. After completion of his/her term the Vice-President automatically assumes the position of President.
5. **Past President**, assumes role for two years after serving as President. The Past President assists the President at the President's request and serves in an advisory capacity to the Executive Committee.
6. **Secretary-Treasurer**, elected for a three-year term by the General Assembly at its annual meeting, is responsible for supervision and management of the financial affairs of the Assembly, including memberships, and maintains the policy handbook. Under direction of the President and the Executive Committee, the Secretary-Treasurer is responsible for effecting communications among the membership.
7. **The Editor**, elected for a three-year term by the General Assembly at its annual meeting, is responsible for production and dissemination of publications which are established by the General Assembly.
8. **Four Members-at-Large**, elected for two years staggered by the General Assembly, to represent the international membership. **Members-at-Large** participate as full members of the Executive Committee and undertake such duties as assigned by the President and serve on the Conference Program Planning Committee.
9. **Webmaster**, Ex-Officio member of the Executive Committee is appointed by the president and maintains the website for the organization.
10. **Amendments to the Constitution** shall be approved by the General Assembly by a two-thirds majority vote of those members present.

NEWSLETTER

An annual newsletter is distributed twice a year to all members of the Assembly. The newsletter, which may be published more frequently subject to financial resources and the pleasure of the Assembly, would publicize the annual conference and provide information and a forum for discussion of the social studies from an international perspective.