

Missouri Council for the Social Studies Constitution

FOLLOWING IS THE MCSS CONSTITUTION AS AMENDED ON MARCH 3, 2006

ARTICLE I Name and Affiliation

The name of this organization shall be the Missouri Council for the Social Studies (MCSS). MCSS is an affiliate of the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS).

ARTICLE II Purpose and Functions

Section 1. Purposes

The purposes of MCSS shall be to foster dialogue among teachers on the special mission of social studies, to assist teachers in teaching social studies more effectively, and to promote student learning in social studies through quality teaching and curriculum.

Section 2. Functions

1. To encourage active membership in MCSS and NCSS.
2. To foster the establishment of and support for local councils.
3. To promote professionalism in social studies and the importance of social studies.
4. To strengthen social studies instruction by integrating content from other disciplines where appropriate and by encouraging collaboration among social studies teachers, K-12, and between teachers of social studies and teachers of other subjects.
5. To strengthen social studies by developing and promoting professional programs, publications, research and the use of community resources.
6. To cooperate with other professional, educational and governmental organizations in promoting activities and projects supportive of MCSS purposes.
7. To provide MCSS members and others with a forum for the discussion of social studies related issues.

Section 3. Social Studies Definition

The definition of *social studies* adopted by the National Council for the Social Studies in 1992 will serve MCSS as the organization carries out its purpose and functions.

"Social studies is the integrated study of the social sciences and humanities to promote civic competence. Within the school program, social studies provides coordinated, systematic study drawing upon such disciplines as anthropology, archeology, economics, geography, history, law, philosophy, political science, psychology, religion, and sociology, as well as appropriate content from the humanities, mathematics, and natural sciences. The primary purpose of social studies is 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."

ARTICLE III
Membership, Dues, and General Meetings

Section 1. Membership

Membership in this organization shall be open to all who have an interest in the field of social studies. There shall be three types of membership: regular, pre-service and retired. Membership in good standing shall be confined to those persons who are no more than six months in the arrears of the current year dues.

Members in good standing shall be accorded all rights and privileges, including the right to vote in MCSS elections, to be nominated for elected office, and to serve on standing and ad hoc committees.

Section 2. Dues

The annual dues shall be determined by the Board of Directors. The payment of the dues entitles the member to a year's subscription to the official MCSS publication, Horizon, and to special mailings. Members are also entitled to reduced registration at Council meetings, as determined by the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Meetings

There shall be at least one general membership meeting each year open to all members in good standing. General membership meetings will be held at a time and place designated by the Board of Directors. The annual business meeting of the MCSS general membership will be held in the Spring.

ARTICLE IV
Organization

Section 1. Officers

1. The elected officers of MCSS shall be chosen by mail ballot at least two weeks before the annual business meeting.
2. Elected officers shall include: President, President-Elect, three Vice-Presidents, Past-President, two delegates for each region and a Delegate-at-Large (Regions are defined in Article IV, Section 3). The President-Elect and President shall automatically assume the offices of President and Past-President when they complete their terms of office in their respective positions.
3. Elected officers shall assume office during the spring meeting in the year of their election.
4. With the advice and consent of the elected officers, the President shall appoint a Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, Editor(s), and chairpersons for standing and ad hoc committees. Appointees may be removed and replaced as provided in Section 2 below. All appointed office terms expire at the spring meeting.

Section 2. Governance

1. The government of the Missouri Council for the Social Studies shall be vested in a Board of Directors.
2. The Board of Directors shall consist of the President, President-Elect, three Vice-Presidents, Immediate Past-President, Historian, Delegate-at-Large, Secretary, Treasurer, Editor(s), DESE Liaison, University Liaison, and Museum Liaison, chairpersons of standing and ad hoc

committees, plus six Regional Delegates and representatives of local councils (see Section 3).

3. A local council or affiliated group shall have one representative on the Board of Directors. The President of the local council or affiliated group shall submit the name of its representative for the Board of Directors to the President of MCSS before the Spring meeting. A local council or affiliated group representative shall serve as a voting member of the Board of Directors until the Spring meeting of the following year. The Board of Directors representative of a local council or affiliated group serves at the discretion of the group represented, and may be reappointed for consecutive terms.
4. The entire Board of Directors may vote to approve appointments and vote to remove from office. A quorum shall consist of those members present and voting at a duly called meeting. A two-thirds vote is required to remove appointed officials. Retention and reappointment shall depend upon regular participation in Board meetings, active efforts outside meeting, and the discretion of the President and the Board's elected members.
5. The Board of Directors shall have full power to carry on the business of MCSS between its regular meetings.
6. There should be a minimum of three meetings of the Board of Directors each year; in the spring, fall, and winter. Other Board meetings may be called by the President or a majority of Board members if due notice is given at least seven days prior to the meeting. The members of the Board present shall constitute a quorum. The President shall have the authority to call special meetings to deal with pressing issues. The decisions reached or actions taken shall be reported at the next Board of Directors meeting.
7. The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors shall consist of the President, President-Elect, Past-President, Treasurer, and Secretary.

The Executive Committee may act on behalf of the Board of Directors between regularly scheduled meetings on matters that require timely action, except when it is reasonable to call a special meeting of the Board or for those matters reserved for action by the full Board.

Section 3. Nominations and Elections

1. Elected officers of the Council, with the exception of the President and Past-President, shall be determined by plurality on a mail ballot prior to the annual business meeting of the general membership in the Spring of each year (with lots drawn for ties), or otherwise according to the manner prescribed by the Board of Directors. (The President-Elect and President automatically become the Present and Past-President respectively). At the winter meeting, nominations are to be finalized by the immediate Past-President and the nominating committee for publication in the spring newsletter. Only those members who have consented to serve, if elected, shall be eligible for nomination. A member may hold or run for only one elected office at a time.
2. Two delegates shall be elected from each region, one to be elected in even numbered years and one in odd numbered years. Each delegate will serve a two year term. Three Vice-Presidents shall be elected at large for two year terms. Two Vice-Presidents to be elected in even numbered years; one to be elected in odd numbered years. The delegate regions are east, west, and central, as defined by postal zip codes beginning with 63, 64, and 65. A Regional Delegate may represent only the region of his or her home or work address. Each voter may vote only for Regional Delegates from the voter's region

Section 4. Re-election of Officers

Elected officers shall be eligible for re-election, but no elected officer who has been elected for two full terms in immediate succession shall be eligible to succeed himself or herself for a third consecutive term.

Section 5. Succession

If a vacancy occurs in the office of President-Elect, the Board of Directors shall choose a Vice-President to assume the responsibilities of President-Elect until the next scheduled election, at which time the membership will elect the next President. If a vacancy occurs in any other elected office besides President and President-Elect before the end of the term, Regional Delegates included, the Board of Directors shall appoint a temporary replacement

Section 6. Term of Office

A full term of office for Regional Delegates and Vice-Presidents shall be two years. A full term of office for President and President-Elect shall be one year each. The term of the Delegate-at-Large shall be three years. An officer may resign or be removed from office as provided in Section 5. An officer who assumes a second elected office to fill an unexpired term when a vacancy occurs must resign the first office.

An elected officer, appointed officer, or appointed chairperson of a standing or ad hoc committee may be removed for lack of regular attendance at meetings and/or failure to fulfill the designated responsibilities of the office or position.

A two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors is required to remove an elected officer. A majority vote of the Board of Directors is required to remove an appointed officer or committee chairperson.

Section 7. Duties

The officers shall have the duties as prescribed in the By-Laws and shall perform those customarily attached to their respective offices, along with such other duties assigned by the Board of Directors.

Section 8. Executive Secretary

At its discretion, the Board of Directors may engage the services of an Executive Secretary to assist with fulfilling its functions and responsibilities. The Executive Secretary may be provided compensation commensurate with defined duties and with an operating budget to fulfill those duties.

ARTICLE V Committees

Section 1. Standing Committees

1. The standing committees of the Council shall be: a) Nominations, b) Membership, c) Awards, d) Publications, e) Legislation, f) Program, g) Auditing.
2. All chairpersons of standing committees, not determined by the Constitution or the Board of Directors shall be appointed by the President. Appointments shall be made from the membership of the Board for a one year term.
3. All members of the Standing Committees, not determined by the Constitution or the Board of Directors, shall be appointed by the President or the chairperson with the President's approval. Appointments shall be made from the general membership for a one year term.

4. The membership of each committee shall have at least three persons. The chairperson may increase the number to insure the effective performance of the committee.
5. All chairpersons of Standing Committees shall prepare and distribute a written annual report at the business meeting.

Section 2. Ad Hoc Committees

1. Ad hoc committees for special purposes may be established by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors or, if between Board meetings, by the Executive Committee.
2. The duration of an ad hoc committee shall be defined when it is established, but shall be for no longer than one year.
3. The chairperson of an ad hoc committee shall be appointed by the President, with the approval of the Board of Directors or, if between Board meetings, by the Executive Committee. Term of office of the chairperson shall be for the duration of the committee.
4. The chairperson of an ad hoc committee shall report to the Board as directed, but shall not be a member of the Board of Directors and shall not have a vote at its meetings.
5. The members of an ad hoc committee shall be appointed from the general membership by the President or by the chairperson of the committee with the approval of the President. Appointments shall be made for the duration of the committee.

**ARTICLE VI
Local and District**

Section 1. Recognition

The Board of Directors has authority to recognize any council as an affiliated organization upon written evidence of appropriate organizational structure, active programs and the collection of individual membership dues, provided that at least ten teachers of the local council are members of MCSS.

Section 2. Privileges

Recognition of a local council shall entitle it to one member of the Board of Directors, as provided for in Article IV, Section 2, Subsection 3.

**ARTICLE VII
Regulations as to Earnings and Dissolution**

Section 1. Exclusively Educational Purposes of the Council

Said organization (MCSS) is organized exclusively for educational purposes, including for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Revenue Law).

Section 2. Use of Earnings

No part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Section I thereof. No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the organization shall not participate, or

intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of candidates for public office. Notwithstanding any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from federal income tax under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Revenue Law) or (b) by any organization, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170 (c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Revenue Law).

Section 3. Dissolution of the Organization

Upon the dissolution of the organization, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of the organization, dispose of all of the assets of the organization exclusively for the purpose of the organization in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for educational purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Revenue Law) as the Board of Directors shall determine. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the organization or organizations as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

ARTICLE VIII Amendments and By-Laws

Section 1. Amendments

Amendments to the Constitution may be proposed by majority vote of the Board of Directors or by any member of the Council submitting a petition bearing the signatures of at least ten percent of the Council's present membership. Such amendments must be submitted to the President before the winter meeting, published and submitted to the general membership thirty days before the spring meeting and voted on at that time. Ratification requires a two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting at the spring meeting.

Section 2. By-Laws

By-Laws may be proposed or amended and adopted at any regular meeting of the general membership or Board of Directors and may be proposed by any member in good standing. A change in the By-Laws will be enacted by a majority vote of those present and voting provided, said By-Laws are in harmony with the MCSS Constitution. The change will take effect with the end of the meeting at which it is adopted.

ARTICLE IX Ratification

This Constitution shall be considered ratified upon receipt of a majority of those voting by mail April, 1980.