



Sunburst, A Publication of the California Council for the Social Studies

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Dear Member,

Welcome back to the new school year! This issue of Sunburst is focused on reconnecting you to all that CCSS has to offer. As our organization transitions into the new school year, we're pleased to share a welcome from our new CCSS president, **Avi Black**, highlight some key resources and legislative news, and remind you that we're here to support you in the AMAZING work you do each and every day in classrooms across the state.

A message from your CCSS President



Happy new school year! It is my pleasure, and challenge, to take on the role of CCSS President for the 2011-12 year. CCSS has played a key role in my growth as a social studies educator - many of the wonderful colleagues who've guided me as a teacher and administrator I met during annual conferences and other CCSS events -- so I am thrilled to be able to give something back. I do hope each of you will take advantage of the opportunities and resources we offer and take an active role as a member yourself. Our organizational focus this year will be on providing our members an ongoing sense of being a part of the CCSS community. Much of our work will build on accomplishments over the past year under the leadership of Immediate Past President, **Greg Spielman**.

Our organization is reaching out to you in a variety of ways: Our **NEW, upgraded e-Sunburst** provides you with updates and information about CCSS activities and noteworthy developments in the world of social studies teaching and learning; **Legislative advocacy** provided by our inimitable analyst in Sacramento, Fred Jones, keeps you abreast with regular legislative updates; our **New Facebook page** is an excellent way to stay in touch with organizational activities and network with other social studies educators across the state; our **CCSS website** is continually updated where you'll find resources for teaching, opportunities for professional development, conference and grant offerings, and many other materials of value; and last but certainly not least, our **local council affiliates** offer a way to connect with other history/social studies teachers in your region. Several of our local councils already hold events that you'll want to take part in.

As we move into this new year, we will continue the excellent work of the organization in all of these areas and more! It's important for us to stick together to support each other and continue in our advocacy in our field. We are working to make CCSS your "go-to" place to find resources, information, networking and a sense of belonging. I hope you'll join us in those efforts. And if you're not a member...well, then what are you waiting for? [Come join us!](#)

Academic programs make a difference!

CCSS supports teacher and student involvement in history based academic programs and competitions to support student learning. As the new year begins and you consider

Constitution Day Resources



Schools throughout America will be observing Constitution Day on Friday, September 16. Dr. Peg Hill has compiled a wonderful listing of lesson plans and other resources to support you in implementing [Constitution Day activities](#) in your schools.



Under the Dome

Track, review, and comment on current legislative action by visiting CCSS's

[Legislative Advocacy Page](#)

Updated!!!
September 9, 2011



Fred Jones, CCSS
Legislative Advocate



quality programs to engage your students, we'd like to connect you to a few research-based programs that have proven success in raising student achievement. **National History Day-CA** offers a rich and rigorous opportunity to engage students in deep research and analysis of historical topics aligned to an annual theme. For more information contact the [History Day Coordinator in your region](#) or visit the [NHD-CA web site](#). Though funding was drastically cut by Congress in recent budget agreements, the **We the People Program** in California is alive and well. E-books are still available for free and the coordinator network in California is still providing outreach and support to schools and districts. Visit [We the People](#) to find your local or regional coordinator. **The California Mock Trial Program**, introduced by the Constitutional Rights Foundation (CRF), helps students acquire a working knowledge of our judicial system, develop analytical abilities and communication skills, and gain an understanding of their obligations and responsibilities as participating members of our society. The program currently involves 36 California counties. [Contact your region coordinator](#) to get involved.

Call for Award Nominations!



We're launching our annual award nominations. Each year CCSS accepts nominations for awards to recognize history educators and advocates across our state. This year, we've streamlined the application process. If you know of an AMAZING teacher, administrator, or passionate advocate or leader in our field, we welcome you to nominate him or her. All members of the CCSS community are eligible to apply. The deadline to apply is November 15th. Visit our [Awards page](#) for more information.

Senate Bill 48 Passed in CA

On July 14, 2011, The Fair, Accurate, Inclusive, and Respectful (FAIR) Education Act, otherwise known as Senate Bill 48, was passed in California. As a result, the bill added language to Education Code Section 51204.5, which proscribes the inclusion of the contributions of various groups in California United States history. This section already included men and women and numerous ethnic groups. The expanded language now includes European Americans, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Americans, persons with disabilities, and members of other ethnic and cultural groups. While the legislation has passed and will take effect January 1, 2012, it's not likely that we'll see the changes updated in our Framework and Standards documents for a few years as statewide budget restrictions have stalled the adoption process in history-social science. To learn more about this new legislation the California Department of Education has developed a [FAQ page](#) and Dr. Peg Hill provides a comprehensive explanation of the law and its intent in her [most recent article](#).

National Honorees



Congratulations to CCSS Board of Directors' Representative, **Ruth Luevanos** for receiving the 2011 Distinguished Teacher Award from the National Council for Geographic Education. **Jim Charkins** (not pictured), executive director of the California Council for Economic Education and a professor of economics at Cal State San Bernardino, recently received the Bessie B. Moore Service Award for his significant impact on economic education. [Read the full article on Jim's National Teaching Award.](#)

A Personal Reflection on 9/11



CCSS President, **Avi Black**, takes a moment to reflect and share his memories of 9/11 and provide some historical context around the tragic event. Moreover he challenges us to think about the power that lies in all of us to make the world a better place. [Click here](#) to read the entire letter.

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If not, it may be because you're not a member or need to renew your membership.

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2012 Senate Youth Program



Outstanding junior and senior high school students interested in attending a week long intensive field study as guests of the US Senate in March 2012 should [Apply Today!](#)

Deadline to apply is September 30, 2011.

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Guest Contributors June/July Issue

Margaret "Peg" Hill, Publications' Committee

CCSS Annual Conference, Register Today!



The California Council for the Social Studies invites you to attend our annual conference, "**Social Studies to the Core.**" The March 2-4, 2012 annual social studies conference promises a dazzling array of the best in history-social science education and leadership opportunities in California. Choose from dozens of sessions by the best educators in the state and an array of topics for all grade levels, including a special focus strand on the Common Core Standards. [Register online](#), reserve your hotel, and take advantage of a discount offer on Disneyland tickets!

Together, we will continue the effort to provide quality history/social studies education for our students.

Sincerely,

California Council for the Social Studies

Lead

Avi Black, CCSS President

*Julie Weaver,
CCSS Exec. Secretary*

*Questions, comments,
and/or submissions,
please contact:*

[Sunburst Editor
Laurie Mosier](#)

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