

At the April NERWHA/NEASA (New England American Studies Association) meeting in Salem, the NERWHA steering committee met to discuss the future of NERWHA. A summary of the discussion can be found below.

Present: Andrea, Burzillo, Dehner, Greene, Kalivas, Mierse, Neill, Weber

NERWHA now stands for the Northeast Regional World History Association.

1. How do we interface with other world history teachers in New England?

We talked about getting a list of New England world history teachers from the WHA, and the suggestion was made that we contact Pat Manning about the availability of the mailing list from the World History Center. Other suggestions were to take advantage of the H-World and the AP teacher discussion lists.

We talked about conferences that would be appropriate for NERWHA to get involved in. There was a consensus that we do not have the resources or energy to organize our own conferences at this time, but it was agreed that we could continue to put together workshop sessions for conferences organized by other groups.

2. What should we focus on as a group?

There was a consensus that the changes in high school world history requirements at the state level and the increased emphasis on U.S. history had brought about a change in the playing field. Given this situation, steering committee members felt that the opportunity exists for NERWHA to help U.S. history teachers understand U.S. history in a global context. While we discussed other possible topics, such as the importance of art in world history and the role of women, globalizing American history was clearly seen as a topic with the greatest potential for NERWHA.

3. What would be the best forum for introducing people to the idea of Contextualizing U.S. history?

The consensus was that the New England Regional Conference for the Social Studies (NERC) presented a great opportunity to reach out to U.S. history teachers. NERC takes place each year in March--three out of four years in Boston, the fourth year somewhere in Connecticut--it attracts hundreds of high school and some college history teachers; and it offers the opportunity to hold a two-hour or full-day workshop. We agreed to explore this possibility in the coming weeks, knowing that there was an end-of-May proposal deadline. Given this focus, the suggestion was made to make contact with the teacher prep people at local state colleges. Michael Weber said that he would talk with the contact person at Salem State.

4. The following leadership slate was elected:

David Burzillo-President  
Al Andrea-Vice President  
Michael Weber-Secretary and Treasurer

David Kalivas-Webmaster

The steering committee agreed to meet several times during the course of the year and to maintain regular email communication.

5. The NERWHA/NEASA Conference

The steering committee is grateful to the WHA for providing a subvention, which allowed us to bring Maggie Favretti to Salem. Maggie's keynote address on globalizing U.S. history was fantastic and resulted in two signups for the WHA. Ten NERWHA members were in attendance at the conference; clearly, attendance was affected by the Northeastern conference, which attracted a huge turnout and was held only a month earlier. We are pleased to report that four new members signed up for the WHA, including two students from Harvard and two professors. NERWHA's session about American travelers on the Silk Road session was spirited and informative, though there were some logistical issues which negatively impacted the session. Thanks were extended to Al Andrea, David Kalivas, and Bill Mierse for their contributions to the session.

Postscript: In the weeks since the NERWHA/NEASA meeting, Al Andrea and Holly-Lynn Busier prepared and submitted a proposal to NERC for a session on the Civil War in a Global Context. Jeremy Greene, Michele Forman, Maggie Favretti, and Al Andrea will serve on the panel.

Respectfully submitted,

David Burzillo