

NERWHA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL Meeting Notes, April 17, 2004, Salem, MA

At the NERWHA/NEASA meeting in Salem, steering committee members met to discuss the future of NERWHA.

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

Discussion: 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 H- World and the AP teacher discussion list.

Below you will find

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 American 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 American history teachers understand the context of American history in a global context. While we discussed other 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 great potential for NERWHA.

3. What would be the best forum for introducing people to the idea of contextualizing American history?

The consensus was that the New England Regional Conference for the Social Studies (NERC) presented a great opportunity to reach out to American history teachers. NERC happens each year in March (three years in Boston, 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 people agreed to serve in leadership roles:

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

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

P.S. As a followup to the notes above, Al and Holly Lynne 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. Thank you, Al, for taking the lead in organizing this; and thank, Jeremy, for getting the ball rolling and agreeing to participate.