

## NERWHA Steering Committee Meeting Minutes, 3/16/2005

At the March meeting of NERC (Northeast Regional Conference for the Social Studies) in Boston, the NERWHA Steering Committee met to discuss future activities. A summary of the discussion can be found below.

Present: Al Andrea, Melissa Burrage, David Burzillo, Deborah Cunningham, Jeremy Greene, Dane Morrison, Deborah Smith-Johnston, Michael Weber

### 1. Debriefing the session on the U.S. Civil War in Global Perspective.

All present thought that the session went very well. The presentations by Maggie, Jeremy, and Dane were excellent, and the discussion that followed was also great. Thanks again to Maggie, Jeremy, Dane, and Al for the hard work in preparing for and participating in this panel.

### 4. Primary Source of Watertown is beginning to do some work on the U.S. in the world. In what ways can we work together/support each other?

Deborah Cunningham of Primary Source described the three-year Teaching American History grant that PS (in partnership with the Adams Historical Site, Suffolk University, the Boston Public Library) received from the DOE. The program is called The World in America-America in the World. Primary Source is currently offering 3-day courses throughout the school year on different topics/periods in U.S. history, as well as book discussions groups, for teachers from Newton, Quincy, Randolph, and Canton. Deborah distributed overviews of the program, and then talked about potential topics for next year's courses, including suffrage, the multicultural west, music, Native Americans, among others. We talked about the potential ways that NERWHA and Primary Source could work together. (Later in the meeting Deb specifically requested help in gathering names of middle and secondary teachers who could teach curriculum workshops on the topics being covered in the three-day courses. Please forward any names you can think of.)

### 2. Brainstorming a topic for NERC 2006. Should we do NERC again? Should we stick with the "Globlizing U.S. history" theme?

The consensus of the group was that we should put together a session for NERC 2006, whose deadline for proposals is May 30. (A workshop within the context of a larger conference seems to be the most practical use of NERWHA's limited numbers and resources.) We then talked about some potential topics for NERC 2006. After a brief discussion, we settled on the topic Comparative Suffrage. After further discussion we decided to keep the three-presentation format used for the Civil War in Global Context. We tentatively planned the following sessions: one on British influences on the American suffrage movement; one on the influences of American and British suffrage movements on suffrage movements in Iran and Egypt; and one on the suffrage movement in Japan

(looking at post-1868 and post- 1945 Japan.) Deborah C. will share any presenter leads as she works on a course on suffrage for Primary Source. Dave B. and Jeremy G. will look for potential panelists. (All other steering committee members are encouraged to brainstorm names as well!) Dave B. and Jeremy G. will put the proposal together and submit it before the May 30, 2005 deadline.

3. Discuss the feasibility of a session at the AHA 2006 meeting in Philadelphia. Deadline for submissions was February 15, but we might be able to put together a session with friends Howard Spodek, Joan Arno, etc...

We agreed to contact Howard Spodek about a roundtable discussion at AHA 2006 in Philadelphia. Tentative title of the roundtable would be "10 Years Later—The Philadelphia World History Project." Besides Howard, Joan Arno and other participants would be invited. Al A. will make this call.

5. Web page update. Our most recent webpage can be accessed from the WHA page, but has not been updated in about two years. Logo and individual files in need of work.

Michael W. is looking for a graphic arts student to help redesign the NERWHA webpage. People felt that the new site needed to be actively managed and needed to include flash updates. Also it was suggested that we need a link to Primary Source on any redesigned site. Please check out the most recent version of our website (last updated about 2-3 years ago), which is linked to the WHA homepage, and consider what a revised website for NERWHA should look like given what we are currently doing. We will exchange some emails about this in the coming weeks, so please have some concrete ideas to share.

6. Ideas for other activities we should be pursuing?

A number of comments were made about the need for a mailing list. In the coming weeks we need to do some work on this. Discussion focused on using Primary Source, Salem State, WHA, and old World History Center lists to come up with our own. This will need some work. We will need someone/some people to take charge of this.

8. Next meeting date?

Members who will attend the AHA meeting next spring, will meet there. In the meantime, we will conduct as much business as possible over the internet.

(I would suggest that we always meet at NERC if we hold a session there.)

Should we meet in the fall at some point?

Respectfully submitted

David Burzillo

