

**MICHIGAN  
COUNCIL FOR  
HISTORY  
EDUCATION**

A Twenty-Five Year  
History  
1993-2017

Annette & Jim  
McConnell

# **Dedicated to the History Teachers of Michigan**

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This brief overview of the origins, development, and current status of the Michigan Council for History Education is based on the materials contained in the MCHE Archives. Permission is granted for the use of any of this materials in other appropriate publications.

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# Michigan Council for History Education A Twenty-Five Year History, 1993-2017

by  
Annette & Jim McConnell

## 1993-Origins

All organizations have a history. The stories of the founding, the interaction of individuals in setting goals, establishing programs, resolving conflicts, and surviving over time can provide guidance for individuals facing these issues as they focus on future topics and concerns. The origins and development of the Michigan Council for History Education reflect patterns found in many small organizations across Michigan and the Nation.

MCHE was founded in the fall of 1993 by Annette and Jim McConnell following a meeting with Elaine Reed, Executive Director, and Joe Ribar, Publications Coordinator, of the National Council for History Education (NCHE). Reed and Ribar continued to support MCHE throughout their years of service to NCHE.

The events leading up to that meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, at the Midwest Regional Conference of the National Council for the Social Studies, began with a phone call to Jim McConnell from Mel Miller, Social Studies Consultant for the Macomb Intermediate School District. He told McConnell about the formation of a Social Studies Task Force. This project had been proposed by the Michigan Council for the Social Studies and was funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. Congressman Dan Kildee, a Flint Democrat serving on the House Education Committee, had actively supported the grant application from MCSS. The Task Force was to include representation from key social studies groups and disciplines. Miller suggested that McConnell contact Reed, asking to be considered for one of the three history spokespersons on the Task Force. A call to Reed revealed that she had already named the history representatives: Jim Cameron, a Saline High School history teacher; Gina McNally, a Historical Society of Michigan education consultant, and Dr. Maris Vinovskis, History Department Chair at The University of Michigan. Reed suggested that she could meet with Annette and Jim McConnell at the November 1993 NCSS meeting in Nashville to discuss ways they might help NCHE by organizing a state chapter in Michigan. Reed had already helped organize NCHE's first state history group in New Jersey. The McConnells accepted Reed's proposal to establish a Michigan chapter and gained insights from Reed and Ribar into potential strategies to reach the state's history teaching community.

By late December a MCHE Membership Application form had been developed by Reed and distributed by the McConnells to key history teachers in several Detroit area school districts. Also circulating the form at history events, they soon had individuals applying for membership. Their next step was to open a low balance free checking account at their neighborhood Standard Federal bank. Since the bank required a minimal balance of \$200 to provide free checking, the

McConnells made a \$200 loan to MCHE. When Jim McConnell stepped down as MCHE Executive Director in 1999, the loan was repaid with no interest charged.

## 1994

To provide an initial focus for MCHE, three basic goals were established. First, MCHE would organize and offer an annual conference. Secondly, a newsletter would be developed to share information with members. Third, MCHE would attempt to organize at least one special event or activity each year for history teachers and/or their students. MCHE has continued to follow these priorities throughout their 25 year history, with modifications to changing professional needs and new technology available. Within a few months of the founding of the Task Force, Gina McNally left Michigan to take a position in another state. McConnell replaced her after the first meeting, establishing a strong bond with Cameron and Vinovskis, who both actively supported the fledgling MCHE organization.

An initial success for MCHE was noted in the programming of the annual MCSS Conference. Noting that nearly 90% of the sessions focused on the “Five Themes of Geography,” (perhaps a slight exaggeration), MCHE was able to increase the quantity and quality of history-themed presentations. McConnell has always credited the effective leadership of Dr. Michael Libbee, Executive Director of the Michigan Geographic Alliance, with its success at state conferences. Libbee is a Central Michigan University professor who has strived to integrate all of the social studies disciplines. MCHE Board member Vinovskis commented in the mid-90s that he was pleased to notice the increase in history sessions at MCSS Conferences.

The new MCHE had support from JoAnn Floyd, MCSS Business Manager, and Mel Miller, MCSS “Memorandum” Editor. MCHE was able to reach out to social studies teachers across the state. In addition, press releases were issued by MCHE and sent to local newspapers in the Detroit area as well as to other educational organizations. Among the key groups getting the news releases were the Michigan Education Association, the Michigan Federation of Teachers, the Michigan Association of School Boards, and the Michigan Association of School Administrators.

MCHE’s first public event was a panel session at the February 1994 MCSS Conference at the Dearborn Hyatt Regency. MCHE offered a panel discussion on “History: Studying the Past Impacts the Future.” Panelists included NCHE Executive Director Elaine Reed; Dr. Sandra Vanburkleo, Wayne State University History Department; Gina McNally, Director of Educational Programs, Historical Society of Michigan; Dorothy Ebersole, School Programs Manager, Greenfield Village and Henry Ford Museum; Jim McConnell, Social Studies Resource Teacher, Dearborn Public Schools; and three high school history teachers from Dearborn: David Balfour (Edsel Ford), Pat Baron (Fordson), and Sue Zimmerman (Dearborn High).

Volume I, Issue 1, of the MCHE newsletter was published in November 1994. Its name “Ends and Beginnings” was taken from “In the Home Stretch,” a Robert Frost poem, offering a philosophical comment about the nature of history and the human condition. Specifically, Frost wrote:

“You’re searching, Joe,  
For things that don’t exist.  
Beginnings, I mean.  
Ends and beginnings.  
There are no such things.  
There are only middles.”

As we teach students about the past, our stories often seem to have no beginnings and no endings. Interpreting the past finds us in the middle of events whose origins and conclusions start in a vague past and continue through the present into the unknown future.

Along with articles about the need for item writers for a proposed Michigan Social Studies Curriculum Test, information was presented on National History Day training, the Mary Bonsteele History Teacher Award, and MCSS upcoming events. In addition, details were offered on the second Annual MCHE Conference set for Wednesday, March 22, 1995, to be held again at the McGregor Center on the Wayne State University campus. Key assistance was provided by the WSU History Department, Glencoe/McGraw-Hill and MCSS. For this event, support was also provided by the Michigan Humanities Council, the Michigan Department of State, and the Ford Motor Company Fund.

## 1995

The first MCHE History Educator Conference was held on Wednesday, March 22, 1995, at the McGregor Center on the Wayne State University campus in Detroit’s Cultural Center. Event co-sponsors were the WSU History Department, the Michigan Council for the Social Studies, and Glencoe/McGraw-Hill regional manager Ed Sims. Sims provided substantial support to MCHE during its early years. Dr. Michael Yocum, Oakland Schools Social Studies Task Force Chairperson, provided details about the drafting of the document to the attendees.

The second issue of “Ends and Beginnings” was mailed to MCHE members in February 1995. Key articles shared information on new “National History Standards,” and the first Annual MCHE Conference. Other articles discussed the popular “We the People” curriculum, resources available from the Michigan Humanities Council, a “Summer Trip to Tunisia,” and related projects. Along with “E&B,” MCHE mailed other special professional development activities announcements to members. For example, a brief note dated March 3, 1995, described a Michigan Geographic Alliance Summer Institute, calling for support of the creation of a cable “History Channel,” a presentation by Fred Risinger, a NCSS leader, and an update on the State Proficiency Test.

Key assistance in strengthening MCHE came from the National Council for History Education. NCHE Executive Director Elaine Reed organized a teacher Colloquium on history teaching strategies and content on the Michigan State University campus in East Lansing from Monday, June 19, to Wednesday, June 21, 1995. Assisting her were Joe Ribar, NCHE Publications Coordinator, and noted scholar Bernard Weisberger, a popular history writer for the "American Heritage" magazine. Also participating were Michigan Department of Education (MDE) Social Studies Consultant Karen R. Todorov and Bruce Brousseau, MDE Social Studies Assessment Specialist. Seventy-five educators were selected to participate, including many teachers who joined MCHE as active members.

Moving their annual conference from Spring to the Fall meant presenting two conferences in the same calendar year, 1995. Working closely once again with the Wayne State University History Department, the second Annual MCHE History Conference was held on Tuesday, October 10th, at the McGregor Conference Center. The registration fee was \$10 for MCHE members and \$30 for non-members, which included a membership to both MCHE and NCHE. Using a slogan from the History Channel, the conference theme was "All of History All in One Place." Dr. Michael Yocum, Oakland Schools Social Studies Consultant and Chair of the Michigan Social Studies Task Force, reported on the project, focusing on the history standards. In addition to sessions by several WSU history professors, information was presented by staff from Greenfield Village /Henry Ford Museum, the Michigan Humanities Council, and the Bureau of History, Michigan Department of State.

## 1996

By 1996, MCHE had established a publication schedule calling for distribution of four quarterly issues of "Ends & Beginnings" to its members. To help the fledgling organization, MCSS continued to allow MCHE to use its bulk rate mailing permit rather than requiring the small 150 member group to use first-class mail rates. Each of the four issues continued to describe professional development opportunities in Michigan and beyond, along with short articles on classroom resources and activities. Beginning with Vol. II, No. 3, January 1996, the newsletter included a listing of history events, a practice that has continued to the present. However, the MCHE History Events Calendar is now emailed rather than via U.S. mail. Among the articles appearing in 1996 were: "First Vote," a program designed to encourage 18 year olds to register and vote; "Uncommon Friends," a resource about Fairlane Estate, the home of Henry Ford; and information on the automotive exhibits at the Detroit Historical Museum.

Another key step in establishing MCHE was the preparation and distribution of a proposed constitution for the organization. The new MCHE constitution was based on language in the constitutions of the Michigan Council for the Social Studies, the Fordson High School Student Congress, and the New Jersey Council for History Education. Copies were mailed to members in April 1996 with a notification that a ballot would be mailed to them with the next issue of "Ends & Beginnings."

Another action to stabilize MCHE governance was the notice that an official MCHE Board would be elected from a ballot mailed later that summer. The first Board was composed of volunteers who met to help collate materials for mailings and general planning of events. Sean O'Neill, Grand Valley State University history professor, recalls meetings around the ping pong table in the basement of the McConnell home in Livonia. Members of MCHE's first elected Board included MaryJo Maples, a Berkley High School history teacher, as President, with Saline High School teacher Jim Cameron as President-Elect. Other officers were Annette W. McConnell, Secretary; and Jane Moriarty, Treasurer. Jane was a Covington Middle School, Birmingham, teacher. Dividing the state into four "regions" based on U.S. congressional district boundaries, the representatives included Sean O'Neill; Milan "Mike" Marich; Tim Evans; and Lucille McNaughton. Dr. Jim McConnell served as Executive Director, holding that position until he left Dearborn Schools in June 1999. McConnell then served on the staff of the Detroit 300 Commission, chaired by Edsel Ford II.

As one of their unique new initiatives, MCHE entered the role of tour director. On Saturday March 1, 1996, MCHE joined with the Michigan Historical Center and the Dearborn Public Schools to offer "A Stroll through Michigan History." The program featured a guided tour of the exhibits at the new state history museum in Lansing, a few blocks west of the State Capitol. The success of this collaborative project encouraged MCHE to develop other events at other museums in future years.

On Saturday, October 5, 1996, MCHE offered its 3rd Annual Conference at the Macomb Intermediate School District (ISD). Taking the theme of National History Day, program sessions focused on "Triumph & Tragedy in History." Arrangements were handled by Mel Miller, the ISD Social Studies Consultant. An update was given by Michale Yocum on the Social Studies Standards. An address "History in the 21st Century" by Dr. Maris Vinovskis, Chair, History Department, The University of Michigan, was featured on the program. Another highlight was a slide presentation by Michael Farrell, University of Windsor art historian, on "1492 & the World of Christopher Columbus."

One of the most creative programs developed by MCHE came with the Fall 1996 Presidential Election. Working with other organizations, MCHE offered teachers and students the opportunity to research possible state-by-state election returns and predict the results of the Electoral College. All entries were due a few days prior to the election and the winning teacher and students received twenty tickets to attend the Electoral College ceremony held in mid-December in the State Capitol in Lansing. This "Presidential Election Prediction" contest was run again in 2000, with the modification that the first place winner receive ten tickets for the Electoral College event, with two other teachers each receiving five tickets. With the exception of the 2012 Presidential Election, the contest has continued to the present. To provide a comprehensive experience, arrangements have often been made for tours of the Michigan History Museum and the State Capitol, with lunch available in the Education Building cafeteria.

## 1997

By 1997, MCHE was positioned to offer a variety of services to members and other educators. The organization continued to offer an annual history conference, to publish their quarterly newsletter, and to create other special activities. MCHE repeated the successful “Stroll through Michigan History” event on Saturday, March 1, 1997, adding new topics. The 1997 program included a presentation on the resources of the State Archives and a lecture on Michigan in the Civil War. MCHE also sought volunteers to help research historical events in Detroit in preparation for publication of a “Days of Detroit” calendar, citing one event for each day of the year. With financial support from R.L. Polk & Co., the calendars were printed for 1999, 2000, and 2001. A special feature occasionally began appearing in “Ends & Beginnings”: quizzes on such topics as the American Presidents and Michigan Week. To provide background on the life of an historical re-enactor, Tim Evans described the benefits derived from portraying historical personalities.

Moving to Wayne RESA, the conference was held on October 4, 1997. The theme, again taken from National History Day, was “Migrations in History: Peoples, Cultures, Ideas.” Noted author Joy Hakim delivered the keynote on “A History of US,” the title of the book series she had written. New board members included Tim Hall, Central Michigan University, and Michael Federspiel, Midland Schools. According to Treasurer Jane Moriarty, MCHE had a balance of \$2,630.95, as of October 3, 1997. With a sound financial and program foundation, MCHE was attracting new members and offering additional services.

## 1998

In 1998, MCHE continued its focus on using museums as educational resources. The Dr. Charles H. Wright Museum of African-American History was visited on Saturday, January 17. On Wednesday, April 15, MCHE arranged for a visit to the Automotive Hall of Fame, then located in Dearborn. In “Ends & Beginnings,” history teachers were encouraged to attend the annual Local History Conference at Wayne State University, an ACCESS (Arab Community Center for Education and Social Services) program on Arab-American history and culture, and “Demographics and the Environment: A Buffet of Innovative Activities,” presented by Dr. Bob Pettapiece, from Wayne State University. This program was held at the Administrative Service Center, Dearborn Schools, on March 25, 1998. To encourage history teachers to plan upcoming programs for key historical commemorations, articles began appearing in “Ends & Beginnings” discussing the upcoming 300th anniversary of the founding of Detroit. On professional development, the newsletter featured an article by noted scholar Diane Ravitch, “Who Prepares Our History Teachers? Who Should Prepare Our history Teachers?”

Several MCHE members volunteered to serve as judges for a student essay contest on “Liberty,” based on a PBS series with the same name. The contest was sponsored by Northwest Mortgage. MCHE has frequently provided judges for a variety of programs beneficial to students.



MCHE once again presented its annual conference at Wayne RESA. Keynotes were presented by Dr. Roger Rosentreter, editor, "Michigan History Magazine," on "Michigan in the Civil War" and Dr. Daryl Fox, a Glencoe/McGraw-Hill author, discussing "A View of U.S. History from the North: A Canadian Perspective." In addition, Michael Yocum offered an update on the Michigan Social Studies Project. Among the presenters featured in the five morning concurrent workshops were Michael Deren, Tim Hall, Michael Federspiel, Ralph Bach, Jim Cameron, and Tami Averill. Afternoon presenters included Marilyn Sidebotham, Fred Stubbs, LuAnn Kern, Jim Wenzloff, and JoAnn Sokol.

As 1998 drew to a close, a transition occurred in the editorship of "Ends & Beginnings." Jim Cameron became editor, bringing new ideas and a fresh perspective to the quarterly publication. He got advice from both McConnells, with Annette preparing a memo offering specific recommendations, including key sources of information and the origins of the newsletter's name. Cameron kept the popular name of "Ends & Beginnings" from Frost's poem "In the Home Stretch." His first issue, Vol. V, No. 2, was published in December 1998. Key articles discussed National History Day, the Awards program of the Historical Society of Michigan, and news from Congressman John D. Dingell describing the establishment of a National Automotive Heritage organization in House Resolution 4570. MCHE has often included information about the Motor Cities Heritage Area and its resources in their publications.

## 1999

Working in cooperation with several organizations, MCHE offered a student essay contest in Spring 1999 to help commemorate the Tricentennial of the Founding of Detroit. The contest theme was "From Frontiers to Factories: The Importance of the Detroit River in the Development of Detroit." Co-sponsors included the Detroit Free Press, the Detroit Historical Society, Michigan Council for the Social Studies, and Wayne Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA).

A new feature introduced by new editor Jim Cameron, was a one page teacher lesson plan. The March 1999 issue featured a lesson on "The Cemetery and Social Studies" developed by Daniel Obradovitch, Wakefield Township Schools. In addition, Cameron recruited some of his Saline High School students to serve as Assistant Editors. The June 1999 issue of "Ends & Beginnings" included lesson plan information on Pearl Harbor developed by the National Register of Historic Places. This organization has continued to prepare and post online many creative materials.

On October 26, 1999, the MCHE Conference was again held at Wayne RESA. Program support was provided by Glencoe/McGraw-Hill, the Historical Society of Michigan, MCSS, and the Michigan Humanities Council. The conference theme was "Turning Points in History: People, Places & Events." Noted presidential historian Richard Norton Smith offered the keynote address, "The Surprising George Washington," based on research he conducted for his book about the nation's first President. In addition to the ten breakout sessions, Karen R. Todorov,

MDE Social Studies Consultant, offered an update on the Social Studies Standards Project and Dr. Mark Stewart discussed “History, Standards, and Assessment.” Among exhibitors at the program were Glencoe/McGraw-Hill; the Detroit Newspaper Agency; River Road; Cobblestone; Mary Gibson & Associates; and Macmillan/McGraw-Hill. Non-profit exhibitors were the Michigan ACLU; the Detroit Historical Museum; Greenfield Village/Henry Ford Museum; and the Historical Society of Michigan. About ninety educators participated in the day’s program.

The final issue of “Ends & Beginnings” in 1999 (October) reported that Jim and Annette McConnell, MCHE’s founders, had “retired.” Having left the Dearborn Public Schools in June, Jim had accepted a new position developing the education program for Detroit 300, Inc. He and Annette agreed to continue to serve on the MCHE Board.

## 2000

As MCHE moved into the 21st century, 2000 was an unique year of transition. Following the resignation of Jim McConnell as Executive Director, the full Board stepped up to provide collaborative leadership for the organization. Key responsibilities were assumed by several individual board members, coordinated by Dr. Tim Hall, a Central Michigan University history professor serving as the secretary for MCHE. In the first 2000 issue of “Ends and Beginnings,” Editor Cameron noted that MCHE “... is building upon a strong foundation to increase member benefits and to become a stronger advocate for teaching history in Michigan.” In the Spring, MCHE President Sean O’Neill, presented a session on MCHE goals and programs at the Great Lakes History Conference in Grand Rapids. Key support in this successful year was also provided by Tim Evans, Mike Federspiel, Mike Marich, Robert May, Jane Moriarty, and David McGuire.

In addition to articles on new resources, “Ends and Beginnings” featured an article on National History Day, on using the Internet (still in its infancy) and Lesson Plans on using timelines and on rock and roll music. The Events Calendar featured Historical Society of Michigan conferences and the annual “Mulling Over Michigan” conference coordinated for many years by the late Mel Miller, then Macomb ISD Social Studies Consultant.

On October 17, 2000, the 7th Annual MCHE Conference was once again presented at the Wayne RESA building in Wayne. Support was provided by MCSS, the Historical Society of Michigan and by Glencoe/McGraw-Hill Publishers. Dr. Phil Mason, a Wayne State University history professor and the founder/director of the Walter Reuther Archives of Labor History, offered the keynote address.

At a Board meeting on April 11, 2000, MCHE began discussion to establish a website for the organization, clearly a sign that they recognized the changes to come in the 21st century. Jim Cameron proposed, with support from Robert May, Northwestern-Edison, Flint Schools, that

MCHE investigate how to obtain a domain name and develop materials for this new communication strategy. However, no further action was taken.

## 2001

On February 5, 2001, MCHE board members were pleased to receive a note from new Executive Director Jim Cameron setting out plans for the Fall 2001 conference and asking for suggestions for publicity, sessions and related topics. He also suggested that MCHE consider continuing the new pattern of using the Michigan History Center in Lansing as the location. This move from the Detroit area to central Michigan should increase membership and participation across the state.

The first 2001 issue of “Ends and Beginnings” sent to members in March, featured an article on the proposed “Michigan Social Studies Achievement Seminars.” The article stated that the program was presented in cooperation with the Michigan Department of Education and the Michigan Geographic Alliance. Sessions were planned for Summer 2001 in the Charlevoix-Emmet ISD, Kent ISD, the Detroit area and the Bay City area. Scheduled to represent MCHE as presenters at these programs were Tim Hall, Sean O’Neill, Mike Federspiel, and Jim Cameron. Other articles in this issue described a Women’s History Month Project in northern Michigan, a plan by Governor John Engler to create a Department of History, Arts, and Libraries in state government, an events calendar, new teaching resources, and a Quick Grant program of the Michigan Humanities Council. A flyer inserted in the newsletter offered members and guests the opportunity for an “Historic Detroit” bus tour on Saturday, June 23, 2001, departing from the Dearborn Schools Administration Building. Highlights for the full-day tour included the Cultural Center, Motown, Campus Martius, Corktown and the location of the original Fort Pontchartrain. MCHE member fee was \$20 with a charge of \$35 for non-members. Historical commentary was provided by Dr. Jim McConnell with Annette McConnell as tour facilitator and Jane Moriarty as fiscal agent.

In May 2001, “Ends and Beginnings” provided full information on the four locations, dates, and registration details for the MDE Social Studies Michigan Education Assessment Program (MEAP) seminars: as well as the MCHE Historic Detroit bus tour. By the early 2000’s, McConnell was distributing an email newsletter on a monthly basis. Use of the name “MCHE E-Notes” began in 2003, with the first formal issue emailed on January 20, 2004. By September, with the start of the new school year, McConnell included Volume II, No. 1, along with a date of September 16, 2004. In addition to occasional special issues, the MCHE E-Notes has been published continuously to the present.

Using the topic of “History Themes & the MEAP,” MCHE’s 8th Annual Conference met on Tuesday, October 23, 2001, at the Michigan Historical Center in downtown Lansing. Sponsors included MCSS, the Historical Society of Michigan, Buckle Down Publishing Company, and the Michigan Historical Center. Glencoe/McGraw-Hill continued its support with new sponsors including Prentice Hall, History Alive!, Ingham ISD, and Exagen. MDE Social Studies

Consultant Karen R. Todorov offered a keynote describing the Social Studies Assessment Project.

## 2002

In setting the agenda for the first 2002 board meeting, MCHE Executive Director Jim Cameron again proposed discussion about creating a website and establishing a new award to recognize outstanding history teachers. Other topics for the meeting were conference planning and finances. At the first meeting on January 26th, the board reviewed the success of the 8th Annual Conference and began planning for the 9th in Fall 2002. In addition, they discussed a possible affiliation with Eastern Michigan University, creation of a MCHE website, awards and a new essay contest.

Acting swiftly on the recommendation by Cameron to establish an award to recognize outstanding history educators in Michigan, the Board approved creation of three honoree categories: Secondary, Elementary, and Pre-Service. These awards, named in honor of MCHE founders, Annette and Jim McConnell, have been presented annually at the state conference beginning in 2003. Dr. Robert Bain, a history and social studies professor at The University of Michigan, served as committee chair and established the basic criteria and guidelines that are still in use today. Although initially requiring the nominee be a MCHE member, that criteria was swiftly eliminated. Nominations were limited to history/elementary teachers in any Michigan school. An article describing the “Annette and Jim McConnell Award for Excellence in the Teaching of History,” was announced in “Ends & Beginnings” in March 2002. The first program was launched in Fall 2002 with an entry deadline of May 1, 2003. The recipients were honored at the Fall 2003 MCHE Conference.

In closing out 2002, MCHE again worked with the Michigan Council for the Social Studies along with the Civics Institute to offer an Educator 2002 Election Prediction Contest. As this was not a presidential election year, the contest focused on U.S. races for the Senate and the House of Representatives. In addition, key statewide Michigan offices were included on the entry form. Research materials were posted on the MCSS website and flyers were designed by Annette W. McConnell. Prizes included gift certificates to purchase classroom materials from the NCSS Bookstore, C-Span, or the Close up Foundation. The first place certificate was for \$250, with second place at \$100 and third place at \$50. With the new leadership of Jim Cameron, MCHE was able to increase the variety of programs and services offered to history teachers in 2003.

## 2003

In 2003, MCHE continued discussing concerns related to membership. Key questions focused on the relationship between the National Council for History Education and the state organization, whether dues should be payable annually on January 1st, or early September at the start of the school year, or annually on the date payment was received from individuals. Also, should individuals whose membership was expired be kept on the mailing list for a year, longer,

or removed when their membership expired. Another ongoing discussion topic at MCHE Board meetings focused on strategies to help classroom teachers address the MDE Social Studies Standards and student assessment testing in grades 5, 8, and 11. Ultimately, the board developed a Summer Institute “Improving History Teaching in Our Schools.” The program was to be held at the Michigan Historical Center in Lansing on Monday to Wednesday, June 23-25. The MCHE member registration fee was \$95 with a non member \$115 fee. Students with ID paid \$75. Presenters included Geneva Anderson, Gordon Andrews, Rochelle Balkam, Nancy Bredin, Jim McConnell, Stan Masters, Jane Moriarty, Richard Nation, Sean O’Neill, and Wilson Warren. Staff from the Museum and Archives also were to participate in the program. Unfortunately, the program was cancelled due to low registrations. At its September 3 meeting, the Board agreed to evaluate why there were not enough participants to offer the program and used this review in planning future staff Professional Development (PD) activities.

A key goal that was successfully implemented in 2003 was the creation of a website for MCHE. Russ Olwell, History/Social Studies professor at Eastern Michigan University, obtained a domain name and began posting history information at <http://people.emich.edu/rolwell/> By the end of the year, the MCHE website had been simplified to [www.mche.us](http://www.mche.us). Another success for MCHE came on Saturday, May 10, 2003 with a second Historic Detroit bus tour. Many educators visited several important historic sites in the city founded by the French in 1701.

MCHE continued its focus on collaboration with other organizations promoting similar objectives. Working with the Historical Society of Michigan on National History Day has always been a goal of MCHE as well as supporting the annual Local History Conference held in March each year in the Detroit metropolitan area. Also, MCHE has actively supported the programs, exhibits and events at local historical museums across the state.

A continued benefit for members was the publication of four issues of “Ends and Beginnings,” filled with descriptions of resources and services available to them. In addition, each issue included a calendar of upcoming events focused on history. By the end of 2003, MCHE had about 225 members.

For its 10th annual conference, MCHE once again returned to the Michigan Historical Center in Lansing. With “Teaching History Across the Curriculum” as the theme, nearly 200 history teachers registered for the Thursday, October 23rd, program. Following a welcome from MCHE Executive Director Jim Cameron in the Museum Forum, Awards Committee Chair Robert Bain presented the 1st annual “McConnell History Educator” Awards for Elementary: Joan Pritchard (Detroit Country Day), and the team of Connie Rasmussen, Connie Josvan, and Kris Wood (Manistee Area Schools), Secondary: Cathie Falk (Charlotte Middle); Maria Ward (Rockford Middle); Geoff Wickersham (Birmingham Groves High); and Mary E. Dewily (Holt Senior). Teaching lessons were compiled into an attractive booklet distributed at the conference. No Pre-Service Teacher Award was presented in the first year.

## 2004

In March 2004, MCHE submitted an “Annual Report” to the National Council for History Education. The report noted that the Michigan group had 225 members. Key issues facing MCHE focused on the implications of state assessment testing for the curriculum. At that time, student testing was taking place in the 5th, 8th, and 11th grades. MCHE worked in collaboration with the other core social studies discipline groups to improve teaching and testing content and procedures.

To draw attention to visiting historic sites, Jim McConnell on behalf of MCHE developed a tour of “Patriots and Presidents.” The first group taking the tour was from Fordson High School. Teachers Pat Baron and Mary Stackpoole, and accompanied by about 50 students, the trip featured stops at Fort Meigs, a War of 1812 site initially built by William Henry Harrison in Perrysburg, Ohio, a tour of the Fremont, Ohio, home of President Rutherford B. Hayes with a visit to his and his wife’s graves, and a stop at the River Raisin Battlefield in Monroe. This tour was later offered by MCHE with the additional sponsorship of the Historical Society of Michigan. To continue a focus on field trips, the March issue of “Ends and Beginnings” included a two-page article, “We Are Going Where?” by Dr. Bob Pettapiece, a Wayne State University social studies instructor. The article included a list of suggestions and resources for developing an educational field trip to a cemetery.

In the Spring of 2004, MCHE co-sponsored an essay contest with the Michigan Humanities Council drawing student attention to the 50th anniversary of the landmark 1954 United States Supreme Court decision of “Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas.” Support for this activity was provided by the Honorable Damon J. Keith, a United States 6th Circuit Court of Appeals Judge.

A new award was added to the three “McConnell” awards when Executive Director Jim Cameron informed the Board of an opportunity to serve as Michigan coordinator for the National Gilder-Lehrman History Educator honor. With Bob Bain continuing to coordinate the “McConnell” Awards, Cameron worked to promote nominees for the new program sponsored by the Gilder-Lehrman Institute of American History.

Although email had been used occasionally to share information with MCHE members prior to 2004, the publication “MCHE E-Notes” was first distributed January 19, 2004. The four-page update was not numbered by volume or issue, but did contain a collection of twenty items of possible interest for history teachers. After distributing several issues on an irregular basis, Vol. II, No. 1 was emailed on September 10, 2004, and has been a monthly publication ever since. At times, special issues have also been sent. The MCHE Archives contains almost every issue of the E-Notes, filed chronologically in manila folders. The MCHE Archives are located with other MCHE materials maintained by the Executive Director.

The 11th Annual Conference was held on Thursday, October 21st, at The Henry Ford: America's Greatest History Attraction, in Dearborn, a Detroit suburb. The facility was the primary focus of the programming, including special tours of Greenfield Village and the Henry Ford Museum. For the previous few years the annual conference had been held at the Michigan Historical Center in Lansing. The 2004 conference theme, appropriately considering the resources of The Henry Ford, was "Teaching History with Museum Resources." Many of the sessions focused on the exhibits and facilities of Greenfield Village and the Henry Ford Museum. In addition, an optional event was a trip to the "Ford Rouge Factory Tour." The keynote address was then presented by Karen R. Todorov, MDE Social Studies Consultant. She discussed the federal "No Child Left Behind" initiative, focusing on its implications for history education. The 2004 McConnell Awards were presented to Patricia A. Baron, Fordson High School, Dearborn (Secondary); Trina L. Bell, Weber-Blaess School, Saline (Elementary); and Mary Firi Phillips, Marygrove College/University of Detroit High School (Pre-Service). Gordon Andrews, who had replaced Bob Bain as Awards Chair, expressed appreciation on behalf of MCHE to Geneva Anderson, Prentice-Hall, for serving as the corporate sponsor of the award. Jim Cameron, Saline High School history teacher, chaired the Gilder Lehrman History Educator Award in Michigan for its inaugural year in 2004/2005. The first recipient was named at the 2005 MCHE Conference.

## 2005

In 2005, MCHE had evolved into a multi-faceted organization offering a wide variety of services to its members as well as support for the broader state history community. In addition to a successful Annual Conference, a series of programs were offered that attracted educators to visit local museums. Active support was provided to both National History Day and the annual Local History Conference. All members received four issues of "Ends and Beginnings," the printed 8-page newsletter and a much larger network received the monthly "MCHE E-Notes." Information was also shared via the MCHE website, including an historical events calendar that listed activities offered by many statewide historical and cultural organizations. Recognizing outstanding educators was again provided by the annual "Annette and Jim McConnell History Educator" awards and the national "Gilder-Lehrman History Educator" honor.

The first 2005 issue of "Ends & Beginnings", Vol. XI, No. 2, featured a front page article on the Annual Conference from Fall 2004, including a picture of the History Educator award recipients. In addition, a front page article encouraged members to attend the 2005 National Council for History Education Conference set for Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in late April. The theme was the 250th anniversary of the French and Indian War. Other key articles discussed the awards program of the Historical Society of Michigan, Michigan History Day, and a "We the People" Essay Contest. The issue had several articles on upcoming events and new resources along with a two-page insert listing events from January to Fall, 2005. Seventeen programs were listed on the calendar. Just as MCHE began in 1993 when the Michigan Department of Education was developing a framework for social studies curriculum, so too in 2005 was MCHE instrumental in working on an update to the 1993 document. An article by MCHE

Executive Director Jim Cameron discussed the work of a Social Studies Task Force, preparing a report to the Michigan State Board of Education.

Topics addressed in the other three 2005 issues included Michigan History resources, upcoming workshops, book reviews, funding opportunities from the Michigan Humanities Council. A group photo of Michigan attendees with noted historian David McCullough at the Pittsburgh NCHE Conference was featured. The September 2005 issue included a two-page photo essay on some of the many interesting field trip locations across the state and included a list of six suggestions for developing more effective field trips.

Along with “Ends & Beginnings,” the MCHE E-Notes was distributed each month, with a special issue sent a few weeks prior to the Annual MCHE Conference, to more than 1,400 educators and museum professionals. These newsletters totaled more than 100 pages of brief information items.

Following the 2004 Annual Conference at The Henry Ford, MCHE returned to the Michigan History Center for its 12th Annual Conference. Held on October 19, 2005, the theme was “GLECES, MEAP and Teaching History.” Program highlights included an update from MDE Social Studies Consultant Karen R. Todorov on the issues facing Michigan social studies educators and a special presentation, “Michigan Shanty Town Boy...Lumberjack 1870”, by Michael Deren, “The Past in Person.” McConnell Award recipients included Mary Foulke (Elementary) and Beth Washington (Secondary). Thomas F. Steele, an American History teacher at Southfield High School, received the Gilder-Lehrman History Educator Award.

## 2006

MCHE began 2006 by announcing a unique activity designed to increase educator involvement with local museums- “Six Super Second Saturdays (S4)” that ran from January through June. “S4” offered teachers six opportunities to visit leading Detroit area museums, to learn about field trip opportunities for their students, and to view special exhibits. Participating museums included: Detroit Institute of Arts; Arab-American National Museum; Detroit Historical Museum; Edsel and Eleanor Ford House; The Henry Ford; and the Holocaust Museum. The registration fee was \$5/location with a maximum fee of \$20 for those attending four or more locations. The activity was co-sponsored by the Michigan Museums Association, the Michigan Department of Education, the Detroit Public Schools, Macomb ISD, Oakland Schools, and Wayne RESA.

The four 2006 issues of “Ends & Beginnings” continued to include information on upcoming events, resources and feature articles discussing current issues. For example, the April 2006 issue (Vol. XII, No. 3, featured an article, “Improving Outcomes for High School Students,” written by Mike Flanagan, State Superintendent of Public Instruction. In September, “Ends & Beginnings” discussed the 400th anniversary of the 1607 founding of Jamestown and then included a list of other significant historical highlights.



A tribute to Mel Miller, who died in September, 2006, was published in the October 2006 E-Notes. Mel had been the Macomb Social Studies Consultant for several years and had previously taught in the L'anse Cruse Schools. He was a Past President of the Michigan Council for the Social Studies, and served as publisher of the MCSS Memorandum for many years. He actively supported the efforts of several historical and educational organizations, including the Michigan Council for History Education.

With attendance increasing at the annual MCHE Conference, the Fall 2006 gathering was moved from the Michigan Historical Center to the Lansing Center, a large convention hall on the east bank of the Grand River. The event theme was "Teaching History in Michigan's New Required Curriculum." In addition to MCHE, the sponsors included Glencoe McGraw Hill; TCI and History Alive; Pearson Prentice Hall; the Historical Society of Michigan; McDougal Little; and the Michigan Geographic Alliance. Betty Underwood, Michigan Department of Education representative, discussed "Recent Programs in Michigan Social Studies."

At the Conference, the 2006 recipients of the Annette and Jim McConnell Award were recognized. They included Thomas E. Wiltse, Sterling Elementary, Carleton (Elementary); Inara Kurt, West Junior High School, Traverse City (Secondary); Henry Whitaker, Medbury Academy, Detroit (Pre-service); and Gilder-Lehrman History Teacher of the Year Craig Booher, Napoleon High School Napoleon. Gordon Andrews served once again as Awards Committee Chair.

Throughout 2006, MCHE continued to provide support for the Historical Society of Michigan, especially Michigan History Day, along with many other historical communities and social groups, local museums, and nonprofits. The benefits offered to MCHE members through these efforts was, and continues to be, immeasurable.

## 2007

The January 2007 issue of the MCHE E-Notes began with information on the 2nd Annual MLK Day Symposium at The Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, along with articles promoting summer seminars for educators. Other helpful topics discussed World History textbooks, results of congressional elections in Michigan, and the annual Michigan History Day competition deadlines. Twenty-five items were included in the 13-page issue. More than 1,200 educators were in the H-Net distribution system developed by Peter Knaupfer at Michigan State University.

Along with the monthly e-newsletter, MCHE continued to publish "Ends & Beginnings," the eight page printed newsletter mailed to dues paying members. Vol. XIII, No. 2, January 2007, featured the 2006 MCH Conference on the front page, followed up with pages discussing "History Happenings," "Books for Students and Teachers," A Tribute to Elaine Reed, retiring founder/Executive Director of the National Council for History Education, "Check Out the

Web,” brief articles on several new websites, and an article on “Funding Sought for Forgotten Founding Fathers Museum.” The mailing also included a history events calendar and a registration form for the annual conference of NCHE.

Several MCHE members attending the Spring 2007 NCHE Conference in Williamsburg, VA, gathered for a group photo with Bill White, Education Director at the historic village community. One of the sessions, “The Sixty Years War for the Great Lakes,” featured MCHE members Jane Moriarty and Jim McConnell, joined by Doug McGregor, Fort Pitt Museum Educator. This issue also featured an article by former State Superintendent of Instruction Tom Watkins encouraging schools to “plug into India and China.” Watkins is a leading advocate for increased student and educator learning about and traveling to the leading nations of Asia.

Continuing to encourage social studies teachers to respond to the new Social Studies Framework developed by the Michigan Department of Education, the July MCHE E-Notes featured an article describing how teachers might share their opinions with MDE. Several MCHE members had actively participated in the development of the new document. Bob Bain, an MCHE Board member and professor at The University of Michigan, served as chairperson of the MDE committee that developed the document.

The 14th Annual MCHE Conference was held on Wednesday, November 7th, at the Kellogg Center on the Michigan State University campus in East Lansing. The theme was “History Curriculum, Alignment, and Assessment with the New Content Expectations.” Dr. Bob Bain’s keynote addressed “Meeting New Challenges in Social Studies.” Educators honored at the 2007 Conference included the three recipients of the Annette and Jim McConnell History Educator Awards: Mikel Vallier, Lakeview Middle School, Battle Creek Lakeview Public Schools (Elementary); Karen Lessenberry, Wylie E. Groves High School, Birmingham Public School (Secondary); and Ken Wright, Grand Valley State University (Pre-Service). The 2007 Gilder Lehrman History Educator Award was presented to Rena Heleniak, Galesburg-Augusta fifth grade teacher.

Closing out 2007, MCHE, in cooperation with Wayne RESA, offered a special event, “Understanding the Arab World,” at the Islamic Center of America and at the Arab-American National Museum in Dearborn on Saturday, November 17th. Presentations were made at the Islamic Center of America on the Islamic faith, the history of the Middle East, and contributions of Arab-Americans to contemporary society. Following a luncheon of Middle Eastern menu selections, the group was taken on a tour of the Arab-American National Museum.

In October 2007, the Michigan Department of Education formed a Social Studies Endorsement Committee to draft teacher preparation standards to meet the new social studies content expectations. The committee consisted of five members representing the core content areas of history, geography, economics, political science and social studies, working with MDE staff. Anne White O’Hara, a Social Studies professor at Marygrove College in Detroit, represented

MCHE at the MDE Endorsement Committee. David Hales, another MCHE Board member, served as the social studies discipline representative. The group met December 2007 through March 2008 to draft preparation standards common to all social studies content such as instruction, technology, and assessment. In April and May, the single discipline groups worked to draft specific content standards for history, political science and geography. The Social Studies Endorsement Committee completed the single discipline draft standards in the summer of 2008. Two MCHE Board members from the Grand Valley State University History Department, Richard Cooley and Sean O’Neill, served on the history committee chaired by White-O’Hara. A field review was completed in Fall 2008. According to MDE Social Studies Consultant, Jim Cameron, the certification requirements adopted in 2008 were revised and updated requirements were adopted in 2018.

Late in 2007, a chance encounter at the Dearborn Hyatt Regency Hotel during the Michigan Council for the Social Studies Conference, led to the development of the largest single project ever undertaken by the Michigan Council for History Education. Stopping to meet briefly with Hugh Gurney at the Historical Society of Michigan table in the exhibit area, Jim McConnell noticed an exhibitor he did not know at a nearby table. Walking up to the exhibitor, McConnell introduced himself and asked what the exhibitor was selling. Dr. Richard Satchwell, Director of the Midwest Center for Teaching with Primary Sources, replied “Grant money.” Satchwell then explained he was seeking applicants for a grant program to increase educator awareness of and use of the Library of Congress website “American Memory.” Literally thousands of primary source documents were available for teachers to use in their classrooms. The Library of Congress had established this special program across the nation.

The following week, McConnell called Satchwell to discuss getting MCHE involved, learning that several other Michigan educators had also expressed an interest. David Hales, Wayne RESA Social Studies Consultant and a MCHE Board member, was one of the people mentioned by Satchwell. Following discussions between Hales and McConnell, agreement was reached that MCHE and Wayne RESA would seek funding for a teacher training/lesson writing grant to be held in the Summer of 2008.

## 2008

With advice from Dr. Satchwell, a grant application was submitted by MCHE in Spring 2008. The proposal was swiftly approved by the Midwest Center for Teaching with Primary Sources at Illinois State University. It called for the selection of 20 educators to participate in a four day program scheduled for Monday-Tuesday, July 21-22, and Wednesday-Thursday, August 13-14, 2008. The first two days focused on learning about the Library of Congress web resources and topics/formats for specific lessons. A two week break was set in order for the participants to have adequate time to develop quality lessons. The final two days were spent with individual presentations of each lesson and “audience” evaluations to improve the final version of the lessons. All lessons were submitted electronically. J’aimé Holdenbaum, a workshop participant who taught in the Flint area, offered to post the lessons on her website,

www.educationextras.com. MCHE is very grateful that Holdenbaum has continued to post all of the nearly 200 lessons from the Library of Congress programs offered for the next several years. The \$15,000 grant funds were used primarily to offer honorariums to the educators and consultants. In addition to Hales and McConnell, the training consultants were MCHE Executive Director Jim Cameron and MCHE Treasurer Abby Combs. The program was held at Wayne RESA.

In Spring 2008, MCHE joined with the Michigan Historical Commission to offer a unique Michigan Week 2008 contest involving several key Michigan historical sites. The challenge was open to educators across the state, and called for participants to plan an imaginary trip to all eleven official State of Michigan Historic Sites and an additional Michigan site of their choosing. The Michigan Historical Museum system has a variety of intriguing sites, from Fort Wilkins in Copper Harbor to Walker Tavern in southeastern Lower Michigan. Participants were to choose a 12th historic site and include this on the trip route. Only one entry per classroom could be accepted, but teachers were encouraged to have every student research the historic locations and plan a route. Prizes were awarded to all entries with appropriate estimated mileage. The MCHE website was used to help publicize the contest.

Tim Evans, a Marysville social studies teacher and MCHE Board member, developed a special field trip for educators on a tall ship cruise on Lake Huron on Sunday, June 8, 2008. The program included a brief history of sailing ships on the Great Lakes, with specific attention to schooners and their economic role in the 19th century. A basic introduction to nautical terms, description of shipboard activities, and location of ship parts followed. Then the crew took the educators on a four hour sailing adventure departing from the docks at Port Huron to sail aboard the 154-foot gaff-rigged topsail schooner "Highlander Sea."

In the summer of 2008, a group of Berkley social studies teachers took advantage of a staff development program offered by the National Council for History Education. The NCHE workshop team was led by noted scholar and NCHE consultant Betty Franks. Among the participants were Berkley educators Beth Hanna, Ann Daniels, Danielle Olzanich, and Kim Hoke. MCHE Treasurer Abby Combs, a Berkeley teacher, coordinated the project. They learned new strategies for teaching about the Westward Movement.

With the November 2008 Presidential Election rapidly approaching, MCHE again offered educators an Electoral College Prediction Contest. Teachers were urged to work with their students to predict the results of the Electoral College Results. This unique civic education activity was offered with support from the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies at Grand Valley State University. The winning educator received ten tickets to bring a group of students to the State Capitol on Monday, December 15th to observe the official meeting of the Electoral College in Michigan. The second and third place teachers each received five tickets. The project was approved by Mark Brewer, Executive Director, Michigan Democratic Party, and Saulius "Saul" Anuzis, Chairman, Michigan Republican Party.

The 15th Annual MCHE Conference was held on Wednesday, November 5th, at The Lansing Center, in downtown Lansing, a few blocks east of the State Capitol. “Inspired by History” was the theme of the annual gathering of MCHE members. The keynote speaker was Dr. Craig Benjamin, a history professor at Grand Valley State University. His topic was “The First World System? The Silk Roads and the Origins of Globalization.” Conference Sessions included: “Hands On, Minds On, with Early Michigan History;” “Abraham Lincoln and the Grade 8 Expectations;” “Resources for Teaching United States Geography and History;” “Resources for Teaching World Geography and History;” “Organizing Content Expectations for Student Learning;” “Michigan Moved- Unpacking and Teaching the New GLCEs;” “History Day in Michigan- Get Inspired;” “Award Winning Lessons from McConnell and Gilder-Lehrman 2008 winners;” “The War of 1812 in Michigan: Celebrating a Bicentennial;” and “Lessons from the Library of Congress “American Memory” Website.” The conference was co-sponsored with the Michigan State University History Department and the Michigan Geographic Alliance.

The 2008 Jim and Annette McConnell History Educator Awards for Excellence in Teaching History were presented to Danielle Ozanich (Elementary), 5th grade teacher, Angell Elementary, Berkley School District; Kent Baker, (Secondary) American History teacher at Portage Central High School in Portage Schools; and (Pre-Service) Rachel Krumwiede, a 2008 graduate of Eastern Michigan University, with teaching experience at Plymouth High School. The 2008 Michigan Gilder-Lehrman History Teacher of the Year award was presented to Karen Lessenberry, a U.S. History teacher at Wylie E. Groves High School, Birmingham.

Throughout 2008, MCHE continued to distribute both “Ends & Beginnings,” the 8-page printed newsletter mailed to MCHE members, and the “MCHE E-Notes,” an electronic newsletter emailed to MCHE members, other educators, and to a broader network of leaders of Michigan historical and cultural organizations. In general, the E-Notes was about eight pages long with an average of 35 to 40 specific items. Additionally, a calendar of historical and cultural events was frequently mailed with the E-Notes. These documents continued to be edited by Annette and Jim McConnell.

## 2009

As 2009 began, MCHE members looked forward to another exciting year as they gained increased knowledge and had new experiences presented by MCHE and other professional organizations. Along with continuing to offer its annual conference, MCHE shared information through the printed quarterly “Ends & Beginnings” newsletter and the monthly electronic “E-Notes.”

To help educators observe the Bicentennial of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, the February 2009 “MCHE E-Notes” featured ten items on Lincoln resources and activities. These included a PBS broadcast on “Looking for Lincoln,” a Lincoln Vs. Douglas debate at the Gerald R. Ford Museum in Grand Rapids, and a lecture by noted Lincoln scholar Weldon Petz at the Plymouth

Historical Museum. Educational resources mentioned included a play about “Abraham Lincoln and Michigan,” a lesson for high school students developed by the Center for Civic Education, and “The Political Lincoln: An Encyclopedia,” by Paul Finkelman and Martin J. Hershock. In addition, the public was invited to celebrate Lincoln's 200th Birthday with The Lincolns and the Dodsworth Saxhorn Band at The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library in Ann Arbor on Sunday, February 8, 2009. Along with the Lincoln focus, this issue of the “E-Notes” encouraged teachers to attend the Annual NCHE Conference in Boston, and the annual Michigan in Perspective: The Local History Conference, along with several other professional development opportunities.

A key MCHE Professional Development (PD) program was the second “Teaching with Primary Sources” workshop in summer 2009. Obtaining a new grant from the Midwest Center for Teaching with Primary Sources, MCHE had decided to offer the program in various locations across the state. For its second year, MCHE sought the support of Roy Sovis, Genesee Intermediate School District consultant. A new grant application was prepared and submitted to the Midwest Center for Teaching with Primary Sources. Funding was approved and publicity was sent to educators via the MCHE E-Notes, “Ends & Beginnings,” and other publicity networks. The program, with twenty educators, was offered on Wednesday-Thursday, August 5-6, and Wednesday-Thursday, August 19-20, 2009. Two of the presenters, Abby Combs and Jim McConnell, had participated in the 2008 workshop at Wayne RESA and Roy Sovis, Genesee ISD, joined the staff. The program followed the same basic format as the previous year. The orientation included a discussion of the resources from the Library of Congress website, followed by a detailed presentation on the structure of the lessons and possible topics. The educators met in grade level groups (elementary, middle, and senior high) to select topics related to the new Michigan Social Studies Standards and were given two weeks to prepare their lessons. The group then reconvened for lesson presentations and critiques. Participants were given two weeks to make final revisions on the lessons and then have them posted at [www.educationextras.com](http://www.educationextras.com).

The 16th Annual MCHE Conference was held on Wednesday, November 4, 2009, once again at the Lansing Convention Center. Special programs featured the MEAP, GLCEs and information on historical resources along with workshops for social studies teachers. The theme was “Lessons and Assessments: Making the Connections.” The keynote speaker was Dale Van Eck, Manager, Educational Partnerships in Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia. Van Eck had previously taught in the Berkley, MI, Public Schools. Also participating in the morning program was Sandra Clark, Director, Michigan Historical Center Department of Natural Resources (DNR). She discussed “Preserving Michigan History.” The registration fee was \$50 for MCHE member and \$80 for nonmember. College students with ID paid \$25. Gilder Lehrman Award and McConnell Award Winners made presentations at the conference. The 2009 McConnell Award Winners offered lessons developed using primary documents from the Library of Congress “American Memory” collection ([www.loc.gov](http://www.loc.gov)). “Emergence of Advertising in Michigan, 1850-1920” was presented by Elementary recipient J’aimie Holderbaum, Elms Road

Elementary, Swartz Creek. The “War of 1812: Reasons for Fighting” was presented by Secondary recipient Jennifer Reid-Lamb, Pioneer Middle School in Plymouth. The 2009 Michigan Gilder Lehrman Award winner was Danielle Ozanich, Angel Elementary School, Berkley Schools. She presented a lesson on “Viking Explorers.”

Joining with the Michigan Commission on the Bicentennial of the War of 1812, MCHE co-sponsored a contest to design a logo for the 1812 200th anniversary commemoration. Additional support for the contest was provided by the Michigan Art Education Association. The entry deadline of November 7th was selected as it marked the 198th anniversary of the 1811 Battle of Tippecanoe. It was fought in northern Indiana between the U.S. Army, led by William Henry Harrison, and Native Americans led by the Prophet, the brother of Tecumseh. The winning logo was designed by Rebecca Westerdale, a 10th grade student from Ida High school, near Monroe. David Hales coordinated the project, serving as Chair of the 1812 Commission Education Committee as well as a MCHE Board member.

## 2010

With the publication of Vol. XVI, No. 3, of “Ends & Beginnings,” MCHE members continued to gain new ideas for classroom instruction as well as receiving a calendar of upcoming events and other programs. Along with detailed articles on the Gilder-Lehrman and Annette and Jim McConnell History Educator awards, and an upcoming Library of Congress Workshop, the quarterly issue featured articles on Michigan’s Notable Books program, Online History resources, and using GIS in the classroom. With the approaching War of 1812 Bicentennial, the newsletter devoted a full page to “The Significance of the War of 1812 for Michigan,” a statement adopted by the State’s War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission.

In June, Tim Evans, a Marysville Schools history teacher and MCHE Board member, continued his many contributions to MCHE by continuing to serve as Elections Committee Chair. Tim supervised the MCHE election process very efficiently for several years, with the 2010 election being a typical example of his efforts. Candidates were recruited, ballots were prepared and distributed, and the results were tallied and announced. Evans reported on the 2010/2011 MCHE Board of Directors and Officers Election. Jim Cameron continued as MCHE Executive Director, with the officers and board members listed below:

President	Dorothy Ebersole, The Henry Ford
Past President	Mary Faulke, Hillsdale Public Schools
President Elect	Peter Knupfer, Michigan State University
Treasurer	Abby Combs, Berkley School District
Secretary	Richard Cooley, Grand Valley State University
Board of Directors. 2009-2011	
	Bob Bain, University of Michigan
	Tim Evans, Marysville Public Schools
	Jamita Lewis, Henry Ford Academy
	Lauren McArthur Harris, University of Michigan

Jim McConnell, Michigan Historical Commission  
Annette McConnell, Detroit Historical Society  
Sean O'Neill, Grand Valley State University  
Anne White-O'Hara, Marygrove College

Board of Directors. 2010-2012

Gordon Andrews, Grand Valley State University  
David Hales, Wayne RESA  
Tim Hall, Central Michigan University  
Anne-Lise Halvorsen, Michigan State University  
Danielle Ozanich, Berkley Schools District  
Bill Warren, Western Michigan University

Continuing to receive funding from the Midwest Center for Teaching with Primary Sources, MCHE planned a third four-day workshop for July 12, 13, 26 and 27. Returning to the Wayne RESA location, the project was led by Abby Combs, David Hales, and Jim McConnell, all MCHE Board members.

Also in the summer of 2010, Dr. Richard Satchwell, Director of the Midwest Center for Teaching with Primary Sources of the Library of Congress, offered a training institute for key educators from across his region. Michigan was honored to have three of the original 17 participants selected to attend the program. These three individuals, Karen Becknell, Anthony Salciccioli, and Ray Walker, became key trainers, along with Abby Combs, David Hales, and Jim McConnell as consultants at future MCHE workshops across Michigan.

On Thursday, November 4, 2010, the 17th Annual MCHE Conference was held at the Lansing Convention Center. With a theme of "Local Stories, Global Context," the gathering was a highly successful and informative day. More than 100 teachers, pre-service teachers, exhibitors, and educational specialists joined together to listen to engaging presentations and network with others in the field. Bob Bain, NCHE & MCHE Board Member, Associate Professor of Educational Studies and History at the University of Michigan, discussed how teaching and learning history required attention to how we read and write texts to develop understanding of the past and the present. Using classroom examples, Bain's short talk focused on the challenges students face in reading historical sources and constructing historical arguments, and ways teachers might help students manage the challenges.

The Keynote Address was by Dr. Bill Pretzer, Senior Curator of History at the National Museum of African American History and Culture, Smithsonian Institution. Pretzer's keynote, "The Uncommon School: Classrooms Without Borders" addressed moving away from the text and out of the classroom as an act of rebellion and faith: rebellion against tradition and inertia and faith in one's own instincts, in one's students and fellow teachers and in a future better than the present. Pretzer reminded participants that incorporating resources from beyond the classroom actually inspires teachers and students to act like historians, to see and interpret texts and events in the context of other texts and events. The 17th Annual MCHE Conference



attendees also received free bags, pens and notepads for the classroom from vendors. A highlight at the Conference was the presentation of the Annette and Jim McConnell and Gilder-Lehrman History Educator Awards. The award winners, were Elementary McConnell: Kathryn Hibrar, Warren Woods Public Schools and Marc de Zwaan, Secondary McConnell winner, International Academy, Bloomfield Hill and Gilder-Lehrman honoree James Cameron, Saline Public Schools.

## 2011

Seeking new areas for growth and desiring to focus on its mission, MCHE participated in several unique initiatives in 2011. While some projects did not contribute to the organization's growth, the effort expended and the new learning acquired were certainly beneficial. For the first time in its nearly 20 year history, MCHE did not offer its own state conference. It did focus on developing a strategic plan, and became involved in a historical film project.

With the approach of the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War (1861-1865), MCHE decided to help increase public awareness of this Sesquicentennial observance. In Fall, 2010, MCHE announced plans to co-sponsor a Civil War Essay Contest in cooperation with the Michigan Historical Commission Sub-Committee on the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War (DNR). To help students focus on the War's impact on Michigan, the theme selected was "The Role of My Community in the Civil War."

The contest was open to students in 3rd through 12th grade. Contest guidelines, a promotional flyer, press release and entry form were distributed via the MCHE E-Notes and posted on the website. Winners were selected in three grade level groups: Elementary(3-5); Middle School(6-8); and High School(9-12).

The entry deadline was April 11, 2011, the 150th anniversary of the firing on Fort Sumter. This event marked the outbreak of the War. Cash prizes were awarded for the top entries in three grade level clusters (three First Place, \$150; three Second Place, \$100; and three Third Place, \$50 prize awards.) Substantial support for the contest was provided by Edward Surovell Realtors in Ann Arbor. An Awards Ceremony was held in the Michigan History Museum on Wednesday, May 25, 2011. David Hales, Wayne RESA Social Studies Consultant, chaired the contest committee.

A unique opportunity presented itself to MCHE when Roger Rapoport, a Michigan filmmaker, sought support for a project focused on the 17th century explorations of the French explorers Marquette and Joliet. For several months, Gordon Andrews, Jim Cameron, Abby Combs, Jim McConnell, and Sean O'Neill worked with Rapoport, Blue Lake Productions, and others to prepare a grant request to the Michigan Humanities Council for \$15,000 to help fund the production of a twenty minute documentary on the Journey of Marquette and Joliet. While an initial MHC Planning grant of \$1,000 was received, the grant was not fully funded. However, Rapoport pursued other funding sources and did produce the documentary. Arrangements were

made with Goodrich Theater outlets across Michigan and MCHE helped publicize the showings.

Immediately involving the three new MCHE Primary Source consultants, MCHE sought and received two grants for teacher training in summer 2011. Continuing to offer programs in various regions of the state, the locations selected were Macomb ISD and the Eastern Upper Peninsula ISD. The MCHE Consultants at Macomb were Abby Combs, Kathy Swanger, and Ray Walker. The Macomb ISD workshop was held on July 12, 13, 26 and 27, 2011. The Sault Ste. Marie presenters were Lindsay Brinkley, Karen Becknell, and Anthony Salciccioli. This program was held at the Eastern U.P. ISD on June 27-29, 2011. Jim McConnell coordinated the two programs.

On Saturday, August 18, 2011, the MCHE Board met at the Historical Society of Michigan office in Lansing to discuss the development of a Strategic Plan for the organization. In preparation for the meeting, MCHE Board member Danielle Olzanich, a Berkeley Middle School teacher, developed a survey to solicit the viewpoints of MCHE members. Responses to the survey were received from 153 individuals, 44% of the individuals receiving the survey. Along with obtaining data on the individuals (grade taught; years teaching experience, education level, number of years as MCHE member, undergraduate major, etc.), the questions solicited responses related to professional development opportunities. At the meeting the Board members reviewed the survey results and then discussed what they considered to be the strengths and weaknesses of MCHE. Key strengths were (1) effective communications via the "Ends & Beginnings" newsletter and the "MCHE E-Notes;" (2) special projects, including essay contests and field trip activities; (3) serving as a focal point for history teachers, especially at the annual conference; and (4) Board leadership and coordination. Weaknesses identified included: (1) cuts in school district budgets limit teacher participation in professional development programs; and (2) need to broaden potential history advocates by reaching out to administrators, school board members and the general public. The Strategic Plan recommended: (1) creating committees, including both Board and regular members, to accomplish specific tasks and goals; (2) actively recruit new members; (3) create a funding mechanism and financial plan that provides a base for operating expenses; (4) establish an office at an educational institution, such as MSU or GVSU, where archival records may be maintained and a permanent mailing address can be kept; (5) increase the effectiveness of the website; (6) provide regular history programming for both educators and the general public; and (7) establish and maintain strong relationships with other historical and cultural organizations in Michigan.

To help commemorate the Bicentennial of the War of 1812, MCHE joined the Michigan War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission on August 6, to offer a Lake Michigan cruise on "Friends Good Will," a War of 1812 replica vessel, based at the Michigan Maritime Museum in South Haven. In the morning, a program presented historical information on the War of 1812 in Michigan and the unique story of "Friends Good Will." Dr. Jim McConnell discussed "The War of 1812 on the Great Lakes" and Jim Spurr, Chairman, "Friends Good Will" Committee of the Michigan

Maritime Museum Board, described the fascinating tale “The History of ‘Friends Good Will: Past & Present.’” The talk was followed by a tour of the Michigan Maritime Museum. After a box lunch the group enjoyed a 1:00 p.m. Lake Michigan cruise on the historic replica “Friends Good Will.”

To encourage field trips to local museums, MCHE offered “A Day in the “D” on Saturday, October 8, 2011. The program was presented in cooperation with the Detroit Historical Society and Marygrove College. Tobi Voigt, Director of Education for the Detroit Historical Society, worked with MCHE Board member Anne White O'Hara, History Department, Marygrove College, along with David Hales, Wayne RESA Social Studies Consultant, and Jim McConnell, retired Dearborn educator. The program included an overview of Detroit’s 300-plus years of development, a tour of the Museum, including “The Streets of Old Detroit,” and information about the Dossin Great Lakes Museum on Belle Isle and the Collections Resource Center at Historic Fort Wayne.

For the first time since the 1994 Conference, MCHE did not offer its own history educator conference. Instead, MCHE joined with the other subject-matter organizations to work with the Michigan Council for the Social Studies to offer a Joint Social Studies Conference with the theme of “Working Together.” The other three content-focused professional organizations were the Michigan Center for Civic Education Through Law, the Michigan Council for Economic Education and the Michigan Geographic Alliance. Representatives of all five groups held several planning meetings to develop a “Letter of Understanding” defining operating procedures for the event. MCSS had faced severe financial challenges over the preceding years and needed support from the other organizations. Representing MCHE on the planning committee were Anne-Lise Halvorsen, Bill Warren and Jim Cameron. The Conference was held on Friday-Sunday, November 4-6, 2011, at the Causeway Bay Hotel in Lansing. The program included events all day Friday and Saturday and Sunday morning. Sue Campbell, an Ann Arbor education consultant, served as Conference Manager.

In 2011, the MCHE History Educator Awards ceremony took place during the Joint Conference. The recipients of the Annette and Jim McConnell Secondary History Teacher of the year were Jennifer Hodges, Allendale Public Schools, and Elementary, Robin Long, Gifted and Talented for Northville Public Schools. The Gilder Lehrman Institute for American History’s Teacher of the Year for the State of Michigan was Kathy Hribar, a third grade teacher in Warren Woods Public Schools.

While dealing with the development of the Joint Conference program, each of the five organizations was asked to submit a logo to use as a design feature on the conference program. Realizing that MCHE had never developed any logo artwork, MCHE Executive Director Jim Cameron designed the first official MCHE logo. It consisted of the four large block letters “MCHE” with the organization’s full name “Michigan Council for History Education” written in smaller letters below the large block letters. The logo was then used on MCHE stationary and

other publications. Its use was discontinued after Cameron stepped down from his role as MCHE Executive Director.

Encouraged by the successful “A Day in the D” event in October, MCHE decided to create a series of museum visits for the next several months. With the name, “Six Super Second Saturdays and a Special Second Sunday,” activities were planned at several different museum locations from November 2011 through May 2012. The locations included in the series were the Detroit Historical Museum, the Arab American National Museum, the Dr. Charles Wright Museum of African American History, The Henry Ford, the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Edsel and Eleanor Ford House, and the Michigan Historical Museum, Lansing, and a Special Sunday at the Holocaust Museum. The registration fee was set for MCHE Members at \$10/event or \$60 for all events, and Non-Member \$20/event or \$120 for the full series. A 50% discount was offered to college students with appropriate I.D. Wayne RESA offered CEUs available at a nominal fee. The series of programs were coordinated by MCHE Board members Abby Combs, David Hales, Annette McConnell, Jim McConnell and Anne White O’Hare.

## 2012

With the “Six Super Saturday” programs continuing monthly through May, MCHE began the new year with an amazing number of events. Additional projects were announced at a MSSSA meeting, at MCHE Board meetings in the winter and spring, and through the “MCHE E-Notes”.

At the February 4, MCHE Board meeting in the MSU History Department Office, MCHE faced several changes bringing new opportunities for future growth. Having provided a home base for MCHE for the previous several years, Peter Knupfer informed the Board that after April 2013, MCHE would need to find a new home. The suggestion to seek support from Grand Valley State University was approved by the Board at that time. With support from the Grand Valley State University History Department, a “Memorandum of Understanding” was drafted and approved by both MCHE and GVSU by October 2012.

Also at the February meeting, a report on the 1st Joint Conference in Fall 2011 was presented by Bill Warren and Ann-Liese Halvorsen. They reported that even though 335 individuals had registered, only 124 had paid and the other 211, as presenters, had not paid the registration fee.

AMR, the firm contracted by MCSS to administer that group, made \$22,000. Ann White-O’Hare said that in 2010 MCHE’s conference had 110 attendees and everyone paid. Over the last few years MCHE had averaged around 110 to 200 attendees at their own conference. Warren stated that MCHE had almost no identity at the joint conference. Several Board members wondered whether MCSS may soon be defunct due to continuing financial problems. David Hales noted that joint conferences are beneficial for most classroom teachers rather than several discipline-based events. Cameron suggested that next year’s conference should have the new social studies standards and the Common Core as a theme. In spite of concerns, MCHE did agree to continue co-sponsoring the Joint Conference.

At the February Board meeting, Dorothy Ebersole reported that she had been working with the Wild Swan Theater in Ann Arbor to obtain Michigan Humanities Council funding for MCHE to partner with the theater to develop a play and curriculum materials. The play, “Shipwrecked” discussed the maritime history of Michigan. Support for this project was also provided by the Thunder Bay Marine Sanctuary. Eight performances, starting on March 14, 2012, were to be held in Ann Arbor, then on to Detroit, Alpena and Lansing. They also planned to present the play at Whitefish Point at the Shipwreck Museum, the Maritime Museum at South Haven and possibly in Marquette.

On March 16, 2012, the Michigan Social Studies Supervisors Association (MSSSA) met at Wayne RESA. A key agenda item was a report from Jim Cameron, the newly-appointed Social Studies Consultant for the Michigan Department of Education. In Fall 2011, Cameron had taken the position that had been vacant in the MDE following the retirement more than three years earlier of Karen R. Todorov. Cameron was charged with bringing the Social Studies Standards into conformity with the Math, Science, and English Language Arts format. He hoped to have a document ready for roll out at the Fall Joint Conference.

At the MSSSA meeting, Sean O’Neill, GVSU History professor and MCHE Board member, reported on the key activities of MCHE. He mentioned that the monthly “MCHE E-Notes” was full of information. He then encouraged MSSSA members to support Michigan History Day Regional competitions and the State contest in April. O’Neill encouraged the attendees at the MSSSA meeting to volunteer as judges for the State competition on April 28th at Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant. The Historical Society of Michigan was the project sponsor.

Developing a new strategy for writing lessons using the Library of Congress resources, David Hales met with LaNesha Gale DeBardelaben, Director of Archives and Library at the Dr. Charles Wright Museum of African American History. DeBardelaben, who also served on the MCHE Board, agreed with Hales and they worked with Jim McConnell to submit a request for funding to the Midwest Center, which swiftly gained approval. A small group of educators were selected to develop lessons on the Underground Railroad for use by both MCHE and the Dr. Wright Museum. The participants met on March 27 and May 15, 2012, at the Dr. Wright Museum in Detroit’s Cultural Center.

MCHE helped offer a War of 1812 Bicentennial Essay Contest. Many students entries were attracted by the large cash awards: 1st place--\$1,000, 2nd place--\$500 and 3rd place—\$100 in each of three grade level groups: Elementary, Middle and Senior High. The contest was supported by the U.S. Navy League of Metropolitan Detroit. More than 130 students from across Michigan entered their essays into the contest, “The Importance of the War of 1812 for Michigan.” The top three student winners in each grade level (3-5, 6-8 and 9-12) were honored

at a ceremony held on Friday, June 1, in the Michigan Historical Museum in Lansing. The awards were sponsored by Bio-Magnetic Resonance Inc. The winners of the contest were:  
Elementary (Grades 3-5)

1st Brianna Lanzen, 4th grade, Monroe Road Elementary, Lambertville

2nd Chloe Johnson, 4th grade, Monroe Road Elementary, Lambertville

3rd Chaitanya Manam, 5th grade, Detroit Country Day, Bloomfield Middle School (6-8)

1st Nathaniel Szymanski, 8th grade, Stevenson, Westland

2nd Ethan Smith, 8th grade, Napoleon, Napoleon

3rd Shreya Rao, 8th grade, East Middle, Plymouth, Senior High (9-12)

1st Sarah Noble, 11th grade, Roosevelt, Wyandotte

2nd Alan Coatney, 12th grade, John Glenn, Westland

3rd Michael Arntfield, 12th grade, L'Anse Creuse North, Macomb

The Awards Ceremony participants included Jim Cameron, MCHE Executive Director, War of 1812 Bicentennial Commissioners David Hales, Jim McConnell and Ralph Naveaux; Joseph Wax, Public Affairs Officer, Navy Recruiting District; and Commander CDR Glen O'Laughlin, Executive Officer, and Navy Recruiting District Michigan.

At its May meeting, the MCHE Board continued to discuss the Joint Conference plans, the decision to move its office to Grand Valley State University, and the need for a new Executive Director. Having accepted a position with MDE, Jim Cameron announced he would step down from the Executive Director position. Cameron and Gordon Andrews, reported that negotiations were proceeding well for re-locating the MCHE Office from MSU to Grand Valley and they hoped to have a draft agreement by the Fall.

Regarding plans for the Joint Conference, Bill Warren reported that he had not heard any details from MCSS. David Hales stated that the event had been discussed at a recent MSSSA meeting. Concern was expressed that MCSS provide an update to MCHE. Treasurer Abby Combs reported that the 2011 Joint Conference had produced a profit of \$55.30 for MCHE. There were differences regarding appropriate expenses and taking MCSS membership fees from the gross conference income prior to allocating percentages to the five sponsoring organizations. Cameron stated that further negotiations would occur prior to finalizing plans for the second joint conference in Fall 2012. The Board spent extensive time discussing revisions to the MCHE Constitution and several amendments were proposed for submission to the membership.

In the Spring, MCHE announced plans to continue offering summer Primary Source workshops across the state at Copper Country ISD, Kent ISD, and Wayne RESA. In addition, MCSS developed a program at Oakland Schools. Social studies Consultant Amy Bloom worked with two of the new MCHE trainers, Anthony Saliccioli and Ray Walker. The three day workshop met on July 10-12, 2012 with the lessons developed by the participants added to the MCHE website. The Copper Country ISD consultants were Karen Becknell, Carla Strome (the ISD Social Studies Consultant), and Ray Walker. The group met with twenty educators in Hancock

on Tuesday through Thursday, June 19-21, 2012. The Kent ISD Grand Rapids, Primary Sources workshop took place on June 21-22 and June 27-28. The project was led by Mark Raffin, Mary Nell Baldwin, Mary Helen Diegel, and Anthony Salciccioli. The Wayne RESA program met on July 25-26 and August 1-2. The two consultants were Abby Combs and David Hales. Jim McConnell continued to oversee the projects with Abby Combs serving as fiscal agent. In addition, J'aimie Holderbaum continued serving as project webmaster.

The final issue of "Ends & Beginnings", Vol. VII, No. 2, is dated July 2012. A printed, quarterly newsletter was a key MCHE member benefit until printing/ mailing costs became excessive and MCHE relied more on the new internet technology to share information with members. Begun informally to share information on history events, resources, and activities, emails were sent to MCHE members and other interested individuals.

Over the summer, MCHE was provided updates on the 2012 Joint Conference. Plans were confirmed that the Second Annual Joint Conference would be held on November 2-4, with the location still to be finalized. Arrangements were soon completed to have the Warren campus of Macomb Community College host the event. Once again, all five groups participated in the planning and presentation, including MCSS, MCHE, MGA, MCEE, and MCCE. Bill Warren served as the MCHE representative on the planning Committee.

Working to restore MCSS stability, successive MCSS presidents Tom Webb (2009-2013, 2 terms) and Anthony Salciccioli (2013-2014), worked to sever the contract with AMR and to offer the 2nd Joint Conference and to improve the services of MCSS. Their successful efforts were followed by their successors: Carol Egbo (2015-2016), Annie Whitlock (2016-2017) and Rebecca Bush (2017-2018). Among the others who helped with this effort were Amy Bloom (Oakland Schools) and Sean McBrady (Macomb ISD).

In August 2012, Vol. IX, No. 14, of the MCHE E-Notes reported that Jim Cameron had been appointed Interim Executive Director of the National Council for History Education. The former NCHE Executive Director Peter Seibert resigned to take a museum job in Taos, New Mexico. Cameron served part time through the rest of 2012. He continued as the MDE Social Studies Consultant, also a part-time position.

On September 15, 2012, the MCHE Board held its final meeting on the MSU campus in East Lansing. This also was the last meeting with Jim Cameron as Executive Director and Abby Combs as Treasurer. However, in spite of these losses, good news followed with the announcement that a contract had been negotiated between GVSU and MCHE to move the office to the Allendale campus, with the University providing staff support for MCHE activities. Gordon Andrews, GVSU history professor, was selected as the new MCHE Executive Director.

Bob Bain moved to pull out of the Joint Conference after this year, with Tim Hall seconding the motion. It passed unanimously. Bain then moved to advertise the 2013 Great Lakes Conference

as co-sponsored by MCHE. Andrews announced that the theme for Fall 2013 was “Collisions and Migrations”. A call for papers would be issued in the next several weeks. The dates were October 11-12, 2013.

MCHE closed out 2012 in joining the other groups in hosting the Second Annual Joint Conference. As noted, this was the last time MCHE participated. Other organizations also withdrew their support following the 2012 event. At the 2012 Joint Conference, MCHE had the opportunity to present eleven sessions on history instruction and content. Each of the other sponsoring organizations had the same number of sessions available. Macomb Community College charged \$4,400 for space and the management group charged \$12,000 to run the Conference. Through a question on the registration form, MCHE gained nine new members, totaling \$315 @ \$35/member. Distribution of profits to the sponsoring groups was made in 2013 after all expenses incurred were paid.

During the conference, MCHE Executive Director Gordon Andrews had the opportunity to present their annual awards to outstanding history teachers. Kelly Eddy, Livonia/Churchill High School, was the 2012 Gilder-Lehrman nominee. Victor Gibson from Malcolm X/Paul Robeson Academy, Detroit Schools (Elementary) and David Duram from Hudsonville High School (Secondary) were the year’s Annette and Jim McConnell History Educator Award winners.

## 2013

MCHE began 2013 by looking backward to the past to develop programs and strategies for future growth. The experiences of two years of working with other groups to offer a Joint Conference were helpful as MCHE developed plans to work with the Grand Valley State University History Department. MCHE hoped to expand the reach of the annual Great Lakes History Conference to attract K-12 educators. MCHE wanted to build upon the highly successful series of “Teaching with Primary Sources” workshops and offer new programs in other areas of the state. However, the year also provided challenges and disappointments.

MCHE continued to be actively involved in MDE projects, especially working to develop professional development opportunities related to the Common Core (“C3=College, Career and Civic Life”) and the GLCEs or HSCEs. At the February 9, 2013, Board meeting, Jim Cameron discussed key MDE goals and encouraged MCHE to contribute to these activities. Alisa Kesler Lund was elected Treasurer at the February meeting, but was soon replaced by David Zwart, a new MCHE Board member and Grand Valley State University History professor.

Jim McConnell reported that the Library of Congress projects over the past several years had created about 185 primary source lessons developed by teachers from across the state. About \$75,000 to 80,000 had been obtained to fund the workshops. At the suggestion of David Hales, a new funding proposal was submitted to the Midwest Center for Teaching With Primary



Sources in fall 2012. Hales developed the concept of working with 7th and 8th grade social studies teachers in the Livonia Public Schools to create lessons using Library of Congress resources. Several new proposals were submitted to The Midwest Center in 2013.

At the May 11th MCHE Board meeting, discussion focused on developing professional development opportunities across the state. Following up on a successful experience with Battle Creek Lakeview teachers, several Board members proposed strategies for future programs. Bob Bain suggested a model used by the Organization of American Historians. Several Board members supported the idea and Bain later submitted a detailed report on implementing the program. Unfortunately, no further action was taken on this idea or on the proposal developed by Jim McConnell to develop a series of regional workshops for history education.

MCHE also received disappointing news from the Midwest Center for Teaching with Primary Sources. Due to policy changes by the Library of Congress grant program, the funding requests were not approved. Applications had been developed to fund programs in Ottawa ISD, Traverse Bay Area ISD, Eastern Michigan University and the Detroit Historical Museum. Fortunately, other funding sources were obtained for the lesson plan development at the Detroit Historical Museum.

On October 11-12, 2013, MCHE joined GVSU to offer the History Department's 39th annual Great Lakes History Conference. With a theme of "Collisions and Encounters: Migrations in a Global Perspective, 15th Century to the Present", the event took place on the downtown Grand Rapids campus. The registration fee for the two-day gathering was \$40, including lunch both days. Substantial financial support was provided by both GVSU and the Grand Rapids community. On Friday evening, a keynote address, "Neighborhood History as Activism: A Call to Action," was offered by Dr. Melanie Shell-Weiss. She served as Director of the Kutsche Office of Local History at GVSU. The following day, a luncheon keynote was presented by Dr. Donna Garbaccia, a professor at the University of Minnesota. She discussed "From Immigration History to Mobility Studies."

The 2013 recipients of the Annette and Jim McConnell History Educator Awards were Maureen Kleins, Bennie Elementary, Allen Park (Elementary) and Michele Anderson, John Glenn High, Westland (Secondary). The Gilder Lehrmann Award for Michigan was presented to Peter Alburtus, Lawrence Elementary School.

Following the Great Lakes History Conference, the MCHE Board met to evaluate the success of this new initiative. The Board agreed that there was a need for more sessions addressing the concerns of K-12 teachers and speculated that a two-day conference, with one day focused on K-12 might offer a better alternative. The Board also believed that more outreach and publicity was needed in order to draw more attendees, especially from the Grand Rapids area. Sean O'Neill suggested that the Board consider its options at the next Board meeting early in 2014.

## 2014

Michigan social studies educators were saddened to learn of the death of Milan “Mike” Marich on January 11, 2014. Mike was one of the last living educators who had been present at the 1957 founding of the Michigan Council for the Social Studies and also served on the original Board of MCHE. He was a creative force in social studies education at The University of Michigan virtually his entire life and was a conscientious MCHE member. His life served as an inspiration to educators across Michigan and the United States.

In 2014, the first issue of the MCHE E-Notes (Vol. XI, No. 5) offered details on several upcoming events in January along with ideas on classroom resources. Teachers were encouraged to plan special classroom activities to recognize the January events of Martin Luther King Day on the third Monday and Michigan Statehood Day on January 26. Michigan was admitted to the Union as the 26th state in 1837.

Educators were urged to visit the “1812-Star Spangled Banner” display of oil paintings produced by the American Society of Marine Artists (ASMA) at the Detroit Public Library. The exhibit also offered a free lecture series on the War of 1812. As usual, nominations were being sought for both the Annette and Jim McConnell History teacher awards and the national Gilder-Lehrman American History teacher award. Upcoming programs were announced at the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies (GVSU), the NCHE Conference in March in New Mexico, and the summer institutes offered by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the Gilder-Lehrman Institute.

Another article stated that it was “Time to Join Michigan History Day”, a great student learning experience. January is “decision time if you wish to get your students involved in Michigan History Day.” Everyone was encouraged to check out the “Library of Congress Lesson of the Month.” Using the lessons developed at the series of workshops run by MCHE and posted at [www.educationextra.com](http://www.educationextra.com), the January issue featured “What Are Civil Rights?” by Nicola Turner. Nearly 200 Primary Sources lessons using Library of Congress resources were created by teachers across Michigan. In addition, a trivia item asked readers to answer the question: “Where are the statues of Women in Michigan?”

On Saturday, February 22, 2014, the MCHE Board held its quarterly meeting at the Michigan History Center in Lansing. Key agenda items included MDE projects, professional development, and the annual conference. Following a report by Treasurer Kesler Lund that MCHE had been paid twice by the Midwest Center for Teaching with Primary Sources for one of their Library of Congress projects, the suggestion was made that an audit committee be established to review the MCHE budget on a regular basis. The group agreed to the suggestion, but no action was taken to establish a committee.

MDE Social Studies Consultant Jim Cameron sought MCHE volunteers to help draft materials on the C3 Framework. The C3 Framework was designed not to replace standards or content but

to help create and use existing documents. Cameron stated, “ It provides four Dimensions and an Arc of Inquiry which has been found to be extremely helpful for classroom teachers.” Cameron also reported that state assessment test dates are being shifted from the spring to the fall of each school year. This shift caused some curriculum adjustments but should be beneficial to the assessment process. The Board then returned to the continuing discussion of how best to offer professional development to teachers.

Bill Warren described the 2013 Battle Creek Lakeview School District program offered by Gordon Andrews, Scott Durham, Larry Bruce, and himself. The PD included middle and high school teachers who met twice in the fall of 2013 with the focus on historical thinking ideas. Three additional meetings were set for the spring semester of 2014. Bill said that PD has moved to “in house” instead of seeking sources outside of the districts. Gordon added that the PD attempted to answer the question: “What do master teachers do in organizing and planning learning?” Andrews hoped MCHE would continue discussing how it might best offer PD for classroom teacher.

MCHE Executive Director Andrews noted that the MCHE Conference continued to be an effective strategy for providing PD. He suggested that proposals be developed swiftly for the next conference co-sponsored with the GVSU History Department in October. David Hales said MCHE needed to market the theme to districts in order to get release time. In 2013, attendance was poor with perhaps a half dozen teachers.

The final major event of 2014 for MCHE was the Great Lakes History Conference. Again presented in cooperation with the Grand Valley State University History Department, the theme was “Why Does it Happen?: Complicity and Resistance to Genocide in World History.” Programs marking the 100th anniversary of the First World War were also offered. On Friday, October 10th, Stephen Feinberg gave the opening keynote address on “Pedagogical Issues and Concerns When Teaching about the Holocaust.” The Saturday, October 11th, keynote speaker was Dr. Jan Gross from Princeton University. He discussed “ On the Periphery of the Holocaust: Pillage and Killings of Jews by Their Neighbors.”

The 2014 recipients of the MCHE History Educator Awards for the Annette and Jim McConnell award were: Elementary—Barbara L. Davis, Grosse Pointe Schools, Secondary— Joseph Cisco, Northville High, Northville; and Pre-Service—Melissa Thering, Detroit Renaissance High (Michigan State University). The Gilder Lehrmann Award was presented to Michele Anderson, John Glenn High, Westland.

Following the conference, the MCHE Board met briefly to evaluate its role in the Great Lakes History Conference. While a small number of K-12 educators had attended and considered the program worthwhile, the Board continued to be concerned that the program was not directly beneficial for K-12 educators and changes needed to be made. The exciting, positive news shared by Executive Director Andrews was that Michele Anderson, the Michigan’s Gilder-

Lehrman History Educator of the Year, had been declared by the Gilder-Lehrman Institute as the National History Teacher. This is the highest honor a history teacher can receive and the Board immediately elected Anderson to the Board.

As 2014 drew to a close, McConnell announced that MCHE was joining several other organizations in sponsoring a War of 1812 Legacy Essay Contest. The other groups included the Historical Society of Michigan, River Raisin National Battlefield Park, Mackinac State Historic Parks., and the Michigan War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission. Additional support was provided by DTE Energy. Guidelines were announced in 2014 with the contest continuing into 2015.

## 2015

On Saturday, February 21, 2015, the MCHE Board met on the Allendale campus of Grand Valley State University. Updates were discussed on existing projects and plans were made for new activities for the year. A key focus was the ongoing update of the MDE Social Studies Framework. Along with the other content organizations, MCHE was an active participant in this review and update of the MDE document. For the next four years, the Board spent many hours discussing this key project. MDE Social Studies Consultant Jim Cameron kept the participating groups updated on the project's status as it went through a series of reviews, revisions, and modifications. The final document was submitted to the Michigan State Board of Education in 2019 and approved in a 6-2 vote by the State Board members.

Reversing its decision on MCHE membership, the Board decided that there would be no charge to become member. Application to join would be posted on the website with a roster being compiled to share with the Board. Due to no records being kept and also the resignation from the Board of Tim Evans, who had served as Elections Coordinator, the practice of electing MCHE Officers and Board members was discontinued. Executive Director Gordon Andrews presided over the meetings for the next few years.

On March 29, 2015, MCHE members joined the Michigan War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission at the Detroit Historical Museum for the presentation of awards to the winners of the "Legacy of the War of 1812" Essay Contest. The date of the ceremony marked the 200th anniversary of the "Grand Pacification Ball," a gathering of Detroiters in 1815 celebrating the end of the War of 1812. A dinner followed by the program was held in the famous "Streets of Old Detroit" exhibit.

At the May 9th MCHE Board Meeting, the key discussion topic continued to be the Michigan Department of Education Revision of Social Studies Standards. Progress had been made on revising, editing and updating the document, but much work remained to be completed. A goal of presentation to the State Board of Education at their October meeting had been set, but many at the MCHE Board meeting doubted that the effort would be ready by that date. The next meeting of the MDE Revision Committee was scheduled for Monday, May 11th, with MCHE to

be represented by David Hales. After further discussion, MCHE decided to delay adoption of a resolution supporting the initiative.

Working closely with the Keith Center for Civil Rights, WSU Law School, a group of MCHE educators developed a series of lesson plans for teachers to use with their students. The project was directed by Dr. Peter J. Hammer, Director, Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights, and MCHE Board members David Hales and Dr. Jim McConnell. Participating teachers included: Rita Lockridge, Carver Middle School, Detroit; Tom Munson, Capstone Academy, Detroit; Anthony Saliccioli, Clarenceville High School, Livonia; and Ray Walker, Grosse Ile High School, Grosse Ile.

The lessons and related information are posted at the Keith Center website, <http://law.wayne.edu/keithcenter/> Click on “Resources for Teachers” in the left column. The lessons are based on the Keith biography, “Crusader for Justice” (Wayne State University Press, 2014). The materials are most appropriate for senior high school teachers, but can be used with all grade levels with minor modifications.

The third conference for MCHE and the GVSU History Department was held on Friday-Saturday, October 9-10, 2015. Due to scheduling concerns, the event was moved from the downtown Grand Rapids location to the main campus in Allendale. The theme was “Revolution, Reform, and Rebellion.” On Friday evening, a keynote address, “Teaching Revolution, Reform and Rebellion (and those who want to prevent it)” was given by Dr. Fritz Fischer, University of Northern Colorado. Dr. Anthony T. Chase, Occidental College, discussed “Rights, Revolution and Reform: Sexuality Agency and Change in Interdisciplinary Perspective” for the Saturday afternoon keynote.

Once again, the conference included the annual MCHE Award ceremony. Recipients of the Annette and Jim McConnell History teachers honors were: Elementary—Arthur Brood, Lincoln Elementary, St. Ignace Schools, and Secondary—Anthony Saliccioli, Clarenceville High School, Livonia. The Gilder Lehrman History Educator for Michigan was Barbara L. Davis, Grosse Pointe Schools.

## 2016

At the Saturday, February 20, 2016, MCHE Board meeting in the Michigan Historical Center, Lansing, updates were provided on key issues that continued to be of concern. First, once again, the Great Lakes History Conference had not attracted many K-12 classroom teachers. Executive Director Andrews asked for proposal suggestions for the 2016 Conference. Ideas proposed included such topics as Human Rights in a World Context, the Flint Water Crisis, Detroit Public Schools Curriculum Improvement, and specific historical topics. The Board agreed that specific sessions should focus on different grade levels: elementary, middle school, and senior high school curriculum areas.

The second major discussion topic at the February Board meeting was the MDE Revision of Standards Social Studies. Jim Cameron, MDE Social Studies Consultant, stated that legislative concerns had led to a State Board of Education decision to hold more public view sessions to gauge attitudes toward the draft document. Cameron hoped that the State Board would consider the topic at its May 2016 meeting. Bill Warren asked when teachers might begin using the Standards and when testing over these standards would start. Cameron indicated that the new Standards would be used in classrooms starting the Fall of 2016 but assessments would not begin until new tests were field tested and then reviewed. That would mean the assessments would not start until the 2018-2019 school year.

Another topic addressed by MCHE was the concern of teaching about ethnic groups in the Michigan curriculum. The Southern Poverty Law Center had given Michigan an “F” on its Standards. MDE was considering a “badging” process, similar to certificates in Career and Technical Education. Various groups, including but not limited to the Arab-American Museum, were interested in providing opportunities for “badges”. Gordon Andrews was selected to represent MCHE on an MDE group that would discuss this issue.

The Board then revisited the question of MCHE and NCHE membership. The decision was to favor providing a joint membership if possible, noting that the federal funding for the Teaching American History (TAH) program had been eliminated. NCHE had been actively involved in many TAH projects and would be negatively impacted by the elimination of the TAH funds. Many Michigan educators had benefited from the professional development offered through these training institutes.

With a theme of “Human Rights in the Atlantic World and Beyond,” the Great Lakes History Conference was held on Friday-Saturday, October 21-22. Again held on the Downtown Grand Rapids campus of GVSU, the program was co-sponsored by the GVSU History Department and MCHE. The Friday keynote address was offered by noted author Hector Tobar. He was the author of “Deep Down Dark: The Untold Stories of 33 Men Buried in a Chilean Mine and the Miracle that Set Them Free.” Tobar discussed “Workers, Readers, and Resistance: A Personal Journey through Latin America and the Immigrant Experience.” The Saturday program was highlighted by the screening of “Lamafill Harmonic,” a documentary film about a Paraguayan orchestral group. The 2016 recipients of the Annette and Jim McConnell History Educator Awards included: Elementary—Brenda L. Mayes, Bates Elementary, Woodhaven; Secondary—Adam W. Hellebuyck, University Liggett, Grosse Pointe Woods; and Pre-Service — Alexis Roberts, University of Michigan-Dearborn/Stevenson Middle, Wayne-Westland Schools. The Michigan educator honored with the Gilder Lehrmann Award was Anthony Saliccioli, Clarenceville High, Livonia.

The final issue of the MCHE E-Notes in 2016 (Vol. XIV, No. 4) included 33 brief items on a wide range of topics. This issue also marked the resignation of Jim McConnell as the editor, a role he had performed for more than 15 years. Aply assisted by his wife Annette, more than 200

issues had been distributed. He stated that macular degeneration had increasingly impacted his vision and reading and editing the many articles used in each issue had become too difficult. McConnell expressed appreciation to Dr. Peter Knupfer, MSU history professor, who had incorporated the email address list of MCHE emails into the MSU H-Net system. Dr. Tamara Shreiner, Grand Valley State University history professor, became the new E-Notes editor. She had been serving as the Associate Editor for the previous several months.

Highlights in the December issue were articles on the 44th Annual Noel Night in Detroit's Cultural Center, the December 15th Bill of Rights Day (1791), a Bill of Rights Quiz, the NCHE Paul Gagnon Prize and a request for presenters to submit proposals for the MCSS Conference. Other topics mentioned were David McCullough's new book "The Pioneers", a PBS program on the First World War, Library of Congress primary source lessons, and educational resources from Colonial Williamsburg. E-Notes readers also learned about the Michigan Digital Newspaper Project (Central Michigan University) and the upcoming NCHE 2017 Annual Conference in Atlanta. The E-Notes continued to be a valuable source of a wide variety of information.

In 2012, both McConnell and Hales were preoccupied with the Bicentennial of the War of 1812 and no Electoral College prediction contest was offered. With most of the final observances of the War of 1812 completed in 2015, the timing was good to re-establish the activity begun in the 1996 election and continued in 2000, 2004, and 2008. For the 2016 presidential election the project was presented by MCHE in cooperation with Wayne RESA, Patriot Week (September 11-17) and the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies at Grand Valley State University. Agreement was reached with Michigan's major political parties to co-sponsor the contest. Guidelines and an entry form were developed and distributed via the MSU H-Net system used for the MCHE E-Notes. Following national poll predictions, all of the Michigan teachers submitting an entry predicted a victory for Hillary Clinton, the Democratic nominee. To the surprise of both pundits and educators, Donald J. Trump, the GOP candidate won the Electoral College majority, the popular vote in Michigan, and the MCHE contest. Coordinators quickly realized that the "winning" teachers were those who had most narrowly predicted a Clinton victory. Their predictions were most closely aligned with the narrow Trump victory.

However, a new challenge emerged. With the the Republican victory in Michigan, the GOP faced heavy demand on the limited number of seats in the state senate gallery, the site of the Electoral College ceremony. After initially responding negatively to providing tickets for the educators who had won the Electoral College prediction contest, McConnell reached out for support from state representative Laura Cox, and encouraged the winning teachers to also seek support from their state legislators. Appeals were also made to key officials in the governor's office. The lobbying effort was successful, the tickets were provided and three Michigan teachers brought some of their students to observe the ceremony on Monday, December 19, 2016.

The MCHE educator electoral college prediction contest winners were:

1st George Whittington, Bullock Creek Middle School, Midland

2nd Jeff Delezenne, Clinton High School, Manitou Beach

3rd Kate Walcny, Warren Woods Tower High School, Warren

With this event, MCHE closed 2016 on a high note in spite of ongoing concerns regarding membership, presenting professional development for history teachers, and finalizing the proposed MDE Social Studies Standards. New challenges and opportunities were to face the organization in 2017 as it entered its 25th year.

## 2017

On Saturday, February 18, 2017, the MCHE Board continued discussing the proposed MDE Social Studies Standards, focusing on the contributions being made by several MCHE members to this challenging project. In addition, Executive Director Gordon Andrews updated the Board that MDE Social Studies Consultant Jim Cameron had asked if MCHE would be able to serve as Michigan coordinator of the Hearst Foundation United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP). Andrews asked the MCHE Board if they were willing to accept this new role. He stated that it had been overseen by the Michigan Department of Education for many years and in recent years had been run through the Michigan Center for Civic Education. Cameron stated that MDE needed to find a new organization to coordinate the program on its behalf. MCHE agreed to accept this responsibility. Several Board members volunteered to help identify the 2017 student winners from Michigan.

These two Michigan recipients for 2017 were announced in a press release from Michigan Senators Debbie Stabenow and Gary Peters. The 55th annual United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) recipients were Dale (Trip) James Apley III of Ann Arbor and Prathusha Yeruva of Troy. The students attended the March 4-11, 2017, program in Washington, D.C.

Michele Anderson, Awards Committee Chair, stated that the Gilder Lehrman History Teacher deadline for nominations was March 31st. She added that, for the first time, both elementary and secondary teachers will be evaluated in the selection of the recipient. Previously, Gilder-Lehrman had alternated between elementary and secondary each year. She then reminded the Board that May 1st was the deadline for nominations for Elementary, Secondary, and Pre-Service candidates for the Annette and Jim McConnell History Educator Awards.

Also, at the February Board meeting, MCHE adopted a resolution urging the U.S. Congress to continue full funding for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). These two organization provide support for professional development programs for educators and other public cultural programs across the United States.

At the Saturday, May 13, MCHE Board meeting, extensive discussion focused on the proposed MDE Social Studies Standards. Jim Cameron, MDE Social Studies Consultant, stated that the



process had become very politicized and the draft document was being revised substantially. The State Board of Education planned to review the document at an upcoming meeting and then submit it to the public for review. Based upon suggestions, the document would be revised prior to any State Board action. The MCHE Board also discussed professional development ideas once the document was adopted. The other major item at the May meeting was continued planning for the upcoming Great Lakes History Conference.

The MCHE/GVSU Great Lakes History Conference was held on Friday-Saturday, October 20 & 21, 2017. The theme was “On Top of the World: Sizing Up Global History.” The conference was held at the L.V. Eberhard Center and at the DeVos Center in downtown Grand Rapids. To encourage attendance at the Conference by K-12 educators, the MCHE Board had approved creation of a \$2,500 fund to grant teachers up to \$100 for reimbursement of substitute teacher cost for their district. An application form, with defined criteria, was developed, but only two applications were received. Once again, the K-12 educator participation was sparse. The Friday evening keynote speaker was Michelle Moyd, Indiana University, expert on East Africa.

The 2017 Conference included the annual MCHE Awards presentations. Gordon Andrews, MCHE Executive Director, moderated the awards ceremony. The recipients of the Annette and Jim McConnell Awards were Deborah Thomas, Anderson Elementary, Trenton (Elementary); John Beck, Heritage Christian Academy, Kalamazoo (Secondary); and Jordan Yost, Michigan State University (Pre-Service). Brenda L. Mayes, Bates Elementary, Woodhaven received the Gilder Lehrmann Award. The conference marked the final major event for MCHE that year.

### POSTSCRIPT 2017-2019

Following its initial 25 years, MCHE continued to address existing issues as well as new challenges and unexpected changes. In the summer of 2018, MCHE Executive Director Gordon Andrews announced that he was stepping down due to increased responsibilities in the Grand Valley State University History Department. At the September 15, 2018, MCHE Board meeting, Jim McConnell moved that Tamara Shreiner, another GVSU History Professor, be appointed as the new MCHE Executive Director. The motion was unanimously approved. Shreiner began her leadership by appointing a committee to review and update the MCHE Constitution.

Michele Anderson was selected as President-Elect, becoming President in July 2019. The other officers confirmed in their roles were David Zwart, Treasurer and Scott Durham, Secretary. Elaine Themm was willing to take on the responsibility of E-Notes editor. Shreiner then began appointing individuals to chair several committees, hoping to stimulate new ideas and new programs.

Jim Cameron reported that the pending Social Studies Standards document was completing a series of public hearings and an online survey. This information would be used by a new Social Studies task force to prepare a final draft for submission to the Michigan State Board of Education in 2019. David Zwart, Sean O’Neill, and Gordon Andrews were appointed to a

review committee for the U.S. Senate Youth Fellowship applications. They were to review confirmation that the student applicants were eligible for the award.

On October 12-13, the 2018 MCHE/GVSU Great Lakes History Conference was again held in Grand Rapids. The theme was “Playing with History.” The Keynote Speaker was Dr. Mark Carnes, founder of “Reacting to the Past” and Professor of History at Barnard College and Columbia University. He discussed “The Students' War Against Higher Education: Avoiding a Rout.” The program included presentations for the McConnell and Gilder-Lehrman Awards. The Annette and Jim McConnell Awards were Beth Fortino, Miller Elementary, Huron Schools (Elementary); Paul Scheidler, Hartland High School (Secondary); and Jordan Yost, Michigan State University (Pre-Service). The Gilder-Lehrmann Award was presented to Adam W. Hellebuyck, University Liggett, Grosse Pointe Woods.

At the Saturday, March 2, 2019, MCHE Board meeting, the proposed revisions to the MCHE constitution were discussed and an update was presented on the MDE Social Studies Standards Task Force. In addition, Bill Warren and Tammy Shreiner reported on the recent “History & Hops” social gatherings. Two small group meetings of history teachers were held with some MCHE Board members in Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids. While neither event attracted many participants, Warren and Shreiner thought the sessions were worthwhile in gathering opinions from classroom teachers. To begin planning for a MCHE Conference in 2020, Catherine Tuzcek was appointed as conference chair to investigate how this event could best serve classroom teachers.

Finally, in 2019, the MDE Social Studies Standards were formally submitted to the State Board of Education for approval on June 11, 2019. The document was adopted by a vote of 6-2. The State Board had spent an entire day discussing the draft and responding to comments from the citizens attending the meeting.

MCHE ended 2019 by again joining GVSU to offer the Great Lakes History Conference. The program was held on Friday-Saturday, September 27-28, nearly one month earlier than in previous years. At the Conference, the annual MCHE awards presentations were featured with a special reception for the honorees. The MCHE Annette and Jim McConnell winners were Heather Quamme, (Elementary); Craig Barker, Stevenson High, Livonia (Secondary); and Sarah Kennedy, Michigan State University (Pre-Service). The 2019 Michigan honoree for the Gilder-Lehrman Preserve America Award was Paul Scheidler, Hartland Consolidated Schools in Hartland.

On Saturday, September 28th, MCHE offered a “A Capitol Idea” for interested educators. Coordinated by David Hales and Jim McConnell, the full-day program included tours of the State Capitol, the Michigan History Museum, and the Library of Michigan. The program included information about the Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center, the other Michigan

Historical Sites, and the Michigan Historical Marker program. Plans were discussed to repeat this unique learning experience to more educators in 2020.

## CONCLUSION

During its first 25 years, MCHE had been led by three Executive Directors and Board members from across Michigan teaching history from elementary to middle to senior high to college and university. Through its publications and conferences, special events, student contests, website, electronic networks, and other strategies, thousands of educators had been impacted. As the organization began its second 25 years, new leadership would emerge to take the group in new directions as well as continuing existing services to Michigan's history community.

While this overview of the history of MCHE tells the story of service to history educators and their students, its primary value is to serve as a lighthouse pointing a way to help establish and maintain programs beneficial to the history teachers of the future. MCHE should continue to strive to inspire a love of history and public service in all the individuals impacted by its programs. Indeed, the future for MCHE looks promising as it builds upon its creative past!

# **APPENDIX A**

## **MCHE OFFICERS 1993-2019**

### **Executive Director**

1993-1999	Jim McConnell, Dearborn Schools
1999-2012	Jim Cameron, Saline Schools
2012-2018	Gordon Andrews, Grand Valley State University
2018-	Tammy Shreiner, Grand Valley State University

### **President**

1996-1997	Mary Jo Maples, Berkley Schools
1998-1999	Sean O'Neill, Grand Valley State University
1999-2001	Sean O'Neill, Grand Valley State University
2001-2003	Robert May, Northwestern-Edison, Flint Schools
2003-2004	Russ Olwell, Eastern Michigan University
2004-2006	Tim Evans, Marysville Schools
2006-2007	Wilson Warren, Western Michigan University
2007-2008	Anne White-O'Hara, Marygrove College
2008-2009	Gordon Andrews, Portage Schools
2009-2010	Mary Foulke, Hillsdale Schools
2010-2011	Dorothy Ebersole, The Henry Ford
2011-2012	Peter Knupfer, Michigan State University
2012-2013	Danielle Olzanich, Berkley Schools
2013-2014	Wilson Warren, Western Michigan University
2015-2018	No Elections Held
2018-2019	Exec. Director Tammy Shreiner assumed role of President
2019-2020	Michele Anderson, Wayne-Westland Schools

### **Treasurer**

1993-1995	Annette McConnell, Retired Educator
1995-2001	Jane Moriarty, Birmingham Schools
2002-2004	Teresa Kim, Eastern Michigan University/Nakiti Taliban Charter, Detroit
2004-2005	Jenny Penny, Eastern Michigan University student
2005-2012	Abby Combs, Conference Registrar, EMU, Berkley Schools
2012-2014	Alisa Kesler-Lund, Central Michigan University
2014-present	David Zwart, Grand Valley State University

### **Secretary**

1993-1998	Annette McConnell, Retired Educator
1998-2000	Scott Trepanier, Battle Creek, Lakeview
2000-2004	Tim Hall, Central Michigan University
2004-2018	Richard Cooley, Grand Valley State University
2019-	Scott Durham, Battle Creek Lakeview Schools/MSU

### **Membership/Mailings**

1993-1999 Annette McConnell, Retired Educator  
1999 Scott Trepanier (Blended into Secretary)

### **Editor, "Ends & Beginnings"**

1994-1998 Annette and Jim McConnell, Retired  
1998-2002 Jim Cameron, Saline Schools  
2003-2012 Annette & Jim McConnell  
Publication ceased in 2012

### **Editor, MCHE E-Notes**

2002-2017 Annette and Jim McConnell, Retired  
2018-2019 Tammy Shreiner, Grand Valley State University  
2019 Elaine Themin, Jackson Community College

### **Webmaster**

2003-2007 Russ Olwell, Eastern Michigan University  
2007-2013 Peter Knupfer, Michigan State University  
2013?-2015 Larry Bruce, Quincy Middle Schools, Quincy  
2016- Scott Durham, Battle Creek Lakeview/MSU

### **Elections**

1998-2013 Tim Evans, Marysville Schools  
2020- Jim McConnell, Dearborn Schools (retired)

### **Special Events & Projects**

2002-2018 Jim McConnell, Dearborn Schools (retired)  
2019- Catherine Tuzcek, Detroit Schools

### **Awards**

2003-2004 Bob Bain, University of Michigan  
2004-2006 Jim Cameron, Saline Schools  
2006-2010 Gordon Andrews, Portage Schools  
Scott Durham, Battle Creek Lakeview Schools/MSU  
2017-2018 Michele Anderson, Wayne-Westland Schools  
2019 Anne-Lise Halvorsen, Michigan State University

This listing has been compiled from records in the MCHE Archives.  
November 9, 2019

## **APPENDIX B**

### **MCHE Award Recipients, 2003-2019**

2003

Annette & Jim McConnell History Educator Awards:

Joan Pritchard, Detroit Country Day School, Bloomfield Hills; Connie Rasmussen, Connie Josvai &

Kris Wood, Kennedy Elementary, Manistee

Cathie Falk, Charlotte Middle, Charlotte Maria Ward, Rockford Middle, Rockford

Geoff Wickersham, Groves High, Birmingham

Mary E. deWolf, Holt Senior High, Holt

2004

Annette & Jim McConnell History Educator Awards:

Elementary— Trina L. Bell, Weber-Blaess, Saline

Secondary— Patricia A. Baron, Fordson High, Dearborn

Pre-Service— Mary Firi Phillips, Marygrove College/University of Detroit High

2005

Annette & Jim McConnell History Educator Awards:

Elementary— Mary Foulke, Hillsdale Elementary, Hillsdale

Secondary— Beth Washington, Milwood Magnet, Kalamazoo

Gilder-Lehrman History Teacher Award—Thomas F. Sleet

2006

Annette & Jim McConnell History Educator Awards:

Elementary— Thomas E. Wiltse

Secondary— Inara Kurt, West Junior High, Traverse City

Pre-Service—Henry Whitaker

Gilder-Lehrman History Teacher Award— Craig Booher, Napoleon High, Napoleon

2007

Annette & Jim McConnell History Educator Awards:

Elementary— Mikel Vallier, Lakeview Middle, Battle Creek Lakeview

Secondary— Karen Lessenberry, Wylie E. Groves High, Birmingham

Pre-Service— Ken Wright, Grand Valley State University, Allendale

Gilder-Lehrman History Teacher Award— Rena Heleniak, Galesburg-Augusta

2008

Annette & Jim McConnell History Educator Awards:

Elementary— Danielle Ozanich, Angell Elementary, Berkley

Secondary— Kent Baker, Portage Central High, Portage

Pre-Service— Rachel Krumwiede, Eastern Michigan University/Plymouth High

Gilder-Lehrman History Teacher Award—Karen Lessenberry, Groves High, Birmingham

2009

Annette & Jim McConnell History Educator Awards:

Elementary— J'aime Holderbaum, Elms Road Elementary, Swartz Creek

Secondary — Jennifer Reid-Lamb, Pioneer Middle, Plymouth

Gilder-Lehrman History Teacher Award— Danielle Ozanich, Angell Elementary, Berkeley

2010

Annette & Jim McConnell Awards:

Elementary— Kathryn Hibrar, Warren Woods Public, Warren

Secondary— Marc de Zwaan, International Academy, Bloomfield Hills

Gilder-Lehrman History Teacher Award— James Cameron, Saline High, Saline

2011

Annette & Jim McConnell Awards:

Elementary—Robin Long, Northville Public, Northville

Secondary— Jennifer Hodges, Allendale Public, Allendale

Gilder-Lehrman History Teacher Award— Kathy Hriba, Warren Woods Public, Warren Woods

2012

Annette & Jim McConnell Awards:

Elementary— Victor Gibson, Malcolm X/Paul Robeson Academy, Detroit

Secondary— David Duram, Hudsonville High, Hudsonville

Gilder-Lehrman History Teacher Award— Kelly Eddy, Churchill High, Livonia

2013

Annette & Jim McConnell Awards:

Elementary— Maureen Kleins, Bennie Elementary, Allen Park

Secondary—Michele Anderson, John Glenn High, Westland

Gilder-Lehrman History Teacher Award— Peter Alburtus, Lawrence Elementary

2014

Annette & Jim McConnell Awards:

Elementary— Barbara L. Davis, Grosse Pointe

Secondary— Joseph Cisco, Northville High, Northville

Pre-Service—Melissa Thering, Detroit Renaissance High/Michigan State University

Gilder-Lehrman History Teacher Award—Michele Anderson, John Glenn High, Wayne

2015

Annette & Jim McConnell Awards:

Elementary—Arthur Brood, Lincoln Elementary, St. Ignace

Secondary— Anthony Salciccioli, Clarenceville High, Livonia

Gilder-Lehrman History Teacher Award—Barbara L. Davis, Grosse Pointe

2016

Annette & Jim McConnell Awards

Elementary— Brenda L. Mayes, Bates Elementary, Woodhaven

Secondary— Adam W. Hellebuyck, University Liggett, Grosse Pointe Woods

Pre-Service — Alexis Roberts, University of Michigan-Dearborn/Stevenson Middle, Wayne

Gilder-Lehrman History Teacher Award—Anthony Salciccioli, Clarenceville High, Livonia

2017

Annette & Jim McConnell Awards:

Elementary— Deborah Thomas, Anderson Elementary, Trenton

Secondary— John Beck, Heritage Christian Academy, Kalamazoo

Gilder-Lehrman History Teacher Award—Brenda L. Mayes, Bates Elementary, Woodhaven

2018

Annette & Jim McConnell Awards:

Elementary— Beth Fortino, Miller Elementary, Huron

Secondary— Paul Scheidler, Hartland High, Hartland

Pre-Service— Jordan Yost, Michigan State University

Gilder-Lehrman History Teacher Award—Adam W. Hellebuyck, University Liggett,  
Grosse Pointe Woods

2019

Annette & Jim McConnell Award:

Elementary— Heather Quamme, Grand Rapids

Secondary— Craig Barker, Stevenson High, Livonia

Pre-Service—Sarah Kennedy, Michigan State University

Gilder-Lehrman History Teacher Award— Paul Scheidler, Hartland Consolidated, Hartland



## **APPENDIX C**

### **MCHE- A Brief Chronology**

November 1993: National Council for History Education Executive Director and, Publications Coordinator Joe Ribar met with Annette and Jim McConnell at the Midwest Regional Conference of the National Council for the Social Studies to organize a Michigan Council for History Education.

February 1994: First public MCHE event was a panel session, “History: Studying the Past Impacts the Future”, at MCSS Conference at the Dearborn Hyatt Regency.

November 1994: Volume I, Issue 1, of “Ends and Beginnings”, the MCHE newsletter was published.

March 22, 1995: First MCHE History Educator Conference held at the McGregor Center on the Wayne State University campus.

June 19-21, 1995: NCHE sponsored “Colloquium on History Education at Michigan State University, helping MCHE increase memberships.

1996: MCHE adopts constitution and elects officers and governing board.

March 1, 1996: MCHE, the Michigan Historical Center and Dearborn Public Schools offered “A Stroll through Michigan History,” featuring a tour of the new state history museum in Lansing.

Fall 1996: First MCHE Educator Presidential Electoral College Election Prediction Contest was offered.

1998: MCHE offered tours of Detroit area museums.

Spring 1999: MCHE collaborated with several co-sponsors to offer an essay contest commemorating Detroit’s Tricentennial.

June 23, 2001: MCHE offered an “Historic Detroit” bus tour.

September 16, 2004: “MCHE E-Notes” began its monthly pattern.

January 2002: MCHE established an office in History Department at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti.

Summer 2002: MCHE Executive Director Jim Camron proposed establishment of the “Annette & Jim McConnell History Educator Awards” for Elementary, Secondary, and Pre-Service history teachers.

2003: Russell Olwell, Eastern Michigan University, developed the first MCHE website.

2004: MCHE developed a “Patriots and Presidents” historic site tour.

Spring, 2004: MCHE and the Michigan Humanities Council co-sponsored an essay contest on the 50th anniversary of the landmark 1954 U.S. Supreme Court decision in “Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas.”

2004: MCHE became the state coordinator of the Preserve American History Teacher of the Year Award.

January-June 2006: MCHE presented “Six Super Second Saturdays (S4)”, featuring visits to several cultural institutions. S4 was co-sponsored by the Michigan Museums Association, the Michigan Department of Education, the Detroit Public Schools, Macomb ISD, Oakland Schools, and Wayne RESA.

Spring 2007: MCHE moved its office from Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti to Michigan State University, East Lansing.

September 17, 2007: MCHE and Wayne RESA offered “Understanding the Arab World,” at the Islamic Center of America and the Arab-American National Museum in Dearborn.

July 21-22, and August 13-14, 2008: With funding from the Midwest Center for Teaching with Primary Sources at Illinois State University, MCHE and Wayne RESA were able to offer the first of a series of workshops focused on using primary sources from the Library of Congress website in classrooms.

Spring 2008: MCHE and the Michigan Historical Commission sponsored a “Historic Michigan Travel” contest, planning an imaginary trip to all eleven official State of Michigan Historic Sites.

June 8, 2008: MCHE hosted “A Lake Huron Sail on the ‘Highlander Sea,” a 154-foot gaff-rigged topsail schooner based in Port Huron.

2011: MCHE joined the Michigan Historical Commission Sub-Committee on the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War to offer a Civil War 150th Anniversary Essay Contest.

2011: Roger Rapaport, a Michigan filmmaker, worked with MCHE to produce a documentary on the 17th century explorations of the French explorers Marquette and Joliet.

August 6, 2011: MCHE joined the Michigan War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission to offer a Lake Michigan cruise on “Friends Good Will,” a War of 1812 replica vessel, based at the Michigan Maritime Museum in South Haven.

August 18, 2011: The MCHE Board met at the Historical Society of Michigan office in Lansing to develop a Strategic Plan for the organization.

November 4-6, 2011: MCHE joined with the other social studies subject-matter organizations to offer a Joint Social Studies Conference with the theme of “Working Together.” The effort was disbanded in 2013.

2011: MCHE Executive Director Jim Cameron designed the first official MCHE logo.

November, 2011-May, 2012: MCHE offered an expanded and improved version of the the 2006 “Super Saturdays” activity.

October 2012: MCHE entered into a “Memorandum of Understanding” with Grand Valley State University to move their office from Michigan State University.

Spring 2012: MCHE joined with the Michigan War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission and the United States Navy League of Metropolitan Detroit to offer a War of 1812 Bicentennial Essay Contest themed “The Importance of the War of 1812 for Michigan.”

Spring/Summer 2012: MCHE supported the Wild Swan Theater, Ann Arbor, in the production of a play, “Shipwrecked”, that described the maritime history of Michigan. A Michigan Humanities Council grant funded the project..

Summer 2012: Under the leadership of Tim Evans, Election Committee Chair, MCHE reviewed and revised its constitution.

July 2012: The final issue of “Ends & Beginnings”, Vol. VII, No. 2, was printed and mailed to members. The eight-page newsletter fell victim to rising postage costs and new technology.

September 15, 2012: MCHE moved its office from Michigan State University, Lansing to Grand Valley State University, Allendale.

Octobers 11-12, 2013: MCHE joined Grand Valley State University as a co-sponsor of the Great Lakes History Conference.

Fall 2013: MCHE Board members provided a series of professional development programs for Battle Creek Lakeview Schools.

January-March 2015: In cooperation with DTE Energy, the Historical Society of Michigan, River Raisin National Battlefield Park, Mackinac State Historic Parks., and the Michigan War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission, MCHE offered a “War of 1812 Legacy” essay contest.

Spring 2015: MCHE worked with the Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights, WSU Law School to develop lesson plans based on the Keith biography, “Crusader for Justice.”

February 18, 2017: MCHE became the Michigan coordinator of the Hearst Foundation United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP). MDE has continued to assist in implementing the program.

June 11, 2019: The Michigan State Board of Education adopted the MDE Social Studies Standards document. MCHE had worked with several other groups to help draft the new social studies framework.

## About the Authors

Born in Detroit, Jim grew up in Southgate and graduated from Wyandotte Roosevelt High School, Albion College (B.A.) and Wayne State University (M.A. & Ed.D.). He spent most of his career in the Dearborn Public Schools with some time spent coordinating several historical commemorations for the State of Michigan. Other experiences included teaching adjunct at several area universities. He has served on the Boards of the Michigan Humanities Council, the Michigan Historical Commission, and the Historical Society of Michigan.

Annette also was born in Detroit and graduated from Wyandotte Roosevelt High School. She attended Michigan State University for two years and earned a B.S. and M.A. from Southern Connecticut State University. Her career was in elementary education, community education, and as a volunteer in church activities.

Together, they have co-authored several small historical books, newsletters, and other publications. They wrote “Our Journey: The History of Nardin Park United Methodist Church,” and edited “The History of the Michigan Council for the Social Studies.” As founders of the Michigan Council for History Education, they continue to serve as volunteers for MCHE publications and programs.

They are volunteers for the Detroit Historical Society, the Historical Society of Michigan, Friends of the Livonia Library, and other groups. With Jim serving as Secretary for Michigan’s War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission, Annette volunteered to coordinate several public symposiums, historical commemorations and 1812 historic site tours. They received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Historical Society of Michigan in 2012.

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