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Westchester Lower Hudson Council for the Social Studies

Affiliated with the New York State Council for the Social Studies and
the National Council for the Social Studies, incorporated 501(c)3

September 6, 2018

Dear WLHCSS members, Department Chairs, Lead Teachers, and Administrators:

Welcome back to another school year -- may it be fulfilling and exciting! As I begin my fourth year as president of WLHCSS, I am energized by the dedication of our members who, year after year, provide the best social studies education to our students. Our organization will continue to advocate relentlessly for social studies, ensuring our students are prepared to be informed, critical, and active citizens of our democracy.

The coming year will not be without challenges, most significantly, the implementation of the Global History & Geography Regents in June. I encourage you to become involved, to participate, and to attend our conference on **December 7**, at the **Renaissance Westchester Hotel**, in West Harrison. This year's theme is **Social Studies: We Make it Personal**. Our keynote speaker will be **Cheryl Wills**, an Emmy Award-winning anchor for Spectrum News NY1. Ms. Wills has written three books about her great-great-great grandfather Sandy Wills, who fought in the Civil War. Her talk will focus on her desire to understand her own history and how all of our students can connect to the past. The keynote presentation will be followed by a full day of workshops on timely topics such as evidence-based questions and the Social Studies Practices, as well as NYSED updates.

Registration will begin in early October. Please be on the lookout for our emails, and check our website regularly: <http://www.wlhcss.info/>

This year, we will be using a Google form for workshop proposal submissions. You can expect a link to the form to be emailed and posted to our website in early October. In the meantime, please begin developing your workshop ideas! We welcome workshops for all levels and in all social studies disciplines. **Proposals will be due Friday, October 19**. We are always looking for elementary based presentations and those focused on English Language Learners.

In addition to our annual conference, we are excited to announce a partnership with Historic Hudson Valley. We are co-sponsoring a workshop entitled **Washington Irving's America at Sunnyside in Tarrytown, on Wednesday, October 3, from 4:00-6:00**. A flyer is available on our website. The workshop is **FREE for WLHCSS members**; \$25 for non-members. The workshop is open to all, but the content is particularly suited for 4th, 7th, and 11th grade teachers. Please use the following link to register: <https://goo.gl/forms/AoEGDhHxQWl9XWdr2>

Now is the time to encumber monies and plan for professional development. I hope that you will impress upon your administrators that our programs are **local** and tailored to teachers in the Lower Hudson Valley. We offer a comprehensive selection of workshops for the **lowest expenditure and CTLE credit**. I look forward to personally seeing you on **October 3 and December 7**.

Sincerely yours,
Susan Chester

Annual Conference, 12/7/18, Renaissance Westchester Hotel

Early Registration (by 11/30) . . . \$130 Regular Registration/Walk-in . . . \$150 Presenters/Students . . . \$75
Four teachers may register together for \$400, early registration only, cannot be combined with presenter rate.

