



We the People... The Citizen and the Constitution

Directed by the Center for Civic Education
Funded by the U.S. Department of Education by act of Congress



Myron Yoder
Melissa Bell, Editor
Assistant State Coordinators

Stephanie McKissic, State Coordinator, National Constitution Center
David Keller Trevaskis, State Competition Coordinator

We The People

PENNSYLVANIA NEWSLETTER

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Jane Eisner has just released a new book, "Taking Back the Vote: Getting American Youth Involved in our Democracy" She interviewed Dave Hall for the book about his work with Project Citizen and included information about Project Citizen Abroad. You can read about it on pages 115-177. (Dave is the High School Teacher who conducted Project Citizen hearings and was on NPR last year. He teaches in a district north of Philadelphia and south of Allentown.)

- It is now time to submit your Responsibility Agreements and Action Plans for Project Citizen. We would like to receive them by November 1, 2004 so that we can process the PC Stipends. If we do not have most of the Agreements and Plans by then we will hold the stipends until we do. I will email all when I send the invoice to the NCC for processing. Enclosed are copies of the Agreement and Action Plan. If you have not done so, please fill out and return to Myron Yoder ASAP.
- Enclosed is a list of professional development activities planned and taking place this year. If you have people interested in a particular location and event please contact that trainer for information. Dave Morris and William Simmons report a productive session in October and they look forward to the next two sessions they will be conducting.
- Also enclosed is a revised timeline: this has changed so please make sure you review it.
- Thanks to Jennie Lynn who indicated that a new PA Education Directory would be great for making contacts since the one she has is so old. I contacted some people I work with at the PDE and was able to get 03-04 directories for your use; copies are enclosed.

We the People State Competition

David Trevaskis is in charge of organizing the Regional and State Competition for We the People as well as the Project Citizen Competition.

- Regional competitions will be conducted this year. Regional Judging will take place sometime in December or January. The regional judging will determine the 6 teams to go to the State Finals to be held at the National Constitution Center. March 3 is the date scheduled for the State Finals.



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- District coordinators will need to inform Myron by December 1, 2004 of the teams competing by having each team fill out the Official Class Roster that is enclosed with this mailing. Please have the teachers print student names accurately since their certificates will be printed using the spelling provided on this form. If at all possible, teachers should also have the student names saved on a digital file in word or excel to save some time in producing the certificates.
- You should make every effort to attend the state finals at the NCC March 3, 2005; place the date in your calendar now. If you need a room for the night of March 2 please let Melissa Bell know so that a room can be reserved for you.
- You may want to contact David Trevaskis to set up tentative times and places for regional competitions in your area.
- Please note the significant change to the competition. Teams now need only be a minimum of nine students. Each student is limited to participation in only two units.
- We The People Regional and State Competition will use the **State Hearing Questions for 2004-2005**. The questions are enclosed with this mailing.

Project Citizen State Competitions

- David Trevaskis is also in charge of this competition. You can tell your teachers to plan for completing their portfolios by May 1, 2005 for the competition. It will be held at the NCC from May 5 to 12. You will need to ship the portfolios to Stephanie McKissic at the National Constitution Center no later than May 2 so that she will have them in time for judging. You should also notify her by email when you ship them so she knows they are on the way. Copy Dave T as well.

Contact Reminder

- Contact information for Myron and Melissa, assistant state coordinators:

Myron Yoder: Office 484-765-4091 Cell # 610-657-1038
Email: yoderm@allentownsd.org & mey11@aol.com
136 W Elm Street, Emmaus, PA 18049

Melissa Bell: Cell # 610-909-3294
Email: mbell5521@aol.com
5521 Mountain Drive, Coopersburg, PA 18036



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➤ Contact Information for the Competition Coordinator

David Keller Trevaskis

LEAP-Kids

Box 428/ 6 Royal Avenue

Glenside, PA 19038-0428

(215) 885-1610 (phone)

(215) 885-1036 (fax)

david@leap-kids.com

www.leap-kids.com

Please contact Myron or Melissa directly with any present or future questions or concerns. From this point on your contact for We the People or Project Citizen should begin with one of us. **You should also send all paperwork to Myron for processing.** Except for the Class Rosters being sent to Myron by December 1 you should contact David T with any questions concerning the competitions.

A challenging year lies ahead. With patience and open lines of communication, perhaps it can be a good year for everyone, especially the students who benefit from the We The People and Project Citizen programs.

Myron Yoder and Melissa Bell
Assistant State Coordinators