**Questions to guide interviews with NCSS past-presidents**

**and other notable figures:**

1. **Give a brief outline of your life up to the beginning of your professional career (family background)**

* Grew up in Springfield IL, only child, attended parochial elementary school, rural high school
* involved in Girl Scouts, Jr. Achievement, and speech contests (original oration and also extemporaneous speaking)
* Dad loved to argue politics with our neighbor who was a local judge & I got involved as a campaign volunteer

1. **Give a brief outline of your college and professional training**

* Graduated from Northwestern University, majored in political science and minored in history and earned my secondary teaching license (1971).
* Began teaching career at Evanston Township HS. Moved to Denver and taught history. Moved to Fairbanks, AK
* Graduated from UAF, MA degree in Curriculum and Instruction with emphasis on alternative education 1980
* Taught for 9 years in Fairbanks
* Earned administrative license and worked as HS administrator before moving to Washington State and continued HS Administration 5 more years
* Earned my Doctorate in Educational Leadership 2000 and began teaching at Portland State University where I am currently Associate Professor

1. **What factors motivated your choice of careers?**

* Loved social studies (5th and 8th grade US History; learning about the Constitution)
* Initially planned to earn a law degree and perhaps join the Foreign Service (loved languages and wanted to travel)
* Married my husband of 44 years while in college and decided to become a teacher so I could help support our family while Don was finishing medical school.

1. **What do you consider the most significant piece you have written?**

* NCSS presidential speech. 25th NCSS conference. Vividly remember other NCSS presidents’ speeches; read their speeches, and selected themes which resonated for me. International initiative with 21 educators from Mexico; Gave part of my speech in Spanish.

1. **Describe your NCSS professional activities (offices, etc.)**

* First conference 1987 (ACSS president) theme: Social Studies: Teaching and Learning for the 21st Century; So inspired by program (NCSS President Jan Tucker) vowed to come to NCSS every year
* Membership Committee chair twice (First Timers breakfast; Each One Reach One campaign),
* FASSE (targeted funding from past presidents; state councils; expansion of research grants)
* NCSS Board member two terms,
* HOD representative from Alaska, Oregon/Washington
* NSSSA/CUFA member

1. **What were some of the significant educational issues and questions which concerned the NCSS during your time with NCSS?**

* Marginalization of social studies as unintended consequence of NCLB (Ctr Ed Policy 2007 44% of districts surveyed have reduced time for SS; 51% in districts w/ failing schools).
* Denying students opportunity to build SS knowledge & skills, lowers reading comprehension & increases achievement gap.
* Under NCSS president Peggy Altoff, NCSS board created an advocacy program that I continued: prioritized creating partnerships across social studies disciplines, advocacy training for Board members & state council leaders, annual visits to the Hill, lobbying efforts with support of legislative consultant
* Major issue for me was preparing teachers who can work effectively with linguistically & culturally diverse learners, students in poverty and those with special needs.
* NCSS needs to attract and support teachers from under represented groups
* First Timers Scholarship NCSS conference/publications
* 1987 95% of NCSS members white; 2007 89% white; same % today

1. **Which issues were most volatile and why do you think that was so?**

* To test or NOT to test in social studies
* Social studies should be part of the accountability system

1. **Has the NCSS developed along the lines you anticipated?**

* Membership continued to decline in all categories but individual members not as much as institutional members (economic recession)
* Embraced technology: CONNECTED site for communities, Assoc Groups; online publications;
* Conference innovations: First Timers Scholarships (35 in 2007 ; 97 2012) Total: 350 scholarships and $10,000 in six years
* Students Living Social Studies;
* Online proposal system
* New Standards book

1. **Who were some of the people who figured prominently in these issues and how would you characterize the parts each played?**

* Diane Hart (Conference innovations)
* Peggy Altoff (legislative advocacy)
* Susan Griffin (advocacy)
* David Bailor (conference professionalization)

1. **What were the connections between NCSS and other educational or research associations during your term in office?**

* Partnership with 20 social science organizations developed joint policy statements
* Partnership for 21st Century Skills Social Studies Curriculum Map

1. **What were the relations between the NCSS, government, business, and other organizations?**

* NCSS developed legislative agenda & urged state legislative liaisons to mobilize state council members to contact Congress

1. **What sort of general assessment might you make about the state of social studies in the U.S. at present?**

* Marginalization continues. Survey of Status of Social Studies proves that it continues (Jeff Passe, Paul Fitchett) 11,000 teachers

1. **What have been your most significant personal and professional relationships?**

* Husband Don of 44 years , two children, two grandchildren
* NCSS board member & San Diego conference chair Diane Hart and many board members and past presidents

1. **Do you perceive the social studies as a collection of disciplines or as a social studies discipline with its own identity?**

E Pluribus Unum (Out of the many disciplines, one goal)

1. Do you see the NCSS as more concerned about research or practice or some sort of balance?

* Emphasis is on instructional practice—see that in publications and budget priority.
* Insufficient emphasis on supporting research—fallen to CUFA

1. What do you recall regarding the following matters:
   1. The involvement of classroom teachers in the NCSS (expanded over the years (Board members & Communities)
   2. The role of minorities (focus of First Timers Scholarship)
   3. The role of the executive director and officers (close relationship)
   4. The role of the House of Delegates (resolutions guide policy)
   5. The role of committees (streamlined operational committees, increased communities)
   6. The role of task forces (significant work—underrepresented groups, international activities, revise standards)
   7. The definition of the social studies (remained the same-1989)
2. **Is there anything we have not covered about your term of office in NCSS that you would like to discuss?**

Urgent critical need to develop planned giving campaign; prioritize fundraising and developing new revenue streams including grants