



# The Local Network

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— Photograph by Brian Austin, SHSND

*The history of education in North Dakota since 1951 is the theme of this fall's 22nd Annual Governor's Conference on North Dakota History. Here are some students leaving Horizon Middle School in Bismarck.*

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Education Since 1951

## GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON NORTH DAKOTA HISTORY

October 29-30

The theme for the 22nd Annual Governor's on North Dakota History will highlight how education has been provided to North Dakota's youth since 1951. *The 3Rs in North Dakota: Education from 1951-2010* will be

held October 29-30 at the North Dakota Heritage Center in Bismarck.

Sponsored by the State Historical Society of North Dakota (SHSND), this is the second in a two-part theme for the annual education was provided to North Dakota's youth from 1870 to 1950.

The conference opens Friday with an full-day presentation by the Midwest Art Conservation Center in Minneapolis on "Cleaning Museum Artifacts: What's Right and What's Wrong," presented by Neil Cockerline.

Conference sessions begin Friday afternoon and will include Dr. Mary Harris, regents professor of education at the University of North Texas and former dean of education at the University of North Dakota, speaking on "Excellence and Community in North Dakota Education: 1951 to 2010;" SHSND Research Archaeologist Amy Bleier and SHSND Review and Compliance Officer Susan Quinnell will present an update on the Historic Country Schoolhouse Survey Project, launched in conjunction with last year's conference; discussing the role and impact of the federal government on state education systems will be State Representative and chairman of the House Education Committee RaeAnn Kelsch (R-Mandan); and Carole Barrett, associate professor of American Indian Studies at the University of Mary, will discuss Indian schools in North Dakota.

During Friday's community supper in the Heritage Center lobby area, entertainment will be provided by the New Generation Jazz Choir of Bismarck High School, followed by the annual awards presentation

Saturday, October 30 morning programs will include  
“Notable Events in North Dakota Education:

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1951 to 2010,” by Dr. Harris; “Sweeping Changes in Classroom Technology” by Bismarck Public Schools’ library media specialist Gina Swanson Phillips and Cindy Bleier, retired director of instructional resources for Fargo Public Schools; and “The Hot Lunch Program: Its Beginnings to Now,” by Harvey Schilling, food service director with the Bismarck Public Schools from 1972 to 1999.

In the afternoon, a panel of speakers from throughout the state will discuss alternative methods of teaching. They include Neil Howe of the North Dakota Center for Distance Education in Fargo, Cam Leedahl, a veteran North Dakota homeschool teacher in Leonard, North Dakota, and Father Albert Leary of Strasburg, North Dakota, now retired, who taught many years in central North Dakota Catholic schools. The moderator will be SHSND Editor Kathleen Davison.

Concluding the day will be a panel session entitled “Beyond the Book: Extracurricular Activities.” Speakers will include retired Century High School band director Tim Fogderud, retired Bismarck High School coach and referee Jack Lynch, Richardton High School’s speech and drama coach Susan Anderson, and Billie Anne Kaya, cheerleading coach at Bismarck High School. They will share their experiences teaching the extracurricular activities that have enriched students’ lives throughout the years. The moderator will be Walter Bailey, retired SHSND Historic Preservation Planner.

For more information, contact Communications and Education Director Rick Collin at 701.328.1476, email [rcollin@nd.gov](mailto:rcollin@nd.gov) or Administrative Assistant Kiri Stone at 701.328.2799 or [kstone@nd.gov](mailto:kstone@nd.gov). Student rates are available and Pre-registration is required. The registration form and schedule, along with online registration (credit cards only) are available at [www.history.nd.gov](http://www.history.nd.gov) as well as through the mail.

The topic for the 2011 Governor’s Conference on North Dakota History will be *Too Much or Too Little: The Story of Water in North Dakota*, set for October 28-29 at the North Dakota Heritage Center.

# StEPs

## Standards and Excellence Program for History Organizations

### *What is StEPs?*

**StEPs** is a voluntary assessment program for small- and mid-sized history organizations. The program, created by AASLH with funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, encourages awareness and achievement of national standards. Organizations that enroll in this self-paced, self-study program use assessment questions and performance indicators (basic, good, better) to rate their policies and practices in six standards sections. Participating organizations can clearly identify their strengths and areas needing improvement, and begin taking steps to plan for positive change.

### *How will this program benefit my organization?*

#### **StEPs offers:**

- **Increased credibility** with funders, your community, and shareholders
- **Education and awareness of standards** for staff and volunteers, members of your governing authority, and your community
- **A valuable opportunity to make the case for improvement** to shareholders for staffing, training, materials, and equipment
- **Improved policies and practices** based on national standards
- **Clear direction** for future improvement
- **Meaningful progress** - identify, articulate, and measure your organization’s accomplishments
- **Easier and more meaningful long-range and budget planning**
- **Preparation for participation in other programs** including AAM’s Museum Assessment and Accreditation programs.

### *How much does StEPs cost and how do we enroll?*

Enrollment is \$150 for AASLH institutional members and \$250 for non-members—this includes a one-year institutional membership. The enrollment fee is a **one-time payment** no matter if it takes your organization two years or ten years to earn the certificates (all organizations must maintain an active AASLH institutional membership to be eligible for the Bronze, Silver, and gold certificates).

**What do we receive for the fee?**

- **StEPs workbook** to help your organization assess operations, policies, and procedures and track progress
- **Active enrollment status** for as long as it takes your organization to complete the six sections (whether it takes two or ten years to work your way through the six sections you pay the enrollment fee only once)
- **Certificates** for each of the six self-study sections your organization successfully passes
- **National recognition** on AASLH’s website for certifications earned
- **Notification of your organization’s enrollment** to service providers in your area (i.e., state and regional museum associations and field service offices) so they may offer assistance, workshop invitations, mentoring groups, etc., depending on their schedule of programs and services
- **Discounts on AASLH workshops and technical leaflets** to help staff and volunteers of your organization gain skills and knowledge
- **Window decal** indicating your organization’s participation in the program
- **Access to the password-protected StEPs website** for news, additional resources, and discussion forums.

**Who created the StEPs program?**

AASLH has worked since 2005 to develop **StEPs** with the help of more than 130 people including museums and historic house staff and volunteers; staff

from state, regional, and national associations and field

service programs; consultants; and representatives of museum studies and public history programs. Forty-seven small-and mid-sized sites across the country piloted the program.

**Whom should I contact for more information about the StEPs program?**

Contact Cherie Cook, AASLH Senior program manager, at 573 893-5164 or at [cook@aslh.org](mailto:cook@aslh.org).

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**COMPREHENSIVE NORTH DAKOTA  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN  
Now Available On Internet**

North Dakota’s recently revised comprehensive historic preservation plan is now accessible on the State Historical Society of North Dakota website.

Periodic updating of the state’s comprehensive preservation plan is a federal requirement for North Dakota’s participation in the National Historic preservation program sponsored by the National Park Service. The program brings between \$500,00 and \$600,000 each year into the state to underwrite programs such as historic property surveys, national register of historic places registration. Building restoration, site protection, certified local government programs, and technical assistance to the public.

The plan is available by visiting the state history agency’s website at [www.history.nd.gov](http://www.history.nd.gov) and clicking on “Historic Preservation.”

The recent revisions are written in broad concepts and are intended to provide general guidance to North Dakota’s preservation programs. Broad goals and objectives cited in this plan are more fully developed annually for actual implementation. The plan’s contents were guided by comments gathered from preservation professionals, state and community leaders, owners of historic properties, and the general public after a series of public input meetings held throughout the state during the past three years.

# The Local Network

## Will Your Organization Lose Its Tax-exempt Status?

Earlier this year the IRS published a list of organizations in North Dakota with official tax-exempt status that have not filed the proper forms. Many historical organizations and small museums in the state with 501 (c) 3 status have not filed.

**ALL official non-profits MUST file. If you do not file the IRS will terminate your organization's non-profit status.**

**The IRS has extended the deadline to October 15, 2010.**

In the past (before 2006), small non-profits with annual income of less than \$25,000 per year did not have to file a return. Since 2007 all charities - including local historical organizations - have been required to file a return. Small non-profits with annual income below \$25,000 must file Form 990-N which is nothing more than a postcard-sized form. It can even be filed on-line in a very short period of time at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov). If your

organization has more income than that you may still qualify for the relatively short Form 990-EZ.

You don't want to lose your official non-profit status if you have it established. It has numerous benefits.

Among them are the ability to obtain funds from government agencies and private foundations, exemptions for the organization from paying federal and state income tax (you will be liable for them if you do not file), and provides an incentive to donors because they can deduct their gift from their taxable income.

If an organization loses its non-profit status by October 15<sup>th</sup>, it will have to apply to the IRS to regain it. This is a time-consuming process that also requires the group to pay the filing fee (\$400 for organization with income less than \$10,000 a year, and \$850 for those above that income).

This is one detail you don't want to slip away!

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