



## Newsletter

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### 2007 Fall Conference Summary

Once again, the NFUSSD Fall Conference was a hit! True to the state's claim of "Wild, Wonderful West Virginia", NFUSSD had no trouble experiencing the wild and the wonderful. There was a record turnout of NFUSSD members and 100% of the districts represented.

As usual, the four-day conference hosted by Kanawha, County, in Charleston, WV, was jammed packed with events and activities. The group was treated like a family coming home to visit during a reception at the Governor's Mansion. With the South Charleston/Capital High Schools String Orchestra Ensemble playing in the background, Governor Joe Manchin, III, and First Lady Gayle welcomed all to their recently renovated "home" for a tour and delicious food. The First Lady was also the opening speaker and spoke of various K-12 projects she supports.

The popular seminars, which are presented by member districts, examined innovative programs using the Conference theme, "Skills for Living in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century". One such project described how students plan and build a home each year in North Kansas City, MO. Jordan School District, UT, shared their strategies in teaching literacy through technology integration.

As always, the highlight of any NFUSSD Conference are the school tours. These were no exception. Kanawha County has much to be proud of with its National School of Excellence Weberwood Elementary School, its University Collaborative School, and its Ben Franklin Vocational School just to name a sampling.

On the wild side of the conference a bus trip was taken through the winding hills past the New River Gorge to Tamarack, a popular West Virginia visitor center. Another tour offered an opportunity to see how glass has been made for centuries. During the rides conversation flowed about the seminars and what was going on in local school districts.

Students and their education are continuously the topic any time two or more NFUSSD members get together. It is the nature of our membership, no matter the location! Thanks, Kanawha County, for hosting yet another learning experience.

**NOTE:** A special thank you is extended to Superintendent Ron Duerring, the entire Kanawha County School Board and Conference Coordinator Roger Stanley for the excellent program and hospitality.

## Executive Committee Highlights

The NFUSSD Executive Committee met at the Embassy Suites, Charleston, WV, on October 7. President Barry Newbold presided. Nominating Committee Chair Carolyn Campbell presented the Nominating Committee report. It was accepted and recommended for presentation to the Delegate Assembly. Budget Committee Chair Don Arnold presented their report. It was recommended to be forwarded for approval by the Delegate Assembly. The 2007 financial audit was approved. The next Executive Committee meeting will be held on a date and at a location to be determined.

## Delegate Assembly Highlights

A new Executive Committee was elected and a 2008-2009 budget was adopted at the annual business meeting of the Federation. Held on October 9, 2007 in Charleston, WV, the Delegate Assembly is required to meet annually to conduct the business of the Federation. Each district receives two votes – the superintendent and a designated board member. Welcome and congratulations to the approved slate of 2008 Executive Committee members who are:

### Term Expires

Elizabeth Andrews, President (DeKalb, GA)	10/08
Barry Newbold, Past-President (Jordan, UT)	10/08
Keith Lutz, Vice-President (Millard, NE)	10/08
James Crawford (Kanawha County, WV)	10/08
Stephen Crovetto (St. Charles Parish, LA)	10/08
Raymond Toler (Charleston, SC)	10/08
Kris Barnes (Duval, FL)	10/09
Charles “Chuck” Saylor (Greenville, SC)	10/09
Barbara Smith (Davis, UT)	10/09
Terry Ward (North Kansas City)	10/09
Terry Sandlin (Topeka, KS)	10/09
Sonny Savoie (St. Charles Parish, LA)	
Membership Chair	

## 2007 Fall Conference “Think Tank” Summary

Thanks to the hard work of Roger Stanley, Conference Coordinator, and Jim Withrow, General Counsel, William Courtney, Director of Employee Relations, and Jeane Ann Herscher, Title IX Coordinator, all of Kanawha County Schools, the “think tank” of **staff attorneys/policy personnel** had a valuable experience. Eight NFUSSD districts were represented and the discussion focused on 1) special education, 2) personnel issues, 3) student discipline and 4) federal requirements. After exploring general trends in court suits, the group zeroed in on current legal issues common to all. In his report to the membership, Mr. Withrow stated that all found the time together well spent and the new networking group planned to continue communications via email.

## Meet the President

NFUSSD is now under the leadership of Elizabeth Andrews. She has served on the DeKalb County Board of Education since 1979. She was the first woman to serve as chair. Elizabeth serves as the Board’s representative to many groups and committees including the DeKalb County Government and to the Georgia School Boards Association. Elizabeth was a member of the Board of Visitors of Presbyterian College in SC. She is also a member of many community organizations in the DeKalb area including the DeKalb Council for the Arts, the American Red Cross and the DeKalb NAACP. Elizabeth is an ordained ruling elder at Oakhurst Presbyterian Church. Her resume could fill this entire page, so suffice it to say, we are proud to have her serve as the 2008 NFUSSD President!

## **Duval County, Florida to Host 2008 Fall Conference**

It's never too early to plan for the next NFUSSD Conference. Set sails for Jacksonville, Florida for the NFUSSD Conference October 12-15, 2008. The site will be the Crowne Plaza Riverfront. The theme for the Conference will be "Building an Entire Community Partnership" and the focus "think tank" group will be those school system employees who focus on community partnerships. Details on hotel reservations and transportation will be shared in the spring.

### **Share the News**

We would like to share what is happening in your district, so please add the Federation office to your regular or email ([coyle@vsba.org](mailto:coyle@vsba.org)) mailing list, especially newsletters and annual reports. From those we can pick good news to share with others.

### **NFUSSD Websites**

Go to the NFUSSD website at [www.nfussd.org/nfussd.htm](http://www.nfussd.org/nfussd.htm) and you can access all member districts' websites.

### **District Requests are a Resource for YOU**

Remember that if you need information on a proposed policy, practice or issue, try a NFUSSD District Request. Superintendents (or appropriate staff) send the request to the NFUSSD office and we circulate it to the membership. Responses are sent directly to the requesting district. For more information call the NFUSSD office.

## **Jordan District, Utah, to Become Two Districts**

Voters in NFUSSD member District Jordan District, Utah, took a unique step last November and voted to create a new school district. Currently, Jordan is the largest district in Utah with 80,000 students.

The current Board of Education will continue to provide education services to students through the end of the 2008-09 school year. Transition teams representing the remaining and new school districts were announced Dec. 18, 2007. These teams have until July 1, 2008, to allocate assets between the remaining and new school districts. Elections for new school board members in both districts will take place in June 2008.

As Jordan moves through this transition period, all NFUSSD member districts offer any support as needed. Jordan District is a charter member of NFUSSD and has remained very active in it. NFUSSD looks forward to welcoming the new board that will be in place at the end of 2009.

### **A Sample of NFUSSD Good News! Yum! Cookbook Published!**

Eastern Technical High School Culinary Arts program in NFUSSD member Baltimore County Public Schools was recognized in "Yum!" cookbook. When readers of the new "Yum!" cookbook delight in the success of their pan-fried oysters or crunchy salad with toasted hazelnuts they will want to thank the more than 60 renowned chefs who contributed recipes plus the 22 Eastern Technical High Schools students who tested and tested and tested the recipes for weeks. **Yum!**