

**Electronic News Update from the
Michigan Council for History Education
April 1, 2009, Vol. VI, No. 9**

Dear Colleagues,

This issue is being sent a little early because we leave for a few weeks in sunny Arizona and some of you may not have heard about some opportunities with early April application deadlines.

Last Thursday, Annette and I were at the Ford Museum in Grand Rapids to hear H.W. Brands discuss "Obama & His Presidential Predecessors." Presented by the Hauenstein Center (GVSU) and the Ford Museum, the program was outstanding. A few upcoming Hauenstein Center programs are mentioned below. Let me also urge you to join us at the 51st Annual "Local History Conference" at Wayne State University on Fri.-Sat., April 17-18. There are many fascinating sessions and speakers.

And, in a shameless act of 'self-promotion,' please join the "Patriots & Presidents" Saturday, May 30th, Tour sponsored by the Historical Society of Michigan. Along with a visit to the Home & Presidential Museum of Rutherford B. Hayes, you will see the Fallen Timbers Battlefield (1794), and two war of 1812 sites, Fort Meigs and River Raisin Battlefield. Narration includes background on the "Sixty Years War for the Great Lakes" and educational resources. (Registration details at www.hsmichigan.org I do hope you can join us.

In general, items have been edited as more information is normally available at related websites. My thanks to the many folks who provided a wide range of items for this issue. I learn so much from so many people in compiling this monthly report.

Dr. Jim McConnell (jam1776@sbcglobal.net)
Editor, MCHE E Notes

NOTE: The pdf attachment contains the same content as the message below. It is sent for those of you whose machines mess up the text of the E Notes. I hope this is helpful. This issue contains other attachments that related to specific items discussed below.

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1. Apply by April 3rd for MDE/OEAA Summer Item Writing Workshop

Write Items for Future Assessments The OEAA is seeking enthusiastic and dedicated Michigan educators to help us write items for future statewide assessments (MEAP, MME, SCAS). Training and item writing will occur in Lansing in Summer 2009. New participants will be trained in the principles of writing items and aligning them to the Michigan Content Standards. Sessions are scheduled for:

- June 16, 17 and 18 - Mathematics
- June 17, 18 and 19 - Social Studies
- June 23, 24 and 25 - Science
- June 23, 24, 25 and 26 - ELA (Session 1)... and August 5 and 6 - ELA (Session 2)

You may apply to participate in ONE content area only, and must attend ALL scheduled days for that content area (three days for Mathematics, Social Studies or Science; six days for ELA). Item writers will receive reimbursement for travel expenses, a base stipend of \$600, and a per-item payment for each item that passes review by our Contractor (Pearson). Interested educators who have not previously served on a Michigan Item Writing Team have until April 3, 2009, to apply. Go to www.michigan.gov/meap, then click on "Item Writing Workshops 2009" for complete details. If you have questions regarding these workshops, please contact Dr. Bill Brown at 517-335-0568, or via email at: BrownB6@mi.gov.

2. Sat., May 30, "PATRIOTS & PRESIDENTS" - Historic Sites Bus Tour

Join the Historical Society of Michigan for an educational day highlighting historic sites in southern Michigan and northern Ohio . The Sat., May 30, tour begins at 8:00am and lasts to approximately 6:00pm. Tour stops include: * Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center - Speigle Grove in Fremont , Ohio * Fallen Timbers Memorial & Battlefield in Toledo , Ohio * Fort Meigs State Memorial Park in Perrysburg , Ohio * River Raisin Battlefield War of 1812 Visitor Center in Monroe Michigan

Registration for the bus tour is \$99 for HSM members and \$125 for non-member (includes an HSM membership) and includes charter bus transportation, buffet lunch, all admissions and full tour narration. provided by Dr. Jim McConnell, a member of the Michigan Commission on the Bicentennial of the war of 1812. McConnell, a former HSM Trustee, also serves on the Michigan Historical commission. The Patriots & Presidents Bus Tour leaves at 8:00am from northeast corner of the Northville Meijer parking lot located at 20401 Haggerty Rd , Northville , Michigan , 1/4 mile west of I-275. Bus Tour Registration Options available at www.hsmichigan.org or all HSM at (517) 342-1828 to register by phone and pay with a credit card. **Registration deadline is April 29, 2009**

3. Local History Conference set for Fri.-Sat., April 17-18 in Detroit

The 51st annual Michigan in Perspective: the Local History Conference will be held April 17-18 at the McGregor Conference Center on the Wayne State University campus. Several keynotes and many breakout sessions are planned that focus on Detroit area history as well as sessions that focus more broadly on local history in Michigan. A new opening keynote, this year featuring Sojourner Truth: One of Michigan's Most Famous Citizens by Cornell University professor Margaret Washington, has been added to the conference. Other keynotes include the History of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra by orchestra historian Paul Ganson, Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick: the Scandal that Rocked Detroit and the Region by Detroit Free Press reporter M.L. Elrick, and I've Got a Home in Glory Land: A Lost Tale of the Underground Railroad by Dalhousie University professor Karolyn Smardz Frost. The complete conference schedule and session descriptions are available at www.hsmichigan.org or (517) 324-1828.

4. Save the Date: Wed., Nov. 4, 16th Annual MCHE Conference, Lansing Center

We are seeking presenters on "History" themes. For an application form, email Jim Cameron, MCHE Executive Director, at cameronj@saline.k12.mi.usThe form will be posted on our website, www.michiganhistoryed.org, in a few weeks.

5.Travel to Michigan Museum Historic Field sites: How far would you travel Contest

MCHE is cosponsoring, with the Michigan Historical Commission, a unique "How many miles would you travel to visit Michigan's Historic Field Sits" Contest. Program guidelines and entry forms ay be found at www.michiganhistoryed.org May 1st is the entry deadline. (Form attached as pdf)

6. McConnell & Gilder-Lehrman History Educator Award Nomination Due Fri., May 1st.

Criteria for awards and full details at www.michiganhistoryed.org or email MCHE Awards Committee Chair Gordon Andrews at gandrews@portageps.org

7. Summer Professional Development Opportunities from MCHE:

A. Michigan Geography & History Workshops, June 15-19, Ingham ISD, Mason or June 22-26, Kent ISD, Grand Rapids

Participants will receive resources, e.g., maps, timelines, reference materials, CDs, etc. SB-CEUs are available. Cost is FREE to 6-12 teachers in Grand Rapids or Lansing Public Schools; \$100 for other teachers. Central Michigan University is offering these workshops for 2 Graduate Credit For more info, email Marty Mater at mater1ml@cmich.edu

B. MCHE/Genesee ISD Library of Congress Workshop

Twenty classroom teachers and media specialists are sought to develop resource materials using the Library of Congress "American Memory" website, www.loc.gov The workshop will be held Wed.-Thurs., August 5-6, , AND Wed.-Thurs., August 19-20, at the Genesee ISD in Flint, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Participants must attend all four days. \$500 honorarium paid upon completion of lesson. Applications must be received by Friday, May 1st. Applications will be available in mid-april at www.michiganhistoryed.org. Please contact Roy Sovis, 810.591.4520 or rsovis@geneseeisd.org or Dr. Jim McConnell, 734-525-2962 or jam1776@sbcglobal.net, for more information.

8. What is the Future of "HISTORY" in Michigan?

Governor Granholm recently stated that she plans to issue an Executive Order disbanding the Department of History, Arts, and Libraries. While agreeing that the state fiscal crisis calls for action, the Michigan Historical Commission does not concur with this proposed action.

Attached, as a doc, is a statement sent to the Governor from the Commission. Additional information on this issue is available at www.historicmichigan.wordpress.com

9. 'Seeking Michigan' Web Site Employs Today's Technology to Deliver Michigan's History to Information Seekers

The Department of History, Arts and Libraries has launched "Seeking Michigan", (www.seekingmichigan.org), a website featuring a growing collection of unique historical information that - through digitized source documents, maps, films, images, oral histories and artifacts - creatively tells the stories of Michigan's families, homes, businesses, communities and landscapes. Seeking Michigan's first major project is the digitization of roughly 1 million death records covering the years 1897 through 1920. These records - never before available electronically - are indexed for easy searching by name, death date, location and age, and hold tremendous research opportunities for genealogists, historians and students. According to Sandra Clark, director of the Michigan Historical Center, Seeking Michigan boldly moves the archives and library experience outside of the bricks and mortar of the building in which the collections are housed."For K-12 educators, there's also a 'teach' page that links up with related

resources and grade-level content expectations." To learn more, visit www.michigan.gov/hal.

10. Upper Peninsula History Award Nominations Sought

The Historical Society of Michigan is seeking nominations for TWO Upper Peninsula history awards: the Charles Follo Award, given annually to an individual or couple since 1979, and the Superior Award to recognize an historical organization in the UP that has made unique and lasting contributions to the preservation and advancement of UP history. Both awards will be presented this year at the 60th annual Upper Peninsula History Conference in Newberry June 26-28. Please visit <http://www.hsmichigan.org/> for a nomination form . Deadline is May 1, 2009.

11. Abraham Lincoln Essay Contest Invites Michigan Students to Explore the 16th President's Legacy of Leadership

The Michigan Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Committee, in partnership with the Michigan Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS), is pleased to announce "Essays About Lincoln," a statewide writing contest celebrating Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday. Entry deadline is April 4, 2009, and full details are available at www.milincoln.org.

The essay themes are broken out into two categories:

Grades 5-6: Lincoln's Leadership – Then and Now (What President Lincoln's Life and Leadership Mean to Me) Grades 7-8 and 9-12: Lincoln's Leadership – Then and Now (How President Lincoln's Life and Leadership Inspire Me Today) For full contest rules, mailing guidelines, and downloadable entry coupon and release form, visit www.milincoln.org. All entries must be postmarked by April 4. The mission of the Michigan Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Committee is to provide leadership and direction for Michigan's celebration of the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth.

Learn more at www.milincoln.org.

12. Churchill Seminar at Hoogland Center, Hillsdale College, in April

Fri. and Sat., April 17-18, the Hillsdale College Hoogland Center for Teacher Excellence will host an on-campus program on the topic of Churchill. Titled, "Winston Churchill and the Virtues of Statesmanship," this two-day seminar is co-sponsored by The Churchill Centre. Participants will explore the statesmanship of Churchill through lectures and small group discussions led by Hillsdale College faculty and guest speakers. Details at www.hillsdale.edu/cte or call 866-824-6831. For info, Margie King at margie.king@hillsdale.edu

13. GP Witteveen photo log, Japan spring/summer

Have a look at my impressions of Japan between now and late June, after being away 5 years, <http://tinyurl.com/jp2009> --GPW, visiting researcher at Hokkaido University Museum in Sapporo
From: "Guyen Witteveen" <sjmi@hotmail.com> or witteveen@museum.hokudai.ac.jp

14. Resources offered by Meaghan Davies on Website

To Whom It May Concern, I am a former teacher starting a website that will help teachers to accommodate for learning disabled students in the classroom. I am working with a very limited

budget and am counting on word of mouth marketing. Please consider reviewing my website and passing it along to other educators. www.inclusion-lessons.com blog
www.inclusionlessons.wordpress.com Thank You. Sincerely, Meaghan Davies
<neon7878@yahoo.com>

15. Call for Papers: 34th Annual Great Lakes History Conference, Nov. 13-14,
Theme: Indigenous Peoples of the Globe: Colonization and Adaptation; Native author Sherman
Alexie is the keynote on Friday night. - Allendale OR Grand Rapids. Sponsored by Grand Valley
State University's History Department, For more info, contact Scott L. Stabler, PhD. Grand Valley
State University stabl原因@gvsu.edu

16. More Model USHG Curriculum Now online

Dear colleagues:

We are happy to inform you that Unit 2 of US History and Geography for high school (Ninth
Grade) has been posted to the website. Please note that in the lessons and supplemental
materials you will find the following:

* ACT Timed Reading Prep * How to Write a Narrative * Primary and Secondary Sources * A
Variety of Pedagogical Strategies
* Content Literacy Strategies * Maps, tables and graphs containing data for students to
analyze * A rubric for evaluating historical narratives We have also posted a series of lesson
plans for Unit 1 in Sixth Grade. Revisions have been made to the following materials as well:
Grade 4, Unit 3 and lessons 1-4 Kindergarten, Unit 3 You can get to all of these materials by
going to www.micitizenshipcurriculum.org Should you have any questions or concerns, please do
not hesitate to contact me at the number given below. Sincerely, Kelly Carey, Curriculum
Production Consultant, Oakland Schools, Kelly.Carey@Oakland.k12.mi.us, (248) 209-2016

17. Michigan Educators Get MORE Quality Teaching Tools and Resources - Free at <http://more.mel.org>

'MORE' resources are aligned with State of Michigan grade-level and high school content
expectations The Library of Michigan, the Michigan Department of Education and Wayne State
University announced the official launch of "MORE in MeL.org" (Michigan Online Resources for
Educators at <http://more.mel.org>). MORE is a growing Web-based collection of thousands of
high-quality, digitally available information resources that gives teachers a significant edge in
providing an enhanced educational experience for their students. Culled from a number of well-
known education resources like ThinkFinity (formerly Marco Polo) and the Michigan Teacher
Network and selected by library and educational media specialists working in the content area of
their teaching certifications, MORE resources include lesson plans, curriculum guides, interactive
games and Web sites, career-development guides, parenting information and much more. Each
MORE category includes links to sub-categories that distill the resources down to individual
teaching concepts.

According to State Superintendent of Public Instruction Mike Flanagan, the value of these
resources lies in the metadata that includes an alignment to the content expectations down to
the most granular part of the statement. This alignment is not done by machines but by

Michigan educators working in their content areas. Flanagan applauded the efforts that have made MORE a reality. "It's a critical part of the job for teachers to ensure their lesson plans and long-term goals for students are right in line with Michigan's standards," he explained. Seeking to keep educators firmly a part of the GLCE and HSCE alignment process, the MORE partners will hold spring and summer alignment workshops and teacher participation is crucial. Explore Michigan Online Resources for Educators at <http://more.mel.org>.

18. Civil War Sesquicentennial public meetings planned

Serving as the planning committee for the Civil War Sesquicentennial , the Michigan Historical Commission is holding a series of hearings seeking comment on plans and possible activities. The schedule includes:

- Saturday, March 28 at 1:00 PM (Detroit Historical Museum, Detroit)
- Tuesday, April 7 at 6:30 PM (Michigan Historical Center, Lansing)
- Wednesday, May 6 at 6:30 PM (TBD, Grand Rapids)
- Saturday, May 30 at 2:00 PM (TBD, Marquette)

To read the Civil War Sesqui Work Plan, please visit :

www.michigan.gov/hal/0,1607,7-160-17445_19277_19527-209868--,00.html For more information, contact Mary Patrick, patrickm@michigan.gov

19. How K-12 social studies or history educators prepare their students for field trips to historic sites.

You are invited to be a participant in a new research study about how Michigan K-12 educators prepare their students for school field trips to historic sites. Educators who bring students for visits, in partnership with historic site professionals, strive to meet the learning needs of students. By asking educators about their classroom practice, this study will provide important information for helping students make the most of their experiences during field trips. We really value your input on this topic.

Participation is easy! Please click on the link below, and you will be taken to the online survey at SurveyMonkey. The survey consists of questions about what you do to prepare your students in the classroom, what kinds of materials and tools you prefer using, and how these methods and materials work for your students. Completing the survey takes less than 20 minutes.

For more information, please contact Denice Blair Leach, College of Education, 401 Erickson Hall, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824 / leachden@msu.edu.

www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=ib3FTjqHRMa_2fR8Hel90svQ_3d_3d

20. "Detroit's Chinatown" exhibit opens April 4 at Detroit Historical Museum

This three-month exhibit, sponsored by **Wayne State University**, reveals the untold stories of Chinatown residents and the current presence of metro Detroit 's Chinese American population. The ***Detroit's Chinatown*** exhibit uses stunning photography, artifacts, and personal interviews of former Chinatown residents to illustrate the contributions of this lost cultural area. Local artifacts, including grocery scales from the 1800s, a silk dress purchased from a Chinatown business, original paraphernalia from **Chin Tiki**, a Polynesian-style restaurant and club, and images from previous Chinese New Year celebrations, reflect the experiences of

Chinatown residents and visitors.

"I'm really excited to provide the opportunity for visitors to come and view the Detroit 's Chinatown exhibit, because the Asian American presence in and contribution to the city of Detroit have not been highlighted in our public institutions until this point," said **Chelsea Zuzindlak**, the exhibit's curator. Detroit 's Chinatown began when Chinese laundrymen first settled in the city at Third Ave. and Porter St. in 1872. A new wave of immigrants led by five Chinese families opened restaurants, groceries, and a Chinese school between 1910 and the late 1950s. In 1963, Chinatown relocated to Cass Ave. and Peterboro St. , where it experienced some success before political and social changes led to its demise in 1987. For more info, call **(313) 833-1805** or check www.detroithistorical.org.

21. Sat., April 25, *Revolutionary Detroit Symposium*

This special one day program examines Detroit in the years surrounding the American Revolution. Strategically, control of Detroit meant control of the Northwest. The interplay of people and politics created dynamics in Detroit that were experienced nowhere else. Unique human stories bring new perspective to a period we thought we knew so well. *Lunchtime Keynote Speaker* • Brian Leigh Dunnigan –Curator of Maps at the William L. Clements Library, University of Michigan, and author of *Frontier Metropolis: Picturing Early Detroit, 1701-1838*. *Registration* • \$20 Adult, \$15 DHS Member, \$10 Student –Includes lunch Advanced Registration Suggested For more details and registration –www.detroithistorical.org/main/upcoming or call 1-313-833-1801

22. Hauenstein Center offers Great programs in April & May

April 2,, 7:00 PM, President Obama's First 100 Days: A Debate

Join Grand Valley's Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies at the Fountain Street Church for a debate between *The Nation's* Katrina vanden Heuvel and *National Review's* Rich Lowry.

- *ATtFountain Street Church, 24 Fountain Street NW, Grand Rapids, MI*

April 16-17, President Barack Obama & the Lessons of Antiquity

Conference at Grand Valley State University

Gerald R. Ford Museum & Grand Valley State University's DeVos Center, downtown Grand Rapids.

On April 16 and 17, classical scholars from around the country will gather in Grand Rapids, Michigan, to put Barack Obama's presidency in the context of the American founding generation, and Greek and Roman antiquity. What did the founding fathers know of antiquity, and how did it inform their constitution of the United States? How does antiquity continue to influence Americans today? These are a few of the questions that the conference, organized by the Hauenstein Center and J. Rufus Fears, will attempt to answer.

May 7, 7:00 PM , Saving the Jews: Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Holocaust

Gerald R. Ford Museum Auditorium, 303 Pearl Street NW, Grand Rapids, MI

Join Grand Valley's Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies and the Ford Foundation, Library & Museum for a presentation by bestselling author Robert Rosen.

Please RSVP for any Hauenstein Center event at www.allpresidents.org or by calling (616) 331-2770

23. The Right to Rise: Abraham Lincoln and the Pursuit of Happiness

To read an interesting Speech by Brian Flanagan on Abe, please visit www.allpresidents.org.

24. March 2009 Trivia question of the month

Where in Michigan can you see an IMAX film describing the Journeys of Ibn Batutta? (I know, this is an easy one so answer quickly if you wish to win the PRIZE!

- 1. Frank Hamet, 4th grade teacher, Bates Elementary, Woodhaven-Brownstown School District
- ANSWER: Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn
- 2. Joyce Gibson, Middle School, Gull Lake Community Schools, Richland.
- 3. Kelly Eddy, Churchill High School Livonia schools
- 4. Dawn Whitehead", Birmingham Schools

25. April Trivia Question

Name the Presidential Home closest to the Northville Mejier Store (Eight Mile and Haggerty) that is open to the public and what is the tour date that will visit this "National Treasure"?

First three correct answers receives a 'valuable' prize. Email to jam1776@sbcglobal.net

26. HSM and Le Roy Barnett collecting information on unpublished newspaper indexes

Researchers of all kinds-scholars, genealogists, historians, journalists, etc.-often make use of newspaper indexes. Such locator guides can easily and quickly help a person find the information they are seeking. Unfortunately, many newspaper indexes across the "Wolverine State" are unknown beyond the institutions that hold them. Imagine how helpful it would be if an inventory was made of all extant indexes to Michigan newspapers! The Historical Society of Michigan is working with retired archivist Le Roy Barnett, formerly of the State Archives, to create such a list and make it available on the Historical Society of Michigan website for research use. If a catalogue of all Michigan newspaper indexes is going to be created, we are asking for assistance from interested parties across our two peninsulas. If you are aware of a non-published index for a Michigan newspaper (it is assumed that published ones will be widely disseminated and thus commonly known), can you please bring it to our attention by providing the following information?: 1. Name of newspaper. 2. Dates covered. 3. Scope of index (subject, personal names only, etc.). 4. Format (bound, 3x5 cards, 3-ring binder, microfilm, on line, etc.). 5. Name of holding repository. For more information please contact Barnett at Dot_Lee@cablespeed.com or the Historical Society of Michigan at hsm@hsmichigan.org .

27. Find Michigan's Distances and Travel Times

With this calculator on the Michigan Department of Transportation's website, you can check the

distance and travel time between many Michigan cities. Go to: <http://mdotwas1.mdot.state.mi.us/public/distcalc/Distance.cfm>. From State Senator Glenn S. Anderson's Monthly Constituent Newsletter.

28. Michigan's Defining Moment offers Two Views on 2010 Con-Con Election Issue

To help you begin to work with your students on a key ballot proposal in November 2010, the following two articles provide some background. They have not been edited.

A. Time for a Con-Con? By John Bebow - March 4, 2009

If Michigan citizens want to get serious about transforming the way our state works, from how we spend the public purse to how we elect leaders, to the size and role of government, then it's time to rip up the Michigan constitution for the first time in a half-century and start over, argues former state schools superintendent Tom Watkins...

Typically, opponents argue that opening the Constitution would invite unwelcome, extremist proposals. It could help cement into the Constitution every pet peeve of the moment, from legalizing marijuana to allowing public funding for private and parochial schools to permitting capital punishment.

Clearly, there are risks when you open government for review by the people. Yet, as our fellow citizens have proved at least three times in the past, we do have the ability to change and update our ability to govern ourselves. Constitutional convention members have tended to abide by the notion that a constitution is best when it lays out the framework of self-governance without locking specific policies into a document. Those are best left for legislative debate.

The special interests, vested in the status quo, will try to scare the voters into preserving the current system. But as conditions continue to deteriorate in Michigan and long-term problems keep getting ignored, residents must keep asking: Is the current system of government in Michigan meeting my needs?

*Like a 1963 car, the Michigan Constitution needs a tune-up. When you go to the ballot box in November 2010, you face choice of whether to open up the constitution to a statewide convention of locally elected delegates. How will **you** vote?*

This entry was written by John Bebow at "Michigan's Defining Moment site."

B. GUEST COLUMN: No so fast on a Con-Con By John Bebow - March 20, 2009

Editor's Note: The Center recently referred to a column by former state schools superintendent Tom Watkins arguing in favor of a rewrite of the Michigan Constitution to cure some of the state's public policy ills. In this guest column, Michigan Chamber President & CEO Richard Studley responds with the opposite argument...

By Richard K. Studley, President & CEO, Michigan Chamber of Commerce

On November 2, 2010, as Michigan voters go to the polls to elect a new Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, as well as all 148 members of the Michigan Legislature, voters will also be asked to decide whether to call a new constitutional convention for the State of Michigan – something our state constitution requires every 16 years. So what does this mean and why should Michigan's electorate care? The short answer is that holding an open-ended convention would be expensive (estimated at \$45 million or more) and could result in lengthy economic and political uncertainty for our state.

If voters approve the call for a new constitutional convention in 2010, delegates would be elected within six months. The election would be partisan, requiring a primary election and a

general election to be held no later than May 3, 2011. One-hundred-and-forty-eight delegates would be elected, one each from every State House and Senate district. These 148 delegates would convene in Lansing not later than October 4, 2011, and the convention could last at least until July 2012.

It is important to note, constitutional conventions in Michigan are unlimited in scope – they can propose a completely new constitution or offer numerous amendments. For example, if voters approved the call for a constitutional convention in 2010, issues could include:

- State legislative and congressional district reapportionment – how to do it.
- Direct gubernatorial appointment of all department directors eliminating commission or board appointment of directors of DNR, Agriculture, Education, Civil Rights and Civil Service.
- An elected or an appointed judiciary.
- Election or appointment of the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, and Wayne State University Governing Boards.
- Abortion rights.
- Term limits/Unicameral Legislature.
- Repeal of the State Officers Compensation Commission.
- Removal of the prohibition on the death penalty.
- Revisit the cap on the sales tax and the prohibition of a graduated income tax.
- Headlee tax limits and prohibition on new state mandates without state funding.
- Eliminate the elected posts of Secretary of State and Attorney General and provide for direct gubernatorial appointment.
- Public school district consolidation.
- Elimination of township government.
- Restore affirmative action programs by state government and public universities.
- Remove ban on same sex marriage.
- Permit physician-assisted suicide.
- Provide for drug legalization.
- Remove the prohibition on public aid to non public education.
- School funding and equity.

The Michigan Chamber of Commerce believes that constitutional change can and should come about on an issue-by-issue basis – which our state constitution currently allows – and not through a constitutional free-for-all at a convention.

The people of Michigan have adopted over the years four state constitutions – in 1835, 1850, 1908, and most recently in 1963. In contrast, the United States has had only one constitution over the past 222 years.

Since 1963, our current Michigan constitution has been amended 30 times; 37 proposed amendments have been rejected. Only nine of the 30 amendments adopted were a result of petition drives. Twenty-one of the 37 proposed amendments rejected by the voters were placed on the ballot by petition.

In 1978, the automatic question to call a new constitutional convention went before state voters for the first time since adoption of the 1963 constitution. Michigan voters defeated the call by a 70 percent to 30 percent margin and in 1994 by a 72 percent to 28 percent margin. The Michigan Chamber organized the opposition to a call for a constitutional convention in both campaigns. We stand ready to lead the opposition again.

Our current state constitution has served Michigan citizens well. Although not perfect, it contains no fatal flaw and should be retained.
