

HENRY GEORGE NEWSLETTER

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STATE COORDINATORS CARRY GEORGIST MESSAGE INTO NEW AREAS

The New York School has embarked on a plan to spread the Georgist message into states in which there has been no coordinated activity.

The program uses individuals working part-time to bring Georgist materials into the high schools, perform research on property tax data and get the series "Understanding Economics" on public access cable stations throughout their respective states.

These coordinators are already at work in Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey and Delaware. However, they are not intended to duplicate or usurp the work of Georgists already active in those states. Rather, they can, as professionals, provide the hours needed to perform the extensive leg-work and follow-up which does so much in promoting the Georgist concept.

Among the areas in which state coordinators are working are:

—**High schools.** The Land and Freedom series of 20 self-contained themes dealing with the importance of land in American history is being offered to educators free of charge in each state.

—**Legislatures.** Political education is always a concern. The coordinators have been keeping legislators aware of the present inadequacies of the property tax system.

—**Property tax research.** Obtaining data from the assessor's office in several districts in each state. These are then compiled in New York, where appropriate press releases are written and mailed with the coordinator as the contact person.

—**Cable television.** Searching out the various cable companies in each state and securing public access time for the 12-part series "Understanding Economics." Also researches cost-effective means of advertising the series in the viewing area.

—**Public Relations.** Assembling lists of journalists from each state to be added to the national Georgist press network which debuted last November.

—**Religious networking.** Searching out churches and religious organizations active in each state who share our concerns for social justice or our views on land use/ownership. Getting the names of contact people for each such group and following up on any mail sent from New York to these groups.

—**Adult education.** Still being explored is the possibility that the cable series might be offered as a course in various adult education programs around the country.

Many of these programs have already brought good results. Robert Tortorella, the New Jersey coordinator, has dug extensively into that state's social studies organization files and provided hundreds of instructors' names. Frank Nelson of Delaware, a long-time Georgist, has continued sending materials to public officials. Sheldon Neal of Connecticut has completed a survey of property tax rates in Hartford. And cable stations in all three states have signed on to carry UE. It can be seen in Connecticut and Delaware this winter, and will be shown in New Jersey later in the year.