The NCSL held its annual conference in San Francisco, California from July 21 to 25. The NCSL was expecting the conference to be the biggest they ever had. During that time, however, California was having a budget battle in Sacramento, and the California senators and representatives could not come to the conference. It was also mentioned that because of the national economy and the financial restraints many of the states are facing that fewer state senators and representatives came to the conference. The report stating how many people attended the 2003 conference will be on the Internet at www.ncsl.org.

This year Al Lubin attended the annual meetings for PREC of the Council of Georigst Organizations and Common Ground-USA in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Thanks to the article about the 2002 NCSL, three Henry George School helpers came to the rescue. Wendell Fitzgerald, Wayne Luney and David Giesen, all from the San Francisco area, volunteered to man the exhibition booths. The next problem was to get ten boxes of materials to the booth at the Moscone Convention Center in downtown San Francisco. Public Revenue Education Council is a low budget organization so I had the pleasure of driving alone out to San Francisco and back to St. Louis. I drove the northern route through Kansas, Colorado and Wyoming on the way out. My biggest impressions on the way out was the wall of a truck on I-80 in Wyoming, seeing full length trains in the Big Sky country (one train was pulling 78 flat and box cars), and the bad smell and flies at the Great Salt Lake. The lake was at its lowest level in several years.

When I got to the Moscone Center I drove to the underground docks to unload the materials. I was early and I noticed other exhibitors working on their booths so I parked in one of the huge bays and opened the back hatch of my Blazer to unload the ten heavy boxes of materials and carry them to PREC's booth area. When I turned around, about 15 dockhands and security guards surrounded my Blazer and demanded to know what I was doing. When I told them I was a low budget nonprofit exhibitor carrying my materials to my assigned booth, I heard, "NO, YOU'RE NOT!" The minimum dock fee was $255.00 plus tax. I told them I was alone and they didn't want to see a full grown man cry, so what could be done to lower the price? Since I drove my own car and did not report to the Marshalling Yard and was not going to park my car in the Marshall Yard, the bill was reduced to a flat $160.00. When I told them I would not be using the dock at the end of the conference and wanted the bill further reduced, I received a flat NO!

The booth was near the main entrance. We had a steady flow of people passing by except during lunch. We passed out the publication "Synopsis of Henry George's Progress and Poverty", for which the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation funded printing. The Center for the Study of Economics supplied the booklet, "44 Objections and Responses" by Steven Cord. Common Ground-USA sent a supply of "The Revenue Source Is Under Our Feet" and Internet postcards titled "World Wide Web of Georgist Home Pages." We had some materials in Spanish. There were representatives from Mexico. Gib Halverson's "Bibliography of Two Rate Property Tax, Land Value Taxation or Site Valuation" was also available. (* inserted in this issue)

David Giesen worked the first day at the booth. He seemed to enjoy the experience and holding people in a conversation about site-value taxation. Wayne Luney was a little less aggressive but he worked all three days and helped pass out materials. Wendell Fitzgerald was really having a good time calling to people as they passed the booth. He would get a person's attention and then ask them to "Come and talk about something exciting this morning." If they replied or not he said, "TAXES!" I was surprised to see how many people came over to talk with him. Wayne and Wendell would sometime double-up on a person and extend the conversation for 15 or more minutes.

Mr. William T. Pound, the Executive Director of NCSL, stopped by and remembered my request to have site-value taxation as one of the workshops for the legislators and their staffs but said no one from the site-value taxation movement contacted him or his staff. He said try again next year for a workshop in Salt Lake City.

PLEASE, someone in the Georgist movement who knows how to conduct panel workshops using power point contact me (home phone 314-727-8661; St. Louis Teachers Local 420 phone 314-781-2077.) Mr. Pound can be contacted at WWW.ncsl.org. Having a booth gives us exposure but putting on an annual workshop would be very beneficial to the movement. These workshops are not considered politicking. The workshops at these conferences are training and education. The 2004 NCSL conference will be held July 18-25 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The following is a sample of some of the people who stopped at the booth:

* Representative John J. Viola of Newark, Delaware, who wants to understand the possible benefits of site-value tax to Delaware.

* Joseph L. Bast, President of The Heartland Institute who was well versed on site-value taxation.

* Representative Richard C. Marron on Stove, Vermont, another government official wanting to learn more about site-value taxation.

* Naofumi Hida, Director of Japan Local government Center in New York, New York. He collected a set of all the materials at the booth.

* Representative Ro Foegge of Mount Veron, Iowa spoke long about getting ideas like site-value considered in Iowa.

* Candice Owley, R.N., President of the Wisconsin Federation of Nurses & Health Professionals and a Vice-President of the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO. She does not believe the great late president of the AFT, Albert Shanker, supported site-value taxation. She did remember that I bring the issue to the attention of the AFT each time it has a national convention.

* Luiz Paulo, legislative member from Rio De Janeiro wanted a copy of all (continued on page 6)
the material at the booth.

* David Piccioli, the Legislative Director for School Finance of the Illinois Federation of Teachers, AFT, AFL-CIO. He was attracted by the name Public Revenue Education Council. He took a hand full of materials.

If you ever get to San Francisco, be sure to go on the Henry George School walking tours of downtown San Francisco, led by David Giesen, a candidate for mayor of San Francisco, and possible governor of California. David attracted twelve people plus Wendell Fitzgerald and me. He showed us locations related to the Emperor of the United States, Joshua Norton; Henry George; Kate Kennedy of equal pay for women fame; and Sun Yat-sen who is honored with a large statue in a park in the Chinatown area of San Francisco. David was recognized by many of the people on the streets of San Francisco. Some wanted him to stop and talk but David kept the tour moving.

I drove the southern route through Arizona, New Mexico, Texas and Oklahoma on the way back to St. Louis. I stopped at Red Rock State Park near Gallup, New Mexico, where the annual Inter-Tribal Indian Ceremonial was to be held August 6 to 10, 2003. I enjoy visiting Civil War points of interest, so I went to the National Battlefield at Wilson's Creek, Missouri and the battlefield and museum at Carthage, Missouri. I am the Treasurer of the Jefferson Barracks Chapel Association at the National Cemetery in St. Louis, so I stopped to see the famous Precious Moments Chapel in Precious Moments Inspiration Park in Carthage, Missouri. The round trip to San Francisco was 4,735 miles.