



The Eclectic Report

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March 14-16—NDHSA's Christian Home Educators' Convention Alerus Center Grand Forks

Greetings!

Convention is soon here. Hope to see many of you there. Register now at: www.ndhsa.org. I am confident you will find great resources in the used-book sale and the vendor hall. Also, I don't want to minimize the importance of chatting with folks from all over the state. Such encouragement is priceless. I have spent more than 22 years watching the joys found in reconnecting with 'convention friends'. There are many interesting and helpful workshops and vibrant and sage keynote speakers, too. Below find information on the convention.

This month's newsletter contains:

- Mrs. Deckert's news... opening/expanding relationships with the DPI
- Possible workshop presentations for Mrs. Deckert
- Prayer requests
- Recap of hearing on SB 2329 by board member, Mrs. Karol Kapelle
- Convention reminders
- This and That Potpourri
- Lamplighter Guild

Grace and peace,
Gail



The View from my Window

By Theresa Deckert, NDHSA executive secretary

I had an excellent meeting with our new Superintendent of Public Instruction, Kirsten Baesler, during the Home Education Day (Feb.12) at the Capitol. The door for communication has been opened and I feel we have a great opportunity. During our visit, I addressed some concerns that may have ramifications for all N.D. home educators.

Following the 1995 legislative session the DPI took two years to make administrative rules to implement the North Dakota Century Code (NDCC) homeschool statutes. In 1997 they submitted their rules of administration to the rules committee. During the 1997 session HB 1368 removed the right of the DPI to make rules of administration for the homeschool laws. With the new superintendent in office, they are looking very closely at every portion of the education statutes in N.D. and subsequently several families have faced problems in their school district due to new 'interpretations' of the homeschool laws. Mrs. Baesler stated they are looking purely at the NDCC because they can no longer write administrative rules to implement the NDCC regarding homeschooling.

The NDCC says the compulsory attendance law applies to "a child between the ages of seven and sixteen years" (NDCC 15.1-20-01), therefore the DPI is stating that because the law has no cut-off date it means that 14 days before a child turns 7 a parent must file a statement of intent or they will be regarded as truant. **Their position:** it does not matter if it is in the middle of the school year. I did raise a couple of questions they are going to investigate, but that is their stand. I asked about public school children. **Their position:** the child must be enrolled at the beginning of the year the child will turn 7 because if they aren't in school on the date of their 7th birthday, they will be considered truant.

As far as testing, the **DPI's position:** a child scoring below the 30th percentile on **either** the math composite or language arts composite will need to be evaluated by a multi-disciplinary team. They contend the law uses the wrong language if it was intended to mean the total battery score. I did discuss with them the original intent in 1989 had been the total battery and that has always been the practice. They are going to get an Attorney General's opinion on this which may be a good thing as I believe on inspection it will become clear that that was the original intent.

Please note, when I visited with Dewitt Black at Home School Legal Defense, they disagreed with the department's interpretation of both of these issues. HSLDA will defend any member family who is flagged in either of these areas. **Mrs. Deckert's suggestion: The key is to make sure you are an HSLDA member.** One family in the state was turned over to Social Services as truant because of one the above.

... just because there are some Christian schools and homeschoolers who educate and prepare children poorly, it does not justify handing our children over for six hours a day, thirty hours a week to those who do not possess a Christian worldview. No matter how strong your children are, their souls will be vexed (worn down, or distressed) from day to day by the things they see and the things they hear (2 Peter 2: 7, 8). There was a reason that God didn't allow Israel to send their children to the Canaanite schools. If you take the time to reread the book of Deuteronomy, I think you will find the reason.

Mark Hamby, "Christians in Public Schools"

Farris on Fox News Saturday, March 2

www.ParentalRights.org president and constitutional law scholar **Michael Farris will appear on the Fox News Network's Huckabee show on Saturday evening at 8 p.m. Eastern.** (The show is often re-aired at later hours, too, so check your local listings.) Farris and host Mike Huckabee will discuss parental rights and the pending Sixth Circuit Court case, *Eric Holder v. Romeike*.

Positive results from the meeting: the DPI requested a twice yearly meeting with the NDHSA board and the DPI's home education liaison to discuss concerns, open the lines of communication, and brainstorm about working toward a better homeschool law. Secondly, the DPI will be sending a representative to our convention to learn more about home education. Finally, they shared questions they frequently get asked and for which they have no answer, causing frustration for the department. My task is to find answers to some of those questions. They will be posting a link to our website on their website, as well as information on our association.

I can only praise the Lord for His hand in the events of the Day. The mood at the Capitol toward homeschool freedom is very favorable at this time.

Pray with us for Open Doors New Opportunities for Serving

By Mrs. Jeff (Theresa) Deckert

I just wanted to share another opportunity the Lord has opened up. A high school counselor in Gackle/Streeter wants to do a presentation at their state convention on working with homeschoolers and has asked me to help her with it. It will be such a plus having professionals present materials to their peers that we have had input on. Please pray about this project. I think it is another door the Lord has opened. She also suggested that I consider doing a workshop at the superintendents' conference. We will see if anything comes from that, but it would be another opportunity. I suggested to our local superintendent that he may want to do a similar workshop as he has been so great to work with.

Prayer Items

During most of the years the NDHSA published *The Home School Report* (paper-based) we included a section with requests for prayer. I'm starting this again and urge you to send prayer items for the homeschool community to talk to God about. If you do not want your prayer request published, but would rather just the board pray about it, be sure to say so in your request. Email me at billboby@msn.com or the board at office@ndhsa.org

- Pray for what appears to be a very rapidly growing interest and respect for homeschooling. We can be thankful to our dear Lord for the people He has used over the past two decades. I'm thinking particularly of Clinton Birst. He was certainly the bulldog of stubbornness who wouldn't quit, no matter the set backs. I am praising God for him and his dear wife, Judi.
- Pray for a homeschool family as they travel a difficult road following the death of their husband and father. You can imagine what they must be going through. Yes, Daddy is in glory, but Mom and six children must go on without him.
- Praise God for the myriad ways in which Home School Legal Defense Association has advanced homeschooling in America.
- Pray for our board of directors: Pas. Ken & Llorra Knight, Jeff & Theresa Deckert, Pas. Jeff and Karol Kapelle, Sue Huntington, and Neil Toman.

If you have a prayer request you would like shared through *The Eclectic Report*, send it along to billboby@msn.com If you have something you would prefer only the board pray about, send it along to office@ndhsa.org

Report on Senate Education Committee hearing on SB 2329 February 12, 2013

By Mrs. Jeff (Karol) Kapelle

About 20 supporters of SB 2329 (plus several public school students) gathered for the Senate Education Committee hearing on Tuesday, February 12. There were also a few members of the N.D. School Boards Association (NDSBA) and Department of Public Instruction Superintendent

Kirsten Baesler and her assistant.

Senator Unruh introduced the bill and 9 others gave excellent testimony in support of the bill. Most focused on the fact that standardized testing doesn't work for homeschoolers. It is not an accurate indicator of a child's learning development. Others mentioned that homeschoolers have proven themselves worthy of being trusted with their children's educations. It was also noted that any home educating parent is able to take a national teacher's exam in order to meet the opt-out qualifications, so the bill is not excluding anyone. The Senate Education Committee had very few questions for those that testified in support of the bill.

Only one testimony was given in opposition. The N.D. School Boards Association representative testified that the legislature would be weakening its ability to tell if students were learning the "right" curriculum if they didn't have access to these test results. They also stated public schools have had difficulty in knowing where to "place" homeschool students that want to transfer into public schools because of a lack of adequate transcripts. She stated that they needed these test scores to know how to accurately place students in the proper grade.

Several questions were submitted by the Senate Education Committee members to the NDSBA representative with, admittedly, no real facts or statistics available to support the claims from the NDSBA's representative.

At a later committee work meeting, the Senate Education Committee approved an *amendment requiring the proper documentation of opt-out qualifications be provided with the Statement of Intent*. After almost no discussion, Sen. Heckaman moved to give a "Do Pass" recommendation. Sen. Marcellais seconded the motion. A unanimous "yes" vote resulted. Sen. Poolman will carry the bill to the Senate floor. (*Editor's note: SB 2329 passed the Senate Feb. 19, 2013 with y41 and n6.*)

Homeschool Poetry Anthology

LAST CALL for *Homeschool Poetry Anthology* published by the North Dakota Home School Association. Submissions accepted until the 2013 NDHSA Christian Home Educator's Convention in Grand Forks. Bring them with you to convention! Original work of poetry, regardless of age or style, is encouraged for review. Send submissions to Gail Biby at: billboby@msn.com

(NDHSA reserves the right to reject items considered inappropriate.)

CONVENTION Bulletin Board

CHECK for further information at our newly-updated website www.ndhsa.org

Complete convention booklet here: https://www.homeschool-life.com/sysfiles/site_uploads/custom_public/custom12197.pdf



Support Group Leaders' Encouragement

Friday, 3:00 p.m.
Hummingbird Room

Local support group leaders are welcome to enjoy a dessert and beverage and to meet our Regional Leaders.

Note: You *must* sign-up on convention registration form.

Grandparents' Tea

Friday, 1:30 p.m.
Hummingbird Room



We love having grandparents attend the convention. And they get FREE registration! Join us in a gathering designed for grandparents.

Note: There is a \$5 fee; sign up on the convention registration form.

Vendors

A Beka Books
Ambassador Publications
Character Concepts
Character for Life
Christian Light Education
Classical Conversations
FM Fencing Club
Glendive Dinosaur & Fossil Museum
God Calls Us To...
Heppner's Legacy
HSLDA
Institute for Excellence in Writing
John Birch Society
Knight Publishing
Knotty Pines Resort
Lampighter Publishing
Lois Wolford Johnson
Math-U-See
Moti-Venture
My Father's World
ND State Library
NDHSA
Oak Hills Bible College
Patrick Henry College
PATH/AASK
Perfect Praise Publishing
Reading Therapy Center
Right Start Mathematics
Simply Fun
State Historical Society of ND
Teaching Textbooks
The Works People
Truth & Life Ministries
Usborne Books
Worldview Academy ... and more!

Quick look at the schedule:

Thursday, March 14, 2013

12:00 p.m. -- 9:00 p.m. **Vendor Set Up** (Volunteers are welcome to help!)
5:00 p.m. -- 5:45 p.m. Used-Book Sale Set Up
6:30 p.m. -- 8:30 p.m. **Used-Book Sale**/Home Business Sale & Display - Ballroom #1
(Free & open to the public.)

Friday, March 15, 2013

7:30 a.m. -- **Registration** in main lobby
8:00 a.m. -- 6:00 p.m. **Vendor Hall Open**
9:00 a.m.--10:15 a.m. **Workshop #1**
10:30 a.m. -- 12:00 p.m. Welcome, Announcements, Singing and **Keynote Address**
Take Back the Land Rick Boyer

It has been said that the parents of the 1980s and '90s were the Moses generation--they left Egypt (government schooling) and headed for the Promised Land . . . Moses' generation only made it as far as the Jordan River. Homeschooling parents have broken free from the bondage of Godless philosophies and are raising up the Joshua generation that will carry the battle over the Jordan.

12:00 p.m. -- 1:30 p.m. Lunch Break
1:30 p.m. -- 2:45 p.m. **Workshop #2**
3:00 p.m. -- 4:15 p.m. **Workshop #3**
4:30 p.m. -- 5:30 p.m. **Choir practice** (Bluebird Room)
4:15 p.m.--7:00 p.m. Supper Break
6:00 p.m. -- **Vendor Hall Closed**
7:00 p.m. -- 9:00 p.m. Family Fun Festivities and Fellowship (Ballroom #1)

Saturday, March 16, 2013

7:30 a.m. -- **Registration** in the main lobby
8:00 a.m. -- 5:30 p.m. **Vendor hall open**
9:00 a.m. -- 10:15 a.m. **Workshop #4**
10:30 a.m. -- 12:00 p.m. Welcome, Announcements, Choir, Singing and **Keynote Address**

Breaking the Shackles-Why Parents Should Trust Themselves, Not Schools Rick Boyer

The hand of God is unmistakable in the story of America. Our Founders built . . . a nation organized on the principles of Scripture. . . early America astounded the world with its freedom, genius and productivity. But when the training of children shifted from . . . the family . . . into the realm of government, it took only a few generations to bring about the social, spiritual, moral and intellectual decay . . . Now, home educating parents are taking back their children and raising up a generation of bright, godly, competent Americans who understand their heritage and are determined to reclaim it for the glory of God.

12:00 p.m. -- 1:30 p.m. Lunch break and time to shop **vendor hall**
1:30 p.m. -- 2:45 p.m. **Workshop #5**
3:00 p.m. -- 4:15 p.m. Closing, Singing, Announcements and **Keynote Address**
Bound for Greatness Rick Boyer

The goal of homeschooling is not to produce future Einsteins, but to prepare our children to reach their maximum potential in every area of activity to which God calls them. This session explores the factors that motivate children to become great learners and great achievers. God has not called any of our children to mediocrity but to greatness. Come and learn how to bring out the champion that the Holy Spirit has placed inside your child.

4:15 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. **Final Vendor Hall Purchases**

State Homeschool Convention Choir

Is it too late? Check with
Karol: kapklan@gondtc.com

Adult NDHSA Member	\$27
Adult Non-Member	\$30
Teen NDHSA Member	\$18
Teen Non-Member	\$20
Vendor Hall Only	\$15
Grandparents	FREE

Note: Prices will be higher at the door; register today at www.ndhsa.org

TEENS and CHILDREN

We are so excited to have you attend the convention and we suggest the following workshops:

- Bill Jack - all sessions
- Chuck Black - "Dealing with Doubt"
- Llorra Knight - "Military Options"
- Jay Patterson - drama workshop
- Jamie Johnson - all sessions
- Kristina Kandel - "College..."

Older teens, we could sure use your help. If you could volunteer some time just make note on your convention registration.

March 14-16, 2013
NDHSA Christian Home Educators' Convention
Alerus Center Grand Forks

Next year's convention:
Jamestown Civic Center March 20-22, 2014

This and That

From Home School Legal Defense Association

- Help for Special Needs Students

Does your homeschool student have special learning challenges? Are you a co-op teacher seeking to accommodate a special needs child? If so, HSLDA's special needs consultants provide helpful ideas and resources. Start by reading the newsletter, "Building a Network of Support for Families Homeschooling Children with Special Needs." [Read more >>](#)

- Grants for Homeschooling Special Needs Kids

The [Home School Foundation](#), HSLDA's charitable arm, is offering grants for financially struggling HSLDA member families who are homeschooling special needs children. February is the current enrollment period. [Read more >>](#)

Snatched from Crosswalk.com

5 Things Every Son Needs to Hear from His Dad

By Daniel Darling

Raising sons is a joy. Here are five things every son must hear from Dad. [Read the full article here](#)

Visit our website

For state-specific information on homeschooling laws and the March convention visit: www.ndhsa.org

The Lamplighter Guild for Creative Disciplines

From Mark Hamby, President Lamplighter Guild

It is an understatement to say the Lamplighter Guild is a transforming week. How is an encounter with God adequately expressed? Through song? Prayer? Scripture? Writing? Painting? Drama? To



each of these, the answer is a resounding "Yes!" At the Guild, God's greatness is conveyed through His astounding creation—from the mountain's scenic grandeur to a glistening water droplet. The setting of the majestic Mohonk Mountain lends itself to quiet meditation as well as glorious praise! The Lamplighter Guild is a collision of human initiative and God's sovereignty. God has assembled—a team of masters, volunteers, prayer warriors, and generous givers who are laying the foundation for revival in the arts and hearts of passionate and committed students.

What is The Guild?

The Lamplighter Guild is a renaissance of creative excellence that inspires one to know God intimately and proclaim Him passionately. **July 14-19, 2013**, join the dramatic and visual arts masters in an unforgettable week of creativity with world-class instruction. Master instructors in: Theater, Drama, and Visual Arts (plein air oil painting). Hands-on-training with writers/producers from *The Chronicles of Narnia*, *Les Miserables*, *Adventures in Odyssey* and *Lamplighter Theater*.



RECEIVE \$100 OFF the regular registration price for the Lamplighter Guild if you use coupon code HEF213 and pay in full on or before April 30, 2013. www.lamplighterguild.com mail@lamplighter.com

"What your family needs most is the godliness of your own soul." Chris Klicka, *The Heart of Home Schooling*

NDHSA Board of Directors

Pas. Ken Knight, president and **Llora Knight**, west region support group coordinator, 701.880.6126 or knight_publishing@hotmail.com

Pas. Jeff Kapelle, director and **Karol Kapelle**, convention coordinator, 701.262.4446 or kapklan@gondtc.com

Neil Toman, treasurer, 701.222.0250 or ntoman@nd.gov

Susan Huntington, director, 701.663.7858 or essh2nd@hotmail.com

Jeff Deckert, director and **Theresa Deckert**, executive secretary & east region support group coordinator, 701.662.4790 or jntdeck@gondtc.com for specific

NDHSA items, use office@ndhsa.org

NDHSA statement of faith

Trusting in Jesus Christ as our Saviour, we believe in Almighty God, the author of all creation; the Bible as the inspired Word of God, complete in 66 books and the basis of faith and practice; the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son, the death of Jesus Christ for our sins, His bodily resurrection and His personal return; and regeneration by God, the Holy Spirit.

NDHSA Statement of purpose

1. Encouraging and assisting Christian families in the education of their children according to Biblical principles;
2. Providing to home educators and the general public information pertaining to the Biblical, academic and legal aspects of home education;
3. Entering into activities, in filling out contracts necessary, incidental or beneficial to the accomplishment of the nonprofit purposes of this corporation.

The Eclectic Report

Gail Biby, Editor

The Eclectic Report is published monthly by the NDHSA and is provided free to anyone who asks. The NDHSA is a Christian 501(c)(3) organization funded by the gifts of interested parties. No substantial part of the activities of the NDHSA is used for the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, promote any political campaign, or on the behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Legal issues are for instructive purposes only and do not constitute the giving of legal advice. If you need legal advice concerning homeschooling, contact Dewitt Black, HSLDA attorney of reference, if you are a member family, or contact an attorney familiar with homeschool law. Any comments or opinions are those of the editor and do not necessarily reflect the views of the NDHSA board or staff members. Bylined articles ditto! Advertisements likewise. If you have something that may be of interest to homeschoolers, or if you have comments or corrections, send them to the editor at billbiby@msn.com.

Gail M. Biby is the publications editor for the NDHSA and has been joyfully working with parent educators for more than 20 years. She writes a regular column for *Eternal Encouragement* magazine (a magazine by and for Christian women), serves on the advisory board for Mark Hamby's Lamplighter Publishing, writes a women's newsletter for her church gals, and volunteers with Caring Hearts Jail Ministry. She lives a modestly agrarian lifestyle in the Red River Valley of the North with a prince of a man, her husband Bill, and right next door to their daughter Aimee, son-in-love, Ray, and their six children. Mrs. Biby has been homeschooling her grandchildren for more than 7 years. Oh, the stories she could tell! Contact her at: billbiby@msn.com

NDHSA, P.O. Box 1066, Devils Lake, N.D. 58301

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Looking for a [support group](#)? Check out our website: www.ndhsa.org

Not a member yet of NDHSA? Family membership fee only \$35. Once you have given your tithes and offerings to your local church, why not consider a donation to the NDHSA. All funds are used to continue the work of the Association and will be used with great frugality and wisdom. But even if God doesn't lead you to donate, we hope that you will pray for the work of the NDHSA, the board of directors, and staff. **CHECK OUT NEW features at our website.**

Join Home School Legal Defense Association

to protect your right to homeschool in North Dakota and to support their work for us on Capitol Hill. Go to: www.hsllda.org Receive an HSLDA discount if a member family of the NDHSA.

Membership MATTERS!