



The Eclectic Report

NDHSA P.O. Box 1066 Devils Lake, N.D. 58301 1.701.662.NDHS (6347) office@ndhsa.org

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Greetings!

Good news for proponents of the **homeschool bill**. SB 2329 was signed by Gov. Dalrymple on Wednesday (goes into effect August 1). The NDHSA will soon be sending out information on *which* national teacher exam can be used to opt out of the testing section of the law.

Good news for **pro-lifers**, too. HB 1305 prevents abortion for sex selection or due to genetic abnormalities; HB 1456 prevents abortion if the heartbeat of the child can be heard; SB 2305 finally puts in place regulations on clinics and abortionists; SCR 4009 will be put to the vote of the people to determine if our state constitution should have a 'right-to-life' amendment; and SB 2368 would limit abortions and deals with the ability of the baby to feel pain prior to birth. Gov. Dalrymple has signed 1305, 1456, and 2305. SCR 4009 has passed and does not require the governor's signature. SB 2368 is currently in conference committee as the House and Senate attempt to work out their differences on the bill's wording. Historic. Positively historic.

Grace and peace to you and your family,
Gail

Family Fun Days

June 21 - 23, 2013

Sponsored by the Wendell and Beth Sip Family
More information in future *TERs* as the time approaches.

Sips are looking forward to another wonderful and encouraging time together so put it on your calendar. June 21 is the first day of summer so we are all hoping for nice weather and good attendance at this annual gathering.



The View from my Window

By Theresa Deckert NDHSA Office Administrator

I was recently asked about the requirements for being part of the NDHSA board of directors. I thought perhaps others may have wondered about this so I will tell you more about the role of an NDHSA state board member.

The NDHSA board is a self-perpetuating board. The by-laws require we have a minimum of 5 directors, but no more than 12. (We are currently at 10 and just interviewed for positions 11 and 12). Each director is elected for a 5-year term. A director may be elected to subsequent terms. Each director must be a resident of North Dakota and sign the statement of faith and purpose in good conscience. We receive no compensation other than reimbursement for expenses incurred while carrying out the purposes of the board if so authorized. We all pay our \$35 per year membership just like anyone else. If anyone misses more than 3 meetings without excuse they have surrendered their office.

Names for open board positions may be submitted either by board members or the general membership. Those nominated will attend 3 meetings, participating in and adding comments, but without the power to vote. After the third meeting, there will be an interview by the board with the prospective member. The prospect must be approved by a two-thirds vote.

For the past five years or so we have been working toward becoming what some would term a "working board". Let me explain how that plays out. Karol Kapelle is the convention coordinator and her husband Jeff acts as chaplain when that role is needed. Ken Knight is our president and has been on the legislative team as well as providing testimony. His wife, Llorra, is the board secretary and west region support group coordinator. Neil Toman is our treasurer, handling the finances. Sue Huntington is our resident historian because of her longevity with the association. I am the office administrator and east region support group coordinator. My husband is often the convention "go-fer" and helps with the finances during the convention. Our newest board members, the Skaars, were elected during the recent convention. Brian has been on the legislative team in the past and is learning the ropes for doing the convention recordings. His wife Bev has led the homeschool all-state choir for the last few years. The newest couple we are interviewing has spent several years as vendor hall coordinator and state art show coordinator. Each of us also takes a turn manning the NDHSA booth during the convention so we can visit with as many attendees as possible.

Above I listed the by-laws requirements, but thought I would also share my perspective on being a board member (the view from my window). Because of the nature of this board and the fact that this is a ministry organization, I believe each director must have a servant's heart and be willing to volunteer many hours working behind the scenes. I think humility and putting the needs of others ahead of one's own are also key components. That is why we look for those who have already proven themselves through volunteering at the convention or other events.

Because our support groups are the life blood of this organization, we also consider if the individual is deeply involved with their local support group. Those who have been involved in leadership in their local groups are great candidates for these positions. A board member must be "of good report" because he/she will be working with individuals. We also encourage couples to become board members together as this gives the sort of representation that we feel fits with the nature of homeschooling.



Some might wonder what sort of things make up the business of our meetings? In the last several meetings these have been some of the items of business: discussing where to take the copy machine for repair, deciding the next convention keynote, determining how many general sessions to have, taking care of tax information, planning the Day at the Capitol, interviewing the Skaars as prospective board members, working on website changes, online convention registration, PayPal paperwork, assigning next board article for *The Eclectic Report*, discussing testing issues of some families, and planning mini-convention in the western part of the state. We probably don't deal with a lot of earth-shattering issues. It is a pretty typical board, just directed toward home education.

So if your desire is for fame, influence or fortune then this is probably not the board for you. But if you have a love for homeschooling and homeschoolers and have a heart that wants to serve them, then you would find serving on the NDHSA board a very fulfilling experience.



Summer Camps for Computer Science

Our Computer Science Department has three different camps for kids ranging in ages from 9-18 during the summer. We have five different *Introduction to Lego Robotics* camps, three sections of *Advanced Lego Robotics* camps, two *Intro camps for Alice Animation* camps, one *Advanced Camp for Alice*, and a new one this year is a *Processing Camp* that will run all day the week of June 17-21st. The intro and advanced camps for the robotics and Alice are just ½ a day for a week. Some of the camps fill quite quickly! So contact Annette for more information on dates, locations, etc. Cost is around \$110 to \$125.

Thanks so much!

Annette Glennon,
University of North Dakota,
Department of Computer Science
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3950 Campus Rd Stop 9015
Grand Forks, ND 58202-9015
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June 10-14
Intro Robotic & Intro Alice
June 17-21
Processing Camp
June 24-28
Intro Robotic
July 8-12
Intro Alice & Intro Robotic
July 15-19
Adv. Robotic & Intro Robotic
July 22-26
Intro Robotic & Adv. Robotic
July 29-Aug.2
Adv. Robotic & Adv. Alice

Summer Vacation Option

Knotty Pines Resort- Music Workshops

Where: Nevis, MN

Contact: www.knottypinesresort.com or
stay@knottypinesresort.com 1.800.392.2410

What: Hosting **workshops** for beginners to intermediate level students in guitar, banjo, mandolin, dulcimer, autoharp, and vocal.

When: Dates: June 11, 12, 13; Aug. 20, 21, 22; and Sept. 6, 7, 8.

Knotty Pines Resort-Homeschool Family Vacation

Where: Nevis, MN, near Park Rapids

What: Homeschool Family Vacation Getaway; 10% discount and a one-day family pass to Itasca State Park for any stay of 3 nights or more from May 10-June 28 or Aug. 3-Sept. 25; offering optional Instrumental Music Workshops (see dates listed above).

Activities: fishing, swimming, boating, biking, hiking, campfires. RV sties available.

Wow! For the homeschool family and especially the musically gifted, this would be a great family vacation! Check out their website at:

www.knottypinesresort.com

Check this out!

<http://www.exam2jobs.com/sat-test.html>

Practice tests for just about everything and I mean *everything*, including the Praxis I (Previously used for parental qualification to homeschool; possibly the parental qualification choice for those who wish to opt out of testing based on philosophical, moral or religious beliefs.)



Small Defeats

eternal, God-shaped void. Mark Hamby, "Small Defeats"

...small defeats are often big reminders of sin in our lives. It would behoove us to begin a self-evaluation to see if there are any accursed things in our midst that are restricting the blessing of God. An accursed thing can take many forms, but it is always that which provides temporary satisfaction for an

Homeschoolers are . . .

One thing I know for sure about homeschoolers is that they are a very diverse group and growing more so each year. They are independent, often well-read, view this as a lifestyle, and are enthusiastic about many things!

... and homeschoolers sleep better, too!

Read about it: <http://njhealth.multimediansnewsroom.tv/story.php?id=549&enter=2#downloadsarea>

... and are artistic!

Christian Performing Arts Fellowship (CPAF) is a Christian summer festival program for musicians, dancers, vocalists, and actors called *The Masterworks Festival*. The festival begins June 16 and ends July 14 and is located in Winona Lake, IN on the campus of Grace College. The Masterworks Festival is a place where you can grow in your performing art as well as your relationship with Christ.

Contact Tiffany Rott at publicity@christianperformingart.org for information. Visit them at: www.masterworksfestival.org Or call: 574.267.5973

... and know many reasons to KEEP homeschooling! (From Mary Pride.)

Here are a few great reasons to homeschool.

- Your child can chew his breakfast pastry into whatever shapes he likes without [getting suspended](#).
- Your child can heroically disarm a gunman without [getting suspended](#).
- Your child can play "cops and robbers" without [getting suspended](#).
- Homeschool: where boys can be boys and girls can have "Hello, Kitty" bubble guns without [getting suspended](#). (Actually, that 5-year-old didn't even *have* a "Hello, Kitty" bubble gun - she was just *talking* about *maybe* getting one and comparing it to a princess bubble blower. For that, she got 10 days suspension - and had to meet with a counselor - for making a "terrorist threat"!

Now, aren't you glad you homeschool? :)

... and know how to be frugal. (Also from Mary Pride's enewsletter.)

[19 Ways to Get the Most from Your Library](#) Looking for the "free curriculum" mother lode? Here it is!

... and can produce high school transcripts

<http://www.thehomescholar.com/blog/best-time-to-start-your-homeschool-transcript/3051/>



BIBLE BEE is back by popular demand! Join the Bible Bee in **Minot** this year: **August 24 at New Life Lutheran Church**. Same building our church, *Living Word*, is located at 710 46th Ave. NE, Minot. This is **non-denominational and independent from any church**. Just the location.

The folks at **Bible Bee** have made the competition much *easier for memorizing* and *more involved for studying*. More emphasis on the written portion and fewer passages to memorize for the oral rounds. Some may remember when we had it a few years ago: There were more than 1000 verses! That served to eliminate half the potential sign-ups! Our family has been involved every year and it is truly a colossal blessing whether you participate for national competition, for local contests only, or **NOW THEY HAVE A SPECIAL FOCUS FOR FAMILIES**. Guaranteed - no doubt about it. **Top prizes at nationals range from \$5,000 to \$100,000!**

Check out www.biblebee.org Sign up began April 1. Each registered competitor will receive the **same materials on the same day in June** and have **until August 24 to study**. Tim will put it on the homeschool site in Minot - www.minothomeschool.org FINALLY, WE NEED **VOLUNTEERS** MOSTLY FOR THAT DAY - PROCTORS, JUDGES, GREETERS AND REGISTRARS. Also, if your church or family would donate \$50.00 that would help with costs (mainly advertising). Write checks to: *Minot Bible Bee*. Give **Pas. Jeff Hoverson a call at 340.8237**.

Promotional information:

How can 2 cards a week and 20 minutes a day deepen your family's relationship with Christ? Our desire is to help your family move closer to God and to each other as you learn, live out, and celebrate His Word. Register your children **ages 7-18** for the Bible Bee and learn how we equip and encourage a lifestyle of investing in and living out your relationship with Christ. For the **\$30 Registration Fee**, each contestant receives, *on June 1st*:

- 5 *Bible Memory Cards*. That works out to just over 2 cards per week during the summer, a "do-able" goal for your whole family!
- A *Bible* in one of five translations.
- A *Sword Study* in-depth study on one book of the Bible leveled for three age groups, enabling the whole family to study the same book at the same pace. *Sword Studies* don't just teach the Bible, they teach a lifelong skill of how to study and apply the Bible, in just 20 minutes a day.
- An official participant *Bible Bee T-shirt and button*.
- Gifts from our ministry partners that support the *Sword Study* learning.
- A *Parent Guidebook* that gives a solid overview of the study and includes a *Family Bonfire Guide*, so that you can easily lead your family in fun times of learning and sharing what the Lord has taught you throughout the week.

Pas. Jeff H. at 340.8237 www.biblebee.org www.minothomeschool.org



Convention Review Board Column

By Mrs. Llor Knight, board member, west region support group coordinator
Did you attend the 2013 NDHSA homeschool convention in Grand Forks? I did and, as always, I am very thankful I did. Why do we yearly drive several hours, spend more money than we'd like and take four days to do so? The answers to these questions fall into three categories: for **acquaintances**, **academics**, and **acquiring materials!**

At the annual convention we renew **acquaintances** as we build friendships with homeschoolers from around the state. While there we update these friendships on changes within the families – new babies, new grandbabies, deaths, pets, accomplishments, perhaps even tentative plans for the future. Surprisingly, after a short visit, the year's separation becomes insignificant and our relationship moves forward. I can't explain. It doesn't make sense. But each year is the same. Our friendships deepen. Over the years I can't remember ever coming away without having met a new friend, one with whom I hope to visit the next year.

Academics are another significant reason for going to the homeschool convention. Often I arrive exhausted, discouraged, and ready to quit. As I listen to the keynote speaker, who often has just the encouragement I need, I am motivated to continue my homeschool journey. Attending workshops bolsters my lagging confidence, often with ideas and inspiration to equip me to deal with a problem in my homeschool. Occasionally, a conversation with another attendee is enough to challenge and provoke me to be a better teacher. As I improve, in attitude and action, my children improve in scholastics and character. Sometimes the Lord allows me to be on the giving side of that equation. Convention also offers opportunities for my children to learn – from art and creation classes to legislative training and purity conferences. We all learn although we are usually still exhausted when we return home.

Generally another reason for attending convention is **acquiring books**. I love books. I collect books. I trade books. I sell books. And I buy books. At convention I am always faced with a plethora of book choices. Starting Thursday night at the used-book sale and not ending until the last moment on Saturday, I acquire books. What type of books do you prefer - fiction, biography, science fiction, romance, mystery, scientific, textual, scriptural, historical, traditional, modern? You will find any and all of these genres. Browsing the used-book sale will yield unimaginable treasures. Friday morning the vendor hall opens and once again I am faced with books, books, and more books, often at considerable savings. Curriculum, study resources, supplementary materials and leisure reading are all available in the vendors' hall. In addition to the used-book sale and vendors' hall there are also "Give Away" tables – yes, that's right – FREE BOOKS!

Attending convention is one of the highlights of our school year. Space prevents me from mentioning in depth the music, worship, games, legislative work, volunteerism, and quality time spent with the family. So, why do I attend the NDHSA homeschool convention? Why should you attend the convention? For friendships, fun and future studies. So plan right now, put it on your calendar, type it into your I-phone, I-pod or I-pad and **meet us in Jamestown, March 20-22, 2014**. I look forward to seeing you there.

Prayer Items

~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 ways Home School Legal Defense Association has advanced homeschooling in America.

~Pray for our board of directors: Pas. Ken & Llor Knight, Jeff & Theresa Deckert, Pas. Jeff and Karol Kapelle, Sue Huntington, Neil Toman, and Pas. Brian and Bev Skaar. We are more blessed than we know because of their leadership!

~A new pro-life clinic is starting in Minot. Pray for Tim K., homeschool dad, involved with this venture. Visit: www.dakotahope.org

~Pray for the Romeikes (see next page).

~Pray for and thank God for your family, your church family, your pastor.

If you have a prayer request to share through this newsletter, send it along to billbiby@msn.com or if you prefer only the board pray about it, send it to office@ndhsa.org



Help the Romeikes—in Two Easy Steps!

Protect homeschool freedom and ask the Obama administration to grant asylum to the Romeikes.

We have a major case going that involves the **Romeike family**, a homeschool family who had to flee Germany to avoid large fines, probably the loss of their children, and even jail time. They came to the U.S. and asked for asylum. Although they won at the trial level, the United States government wasn't happy with that decision and appealed to the Board of Immigration Appeals and won.

We have appealed to the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, and oral arguments will be held in about a month. Mike Farris will argue on behalf of the family. You may be asking, other than our concern for our brothers and sisters who are denied the freedom to homeschool in other parts of the world, could this case impact homeschooling in my state? Very good question! The answer is that it *shouldn't*, but because Eric Holder, the Attorney General, has argued that homeschooling is not a fundamental right, it *could*.

If the Sixth Circuit agrees with the government, **this could be a major blow to U.S. homeschooling freedom**. At least 34 state legislatures have recognized the right to homeschool via legislation and several of these states have provided unparalleled freedom. The legislatures did this because they assumed parents had a fundamental right—the highest level of rights we recognize in law—to homeschool. Our opponents are waiting in the wings to go back into these legislatures and pass new laws to require minimum teacher qualifications, curriculum content control, and extensive government oversight of homeschooling. A federal court ruling that fails to recognize parents have a fundamental right to choose homeschooling would open the door for them to start that process.

So, I'm asking you do two things:

1. [Sign the White House petition](#)* on behalf of the Romeike family, and then,
2. Ask your members and constituents to sign the petition as well, and to pray for the case and the family. Feel free to either forward my email or use the [press release](#) and/or [news article](#) for background. Graphics and photos of the family are available in the [Media section](#) of our [Romeike page](#).

By petitioning through www.whitehouse.gov, it is our hope that President Obama will recognize the unpopularity of the Attorney General's position and grant asylum to the family. White House petitions that receive over 100,000 signatures within 30 days are guaranteed a response by the administration (other petition sites have no such guarantee). Anyone 13 years or older with an email address can sign the petition.

This is a precedent-setting case that could impact future homeschool liberties in the United States and around the world. Please act now. Thank you for your help for this family. If you have any questions or comments, please get back to me.

Sincerely,
Mike Smith, president Home School Legal Defense Association

* P.S. The [White House petition](#) requires only your first and last names and an email address (does not need to be your primary email account). The zip field is optional. And remember, anyone in your family, 13 years or older, who has an email account can sign the petition. We should never let fear of the government stop us from standing up for what is right.

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
Pas. Brian and Bev Skaar, directors

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

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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!