



Greetings!

I've had a startling insight during the past 4 weeks: Even with being offline for a month, the world continued to revolve and most everything I'm associated with continued smoothly without me. Hmm . . . rather humbling to find this out. Another thought: I really enjoyed not having the computer on. Even so, I am very grateful for the technological age in which we live. I know what it was like to type on those rubbery masters, without mistakes, and then spread the goop on the drum and run those funny-smelling copies. Now-a-days one can be practically illiterate and still send text messages. You can even write an article in which all the letters in a word actually appear—just use spell check and grammar check. Want to appear intelligent? Use the thesaurus.

The sabbatical from the keyboard is the reason you are receiving the newsletter in the *middle* of August. Also this is combined edition—August and September.

Content:

- Mrs. Deckert's column, *The View from my Window*
- Board column from Mrs. Karol Kapelle
- To the immediate right . . . overview of new 2013 homeschool law
- Final tips for reading on the Common Core hoopla and folderol
- 2013 Legislative vote tallies from the North Dakota Family Alliance
- Service academy nominations information
- Prayer ideas
- Chuck Black's new book . . . for fathers
- And lots more!

Happy, gentle, golden, bliss-filled summer days! Enjoy them.
Gail

The View from my Window

By Theresa Deckert, NDHSA Office Administrator



Over the last year I have shared observations I have noted since becoming the NDHSA office administrator. My next couple of columns will still offer observations, but those observations will contain bits of helpful advice.

This year will begin my 27th year of homeschooling. During these years I have been part of several different support groups, even starting one in our previous community. I have watched as many people have excitedly started homeschooling only to quit after two or three years.

One common feature of many who do not continue home educating is they do not get involved with some sort of support network. Homeschooling is lots of work and it can be very tiring. Mom's can burnout when they do not have another person to encourage them or listen to their struggles.

The NDHSA is associated with a number of support groups in the state. Some of these may be only an area contact person as there is no longer an active group. Others are very active with weekly gatherings.

Whether or not you are near a support group with activities going on, I would urge you to find another homeschooler to be a mentor or another family to get together with for support and encouragement.

Maybe you are almost done homeschooling your children. What a great time in your life to walk beside a young homeschooling family to cheer them on, offering encouragement and practical advice.

For a listing of support groups around the state, check out the left hand side of our website (www.ndhsa.org). As regional coordinators Llorra Knight and I are available to help in any way possible if you would like to get a group going in your area. If you do get a group started, let us know so we can get contact information on the website to help you network with others in your area.

Finally, networking with other families gives you a prompt response when people ask you that question: "What about socialization?" You can then enthusiastically tell them about the great things you are able to do because of support group networking!

The NDHSA Board Column

From Mrs. Karol Kapelle, NDHSA board member



So, I really need to get organized and start making plans for the upcoming school year. I know some of you have been ready for months and have possibly even been schooling year round. May I just say that you amaze me!

I love to organize events and special celebrations, but when it comes to planning for school I seem to get stuck. Maybe I am subliminally rebelling against lesson plans, textbooks, and last minute MENUS!

Speaking of menus, does dinnertime sneak up on anyone else like it does me? If so, you need to check out the North Dakota Home School Association *Facebook* page? There are great posts for daily menu ideas. One friend posted a website that has helped her keep her family well fed.

There are several other posts on the site just waiting for your replies, assistance, and, sometimes, encouragement. In an effort to keep connected to our NDHSA members and friends, the board will try to periodically post comments or questions that will hopefully start some engaging conversations and provide some helpful information which will require your involvement to be most effective.

We are also hoping our www.ndhsa.org website members will take advantage of the "forum" and "classified" pages. This is a great time of year to post any used books you have for sale or give away and/or find some great deals.

Legislature Frees Some Homeschoolers from State Testing

By Dewitt Black, HSLDA Senior Counsel

On April 3, 2013, Governor Jack Dalrymple signed into law Senate Bill 2329, which provides an exemption from state testing for some homeschool families. State law currently requires testing of homeschool students while in grades 4, 6, 8, and 10, employing a standardized achievement test used by the local school district or, at the parent's option, a nationally normed standardized achievement test chosen by the parent. Under the law just passed, a child is exempt from testing if the parent notifies the school district in the annual statement of intent that the parent has a philosophical, moral, or religious objection to standardized achievement tests.

Additionally, the parent must be licensed or approved to teach by the education standards and practices board, must hold a baccalaureate degree, or must have met or exceeded the cutoff score of a national teacher examination given in North Dakota or in any other state if North Dakota does not offer such an examination.

The new law went into effect August 1, so it did not affect testing for the 2012-2013 school year.

www.ndhsa.org



Our website provider has notified us that updates are on the way. New page designs, easier access, and event registration possibilities are all planned by our provider. We look forward to polishing up our pages and adding some beneficial content. I have to admit that managing a website is really not my forte, so if you have any helpful ideas or comments, please feel free to share them with me or Theresa Deckert.

Have a great remainder of the summer and enjoy every moment with your precious kiddos!



Some Final Reading on Common Core

No, really! This is the last.

- There's this: Here's a great article by Dr. Daniel Coupland, an associate professor of education at Hillsdale College; prepared remarks from a speech given June 4, 2013, in Washington, D.C.
<http://truthinamericaneducation.com/common-core-state-standards/common-core-common-sense-why-its-illiberal-and-unconstitutional/>
- And this on Common Core: **Protecting Educational Freedom: Cracks in the Common Core**, by Lindsey Burke
The American Founders would have likely seen the prospect of a national curriculum as a monumental government overreach. Thankfully, the States are beginning to realize this encroachment on educational liberty.
. . . Oklahoma superintendent of education Janet Barresi announced that the Sooner State would be pulling out of the Common Core testing consortia. Barresi told the *Tulsa World* that because of myriad technical problems with the assessments and higher anticipated costs, "If we move ahead with this, we are . . . asking the state to drink a milkshake using a cocktail straw." **SEE WHICH STATES FOLLOWED OKLAHOMA'S LEAD >>**
- And another: **Common Core Implementation Proves Problematic**
New York and Kentucky have begun testing based on the new Common Core education standards, and they are quickly seeing frustration among educators, parents, and students. **LEARN MORE >>**

And one final comment: HSLDA's *Court Report* (sent to member-families; WHAT? You aren't a member family? Join at www.hslida.org) If you are a member family of the North Dakota Home School Association you will receive a discount on your HSLDA membership. For information on joining the NDHSA go to: www.ndhsa.org) includes an article by Will Estrada published in the Spring 2013, Vol.XXIX, No.2 edition that lists the three basic reasons for opposition to the Common Core State Standards Initiative. They are:

1. First, we oppose a national, **one-size-fits-all approach to education**. The CC does a disservice to children by nationalizing education, taking it out of the hands of parents and teachers who know their students best.
2. Second, oppose the Common Core because, frankly, **it provides a poor learning experience**. Numerous educators . . . have pointed out CC's deficiencies . . . the CC standards require public schools to teach a certain percentage of their English classes using 'information texts' – effectively substituting suggested material such as Presidential Executive Orders for the classics. The CC also cuts back on algebra. We have even seen . . . CC that advances United Nations agenda over our nation's founding principles.
3. Finally, HSLDA opposes the Common Core because it **may lead to future regulation of homeschooling**. The CC currently applies only to public schools. But, historically, the more the federal government gets involved in education, the more it controls education. Nationalized standards for public schools could easily become requirements for all students, including homeschoolers, necessitating curriculum and testing aligned with these standards.



How do we STOP the Common Core?

Visit HSLDA's [Common Core website](#) to educate yourself and others about the issues of the Common Core. HSLDA is actively working on this issue to protect homeschooling freedoms. But the Common Core can only be stopped if citizens in every state demand that their representatives block the standards.

N.D.'s Open Enrollment, the DPI, and Parent Educators

From HSLDA's senior counsel Dewitt Black

Home School Legal Defense Association recently obtained a favorable result for a family denied the right to have their homeschooled children participate in courses and extracurricular activities at a public school outside of their district of residence. The state's homeschool law expressly recognizes the right of students to participate in such courses and extracurricular activities. Further, North Dakota's open enrollment law permits students to do so in school districts other than where the family resides.

In this case, the family residing in Northwood sought to have their children enroll in a foreign language course and participate in music activities in Larimore, a different school district. But the N.D. Department of Public Instruction (DPI) squelched the idea by informing the family that open enrollment was only available to students who were 'enrolled' in public school, not students in a home education program.

After the member family contacted HSLDA for assistance, Senior Counsel Dewitt Black sent a letter to DPI arguing that any participation in a public school course or extracurricular activity necessarily involves enrollment of the student in public school. Black also pointed out that even DPI's own *Statement of Intent* form for homeschoolers includes a section to complete if the student intends to 'enroll' in academic courses at the public school. Black's letter also made note of the fact that the open enrollment law does not exclude homeschool students from eligibility.

In a letter dated November 19, 2012, Matthew Strinden, the director of teacher and school effectiveness at DPI, replied to Black's letter and notified him that after reviewing all issues and relevant information, it was now DPI's position that homeschool students were eligible to participate in open enrollment.



Statement of intent:

A statement of intent is to be filed 14 days before you begin your homeschool year on each child between the ages of 7 and 16. It is to be sent/delivered to your school district of residence and is to be accompanied by your child's proof of identity and immunization record. If you are opting out of mandatory testing you will need to supply proof of academic credentials.

Download at
www.ndhsa.org

N.D. State Historical Society

N.D. homeschool law requires North Dakota studies in grades 4 and 8 with emphasis on geography, history, and agriculture. Check out the State Historical Society of N.D. at: <http://history.nd.gov> and <http://www.ndstudies.org/main.html> and <http://nd.nhd.org/>
You will be amazed!



www.ndhsa.org

office@ndhsa.org

1.701.662.NDHS (6347)

Learn about the **service academy nomination** process. TIP: It's in the best interest of the student to apply to all three offices if they decide to pursue a nomination.

For more information contact: **Randy Richards**, District Representative for Congressman Kevin Cramer (ND-AL); Center for Innovation, Grand Forks, ND 58202, (O) 701-738-4880 | (C) 701-330-0050

randy.richards@mail.house.gov | <http://cramer.house.gov>

- Congressman Cramer: <https://cramer.house.gov/services/military-academy-nominations>
- Sen. Hoeven: <http://www.hoeven.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/academy-nominations>
- Sen. Heitkamp: http://www.heitkamp.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/15c227b8-ac5b-4dc8-bb60-f1b858b8e5f2/Military%20Academy%20Application.pdf
- Recent press release: <http://www.thedickinsonpress.com/event/article/id/69528/>



Home School Enrollment Increases Nationwide

By Bethany Monk

It's a fact: an increasing number of parents are choosing to either homeschool their children, or to enroll them in homeschooling programs.

The number of homeschool children in the country has **increased by 75 percent** since 1999, according to a report in *Education News*. The report also says that achievement gaps related to the income levels, ethnicities and sex of homeschool students are not apparent in homeschooling environments. One of the reasons for the increase in homeschool enrollment is due to academic achievement, said CitizenLink Education Analyst Candi Cushman. [Read More](#)



THIS AND THAT

The Old Schoolhouse Magazine

You still have time to read the May issue of The Old Schoolhouse® magazine. Read it on your computer at www.TOSMagazine.com or download the FREE app to use while you are on the go at www.TOSApps.com. Do you miss the print editions? We've got great news! Our 2013 annual print book is available for a FREE download at www.TOSPrint.com. Read it now or download it and read it later! You won't want to miss these inspirational articles! Also, the **TOS 2013 Annual Print Book** will be sold online and on store newsstands and at Barnes & Noble bookstores, Hasting, Books-A-Million, Homeschool Headquarters stores and Chapters/Indigo in Canada. Sample of contents: in the article, *Seven Tips for Curious Learning* author Karen Andreola lists and describes seven tips: 1. Choose individual books for general knowledge. 2. Take advantage of the talking recourse (replacing classroom lecture with reading aloud). 3. Do some science in the fresh outdoors. 4. Cultivate an appreciation for art and music. 5. Read history that has muscle (the Bible, biographies, historical fiction). 6. Instill good habits of quiet discipline. 7. Keep growing, Mom. There is so much information in 275 pages, it would take a whole newsletter to describe. This was really worth the cost.

Tips on Getting Started Homeschooling

from Mary Pride with N.D.-specific information; visit Mary's website at: www.home-school.com (April/May/June 2013 *Practical Homeschooling* www.home-school.com)

1. Locate your state homeschool group – www.ndhsa.org
2. Locate a local support group – Visit www.ndhsa.org for listings.
3. Join other homeschoolers online in the *Practical Homeschooling* Forum (www.home-school.com).
4. Subscribe to a homeschool magazine – Mary's *Practical Homeschooling*, *The Old Schoolhouse* magazine, *Home School Enrichment*.
5. Read 'how to' books; just google or bing homeschool books! (Or contact me at billboby@msn.com and I will email you some suggestions.)
6. Locate curriculum providers. Visit the "Mall" area of www.home-school.com.
7. Visit your local teachers' store. They have great workbooks, educational toys and games, and school supplies. (So do Wal-Mart and Sam's.)
8. Attend a homeschool convention; visit www.ndhsa.org for information on the 2014 convention.
9. Join NDHSA (\$35/yr.) and get a discount when you join HSLDA!

It's the Little Things

By Marji McIrvine.

Used with permission.

"There are too many toys to pick up! I can't! I'm too tired!"

"I can't redo these math problems! They were just small mistakes anyway. I don't know how to do them."

"Um, I just forgot to empty the dishwasher, Mom."

Maybe my house is the only one to ring with similar declarations? I doubt it. If you haven't heard something like that yet, your children are probably too young to talk! It's not that such complaints mean the children are worse than other people's children—far from it. It means the children are in the process of learning to be faithful. But oh, my goodness, it is a process, and processes take time!

[Read remainder of article at:](#)

www.TOS.NOV.2012.ItsTheLittleThings.McIrvine.docx

Recipe from North Dakota WANTED

SC homeschooler needs recipes from all 50 states

Mathesons now have 3 ways to submit recipes for their cookbook project:

- 1) Go to typensave.com (click [login](#)) User name: **Matheson** password: **garlic202** OR
- 2) Email: makingmealtimemonumental@hotmail.com OR
- 3) Mail to: MAKING MEALTIME MONUMENTAL, c/o Suzanne Matheson, P.O. BOX 55, TAMASEE, SC 29686 or call 864.247.9094 with questions; ask for Joy or Suzanne.

www.ndhsa.org

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

Pray for homeschool families learning about grief first-hand--those who have lost spouse, parent, or child.

Implore God to teach us to love Him with all our hearts, souls and minds, and our neighbor as ourselves.

Praise God for the ways Home School Legal Defense Assoc. has advanced homeschooling in America. **Praise** God also that HSLDA is a Capitol Hill watchdog particularly on issues about U.N. Treaties and parental rights.

Pray for our board of directors: **Pas. Ken & Llorra Knight, Jeff & Theresa Deckert, Pas. Jeff & Karol Kapelle, Sue Huntington, Neil Toman, Pas. Brian & Bev Skaar, and**

Photo Contest: HSLDA is excited to announce that its 9th annual [Photography Contest](#) is underway. Cash prizes for the winners, so grab your cameras and join in the fun: at home, on vacation, or wherever!

Parents, don't forget; if you have pictures of a wintery persuasion, you can participate alongside your high-schoolers in the Home School Foundation's free [Christmas Card Contest](#). Use your photos to bring joy to widows at Christmastime!

www.hslda.org



Troy & Kristie Durham. Praise God for men and women who are servant-hearted, wise, generous in their encouragement, gracious in their lives, devout believers and who live lives that mirror our dear Lord Jesus' command to love God with heart, soul and mind.

Pray for those still outside the fold.

Pray for homeschoolers in foreign nations under hardship from their governments. **Praise** God for HSLDA's service to them.

Thank God that we live in America.

Intercede for moms who are exhausted, discouraged, and ready to give up homeschooling. **Ask** our dear Lord Jesus to send them a season of refreshing and renewal of purpose. Help them if you can.

Pray diligently for your Pastor asking God to protect him, to give him wisdom, and to keep him unsullied by the world.

Thank you for your prayers on behalf of the Kenney family during the March convention. They are very thankful for the concern shown by many homeschoolers and are praising God for a good outcome. I apologize for neglecting to include this in the April newsletter.

Labor Day FAMILY Camp

WHAT: Labor Day Family Camp sponsored by the Wendell and Beth Sip Family

WHERE: Crystal Springs Bible Camp, Medina, N.D., approx 60 miles east of Bismarck, just off I-94

WHEN: August 30 – September 2

MEALS: All meals provided from Friday evening through Monday

FEES: Family maximum with workday -\$100 Family maximum without workday-\$200

Couple with workday-\$80 Couple without workday-\$120

RV or tent with workday-\$50 RV or tent without workday-\$100

SPEAKER: Gregg Harris, evangelist from Gresham, OR. Gregg is the father of seven, and is widely recognized as a homeschool pioneer in the national homeschool movement. Gregg speaks in the United States and abroad. His wife, Sono, died July 4, 2012 after a brief battle with colon cancer. Gregg's topic: *Be Doers of God's Word – Not Hearers Only*; his messages will build on one another from Friday evening through the last session.

WORKDAYS: Friday, August 30 – workday from noon to supper with other families provides discounted rates as listed above.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Camp will be full! Want to come for the whole weekend, but have not registered? Contact Sips at 218.784.4804 or wbsip@loreltel.net



If interested in the Labor Day Camp, call Sips ASAP!

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Click here to read more: [LIFE SKILLS FOR YOU](#)



Here is how they voted during the 2013 Legislative Session. Compiled by the North Dakota Family Alliance. Thank you to Tom Freier and staff!

http://library.constantcontact.com/download/get/file/1105007507148-175/2013_Scorecard.pdf

Chuck Black publishes

Call to Arms - The Guts and Glory of Courageous Fatherhood

In the words of Eric Tibbets (ret. U.S. Navy Captain, veteran combat fighter pilot, and father of four):

"You fight like you train. Nothing could be more true in combat, and nothing could be more true in fatherhood as we fight the spiritual battle for our families. Christian dads will find sound, Bible-based truths in *Call to Arms*. Chuck Black gives all dads a handy training pocket guide to take to the fight. Don't go into battle without it!"

Chapter topics include: Choosing Wisely, Men De-masculinized, A Man's Authority, A Man's Responsibility, Being a Man Your Family Will Follow, Fighting the Fight, Leaving a Legacy and more. With many sage suggestions on accomplishing courageous fatherhood, *Call to Arms* is a practical guide to honorable fathering from an honorable man.

Chuck has authored *The Kingdom Series* and *The Knights of Arrethrae Series*. Find books and audio dramas at www.KingdomSeries.com

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, 701.247.2875 or walkalongdeut6.7@hotmail.com

Troy and Kristie Durham, directors, 701.298.3414 or tkdurham@ideaone.net

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 701.662.NDHS(6347)

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!