



Greetings!

We reluctantly bid summer farewell. Soon much of our outdoor work will be done and we will wait, with wide variations of welcome, the coming season . . . winter. I have a stack of books I want to get through before Spring and several afghans waiting to be crocheted.

The NDHSA board of directors has been on my mind a great deal lately. I've been so blessed by them and their presence on the board has given me sweet peace and a confidence about the continued mission of the NDHSA. You would be surprised at how much time, effort and resources these folks expend for the furtherance of homeschooling in N.D. They all have families to care for, homeschooling to practice, occupations outside the home and all the things that take up *our* time. In the midst of such activities they still find time to devote to the NDHSA. All this is to simply say, "Remember to pray for our board of directors." I have complete confidence in them; they are devout and devoted to our dear Lord Jesus. So when you think of the NDHSA, remember to pray for each board member. It matters. And they are praying for you, too.

Grace and peace,
Gail



The View from my Window

By Theresa Deckert, NDHSA Office Administrator

The NDHSA Board of directors met September 13-14 for our annual board retreat. This is always a great time for brainstorming and this year several great things came as a result. I would like to share two of those in this article.

Last year the Knights and Deckerts traveled to Dickinson and Williston for a mini-convention. We decided to offer one again this year. The 2013 fall mini-conference will be held near Devils Lake at Lakewood Park Bible Camp, 220 Woodland Ave. Join us on Saturday, October 12, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Llora Knight will present workshops on *Teaching Multiple Children* (she has 14) and *High School Credits and Transcripts*. Ken Knight will lead *a dad's discussion on how to promote homeschooling* and *Being a Good Homeschool Husband*. I will share my workshops: *Learning Styles and Teaching Tips for Them* and *Leaving the Classroom Mentality*. These are workshops for parents, so the only children invited are nursing babies. Registration is at the door. The cost is \$13.50 for an NDHSA member and \$15.00 for a non-member. Spouses come free.

We are also excited to announce an **ART CONTEST** to create a new logo for the NDHSA. This must be the original artwork of the submitter and must be in digital form. The new logo will be unveiled at the convention and displayed on NDHSA materials, banner and website. The winner will be recognized at the convention as well as receiving a **\$75.00 award**. The winning artwork will become the sole property of the NDHSA. NDHSA board members and their families are excluded from entering. So what describes North Dakota homeschooling to you? Deadline for submissions is December 1. Please send to office@ndhsa.org.



The NDHSA Board Column

From Mrs. Llora Knight, NDHSA board member

LET THE STORIES BE TOLD

Yesterday, I attended a family reunion in Washington State. In the mid 1800s, my father's family homesteaded in the Washington Territory. I enjoyed reading about my family history which included a great-great grandmother who was born in the Dakota Territory! I always knew I had a deep connection to this my adopted state. I was touched by the stories I read of families surviving bitter cold winters, years of drought, raging infernos, along with triumphs and tragedies. I met family members I had heretofore not known and renewed relationships with some I had not seen for several years.

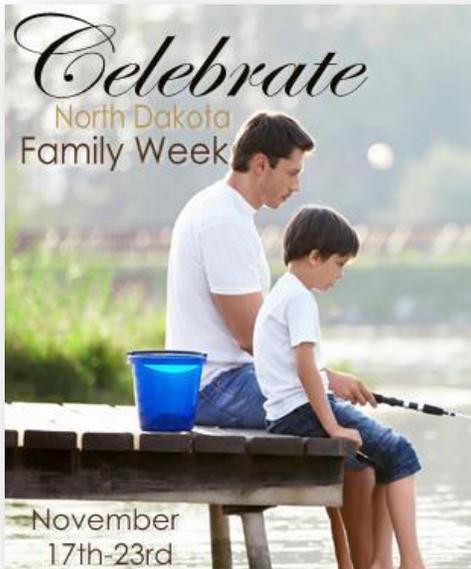
The Lord touched my heart with a special truth I would like to share with you. Family is important! Extended family is necessary. Family knowledge is vital. The family was the first institution that God established in the Garden of Eden. The Bible is full of genealogies – remember all those passages “so and so begat so and so begat so and so . . .” In my early Christian years I used to skip all of those passages, but if God hadn't wanted us to read them and learn from them He wouldn't have included them in the Scriptures. He expected the Hebrews to know their ancestry.

By occupation my father was a driller, drilling and blasting roads, dams, tunnels, you name it. As a result, we moved numerous times while I was growing up. I didn't live near nor spend much time with my grandparents, aunts, uncles or cousins. I often regretted that and said I wouldn't do that to my children, but I did. We served as missionaries in Europe for years and of course when you have 14 children you don't return to the States for vacation! Unfortunately, my children, too, seldom saw their grandparents so when the opportunity arose to have my father-in-law come live with us, I rejoiced. He has Alzheimer's and doesn't know us now, but my children had a few years with him where they could ride bicycles, jump on the trampoline, play baseball and learn how to whistle with their grandpa. My children could have learned to

whistle from dad, and some did. They could have and did ride bicycles with their dad and mom. They could have and did play baseball with their siblings and parents, but all of these experiences were enriched beyond measure when done with their grandfather. In some cultures, the extended family is as necessary for raising a child as are the immediate family and I believe they are blessed for it.

Let me ask you a few questions. Have your children spent time with their great-grandparents? How about their grandparents or great aunts or uncles? Do you know the names of your great-grandparents? Do you know your grandparents' occupations? How many of your ancestors have fought for freedom or escaped to America to find it? Do you have a close relationship with your siblings? What struggles, spiritual or physical, have you shared with your children that they may share with their children? Our life is supposed to be an example for our children and their children and their children after them. You should know the stories of your ancestors, of their struggles, their spiritual battles and victories, stories that you can pass down. Knowledge of your family's history is a vital part of your children's education. I am not saying you must buy a computer program about genealogy and find your family's history back to Noah, but knowing where the family lived, what occupations they followed, what customs or traditions they practiced can be a positive influence on a child. A rich heritage can only remain so when shared with consecutive generations. Outside of a holocaust museum in Germany I read a sign that reads (in about 6 different languages) "Lest We Forget." By sharing with our children and grandchildren we guarantee the continuance of our family story.

So what have I been trying to say? Keep close ties to your extended family. Spend time with them as often as you are able. If you are one of those blessed families that get together regularly, don't find excuses not to go. Teach your children about their ancestors, learn about them yourself and let the stories be told.



In a past newsletter I shared information on the **State Historical Society of North Dakota** (which is the official name) and the resources they provide. The North Dakota Studies has migrated to a new server and website: <http://ndstudies.gov>

Help with the G.E.D.

Visit <http://www.mometrix.com/academy/ged-test/> for review videos of test sections, including math.

Questions: **Greg McDivet** gregory.mcdivet@educateforamerica.com

Homeschool.com readers have voted and the following companies have been voted as **Top Homeschooling Curriculum for 2013**. There's something for everyone—music, art, history, math, tutoring, life skills, and much, much, more.

Click Here to See the Entire List

Blessed with a gifted or special needs child?

http://homeschooling.about.com/od/special/Teaching_Diverse_Students.htm

Common Core State Standards Initiative and Data Mining

HSLDA has been fighting for the privacy of homeschool students since our founding in 1983. **Homeschool students—and really all students—should be protected from unreasonable intrusion**, whether from big business or the government.

Sadly, however, it seems that **privacy is something that cannot be taken for granted**. Privacy in public schools is being weakened. HSLDA is fighting to make sure that the same thing doesn't happen to the privacy of homeschool students.

Many states do not require that homeschool families share any information with their local school district. In addition to giving these parents the most flexibility in their homeschool method, such laws have the added benefit of ensuring that the data of homeschool students are protected.

But in more than 30 states, the law requires that homeschool parents share some information with the local school district— putting homeschool students' data at the same risk as public school students'.

Over the past decade, federal incentives and federally funded data models have spurred states to monitor students from their preschool to college right through their assimilation into the workforce. **We believe this expansion of state databases is laying the foundation for a national database filled with personal student data** and the Common Core State Standards Initiative is transforming this concern into reality.

We recently posted an article explaining and documenting the development and trajectory of the efforts of those individuals and organizations pushing for a national database.

[Read the article online >>](#)

[Get answers to Common Core FAQs >>](#)

World magazine has a lengthy and informative article in the October 5, 2013, issue about the Common Core State Standards Initiative (CCSS). www.worldmag.com According to *World* 45 states have adopted them, N.D. being one. (MN, NE, TX, VA and AK are the five hold outs.)



Practical Homeschooling magazine (#110) has two great articles on this topic: "Follow the Money Who's Really Behind the Common Core?" and "They're Creating Dossiers on Our Kids!"

FYI: The NDHSA has not and does not support the CCSS Initiative and data storage or mining of homeschoolers' information.

The Homeschool Effect

By Rodger Williams



Home educated students have long been recognized by research as scoring substantially higher than expected, on average, on nationally normed achievement tests. We will take a deeper look at the mechanics of how that works out in practice.

The students we look at are all privately home educated. The family budget supplies the money for that education. Parents control the education process and the curriculum. These parents have willingly chosen to homeschool and are prepared to pay the personal price to do so. Read more at: <http://thehomeschooleffect.com>

2013 Fall Mini-Conference

WHEN: Saturday, October 12 – 6:30 p.m.

WHERE: Lakewood Park Bible Camp, 220 Woodland Ave., south of Devils Lake, N.D.

SPONSORED BY: **North Dakota Home School Association**

WORKSHOPS:

- Learning Styles and Teaching Tips for Them
- High School Credits and Transcripts
- Leaving the Classroom Mentality
- Teaching Multiple Children
- Being a Good Homeschool Husband
- Dad's Discussion on How to Promote Homeschooling

FEES: \$13.50 for NDHSA member; spouse FREE

\$15.00 non-NDHSA member; spouse FREE (Nursing babies welcome.)



Educators' Discounts for Homeschoolers

Snatched from Mary Pride's *Practical Homeschooling* magazine, September/October 2013 issue. I'm always looking for discounts on books (Have you tried www.abebooks.com?) and teaching materials. I have found *PH* gives me lots of information on homeschooling, education trends, curriculum reviews, and much more. *Practical Homeschooling* is published five times each year for \$17.95/year. PH is on facebook, www.facebook.com/PracticalHomeschooling, and you can follow their pins at PracHomeschool.

Many chain stores (and even some mom-and-pop shops) offer educator discounts to homeschoolers! JoAnn Fabrics, Michaels Arts & Crafts, Books A Million, Barnes & Noble, and hundreds more. Basically, most stores that offer educator discounts will allow homeschoolers to participate. (This little tidbit all by itself probably saves the cost of a *Practical Homeschooling* subscription.)

For example, here are the details on B&N's official "Educator Program Enrollment and Discount" page:

Barnes & Noble offers preK-12 educators, librarians, and homeschoolers a 20% discount off the publisher's list price on select items that we consider suitable for use in the classroom or with the student population, including most hardcover and paperback books, toys, and games.

Where do you get a homeschool ID card, for those stores that require it:

- Your state homeschool group. (NDHSA recommends you use the educator's ID card on the website — www.ndhsa.org – or your HSLDA member card ID.)
- Your HSLDA card, www.hslda.org.
- A free Homeschool ID card to print by signing up for a free membership at the Homeschool Buyers Co-op, www.homeschoolbuyersco-op.org.

And where can you find a handy list of stores that offer educator discounts? Right here: <http://nationalschoolproducts.com/blog/savings/teacher-discounts/>.

So, get yourself a homeschool ID, and always ask, "Do you offer educator discounts?"

Trail Life USA to Focus on Adventure, Character, Leadership

by Kim Trobee

The inaugural Leadership Convention of Trail Life USA was held in Nashville, Tenn. More than 1,200 attended, including former scoutmasters, Eagle Scouts and Boy Scouts of America professionals. Trail Life USA will be an outdoor scouting organization for boys ages 5-17.

The program will provide young men with adventure, character building events and leadership training from a Christian perspective – and offer them an alternative to the faltering Boy Scouts.

Coming up with the name and branding for the group was a very practical process, according to Clint Cline with Design 4 Marketing.

"We engaged hundreds of thousands of people through online surveys, our Facebook page, and blast emails," he said. "We also involved focus groups in two different cities where we engaged parents and young men who would be members of an organization like this."

[Read More](#)

World magazine (October 5, 2013) has an informative article on Trail Life USA, "a Christian alternative to the Boy Scouts of America."

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

- **Pray** for homeschool families facing financial challenges.
- **Implore God** to conform us to the image of His dear Son.
- **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. **Praise** God for the many years of service that Dee Black has provided to N.D. homeschoolers.
- **Pray** for our board of directors: **Ken & Llor Knight, Jeff & Theresa Deckert, Pas. Jeff & Karol Kapelle, Sue Huntington, Neil Toman, Pas. Brian & Bev Skaar and Troy & Kristie Durham.** Praise God for these men and women who are servant-hearted, wise, generous in their encouragement, gracious in their lives, devout believers and live lives that mirror our dear Lord Jesus' command to love God with heart, soul and mind.
- **Praise** God for the generous mercies He pours down on us every day.
- **Pray** for homeschoolers in foreign nations under hardship from their governments. **Praise** God for HSLDA's service to them.
- **Thank** God for homeschooling moms who lay down their lives everyday to do God's will.
- **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, to hedge in his family and to keep them unsullied by the world.
- **Pray** for Sven Carlson, Jr.-age 2 1/2 (Grandson of Gail Carlson, long-time homeschooler). Doctors have given him 2 weeks to live. His cancer is the most aggressive form and untreatable. Pray for his whole family.
- **Pray** for the Mini-conference, Saturday, October 12, near Devils Lake.

Send your prayer requests to office@ndhsa.org or billbiby@msn.com

NDHSA Board of Directors

Ken Knight, president and **Llor 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)

www.ndhsa.org

office@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!

COMING SOON

Information on the 2014 NDHSA Christian Home Educators' Convention