



The Eclectic Report

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Greetings!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to our readers. 2014 is just around the corner. Our dear Lord Jesus has blessed the North Dakota Home School Association in many, many ways this past year. We thank Him for His constant oversight and for the mercy He pours down on the Association. Please continue to pray for the board of directors and staff. God has shown His continued care for the NDHSA and we are immeasurably grateful. Imagine: In 2015 we will celebrate 30 years of ministry!

Blessings to you and your dear ones as you celebrate the coming to earth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Gail

2014 NDHSA convention
March 20-22
Jamestown Civic Center

NDHSA ART CONTEST

Deadline extended to December 15!

We are excited to announce an **ART CONTEST** to create a new **NDHSA logo**. 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 and will receive a \$75.00 award.

So what describes North Dakota home-schooling to you? Design your logo to reflect it.

The following information was offered by an artist so consider this important item:

Don't forget about legal fonts for commercial use and *original* work. You must not use pirated clipart . . . your work must be original (Oh! Did I already say that? Well, it's important . . . *original* work only.)

We would like to know a bit about you when you submit your creation. Are you a home-schooling parent or student? How long have you been homeschooling? If student submission, please include student's age. For all submissions include address, phone and email.

The winning artwork will become the sole property of the NDHSA. NDHSA board members and their families are excluded from entering. **Deadline for submission is Dec. 15.**

Send to office@ndhsa.org



The View from my Window

By Theresa Deckert, NDHSA Office Administrator

We have had many new homeschooling families added to our mailing list this past year. Others have been a little confused with our staff restructuring. I thought perhaps this would be a good time to introduce ourselves a bit more. The NDHSA is governed by a **board** of 12 directors which consists primarily of couples. The officers are as follows: Ken Knight – president, Llor Knight – secretary, Neil Toman – treasurer, Jeff Deckert – vice president. Other board members are: Jeff and Karol Kapelle, Theresa Deckert, Brian and Bev Skaar, Sue Huntington and Troy and Kristin Durham.

I am the **office** administrator. My duties include answering the phone, mail and emails, maintaining the website, entering information into the database, maintaining our facebook page, maintaining files and assisting the board or other staff with any office work as needed. These tasks were previously done by Lynn and Andrew Bartlett.

Karol Kapelle is our **convention** coordinator. She is responsible for anything pertaining to the convention such as lining up speakers and vendors, planning the schedule, handling registrations, securing facilities and a long list of other duties required to run a smooth convention. Karol also helps me maintain the website. Lori Kenney previously held this position.

Gail Biby is our **publications** editor. She compiles our monthly newsletter, updates all of our publications and is a bill watcher during the legislative session.

We no longer have an executive director since Dr. Bartlett resigned. I know there have been some who have wondered how responsibilities of that position are being fulfilled. Any executive decisions and responsibilities are carried out by the board. So if you have any questions in certain areas, this brief description may help you know where to direct those questions.

I am thankful for each of these and the role they play in supporting North Dakota home educators!



Blessed CHRISTmas greetings
from the NDHSA board and staff!

COMMON

I take back what I wrote about no more **Common Core** articles. This subject may impact homeschoolers in the future. The state of North Dakota has already developed a form for use with homeschoolers relative to the state longitudinal data system (SLDS), an information gathering warehouse. See the form here: <http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/resource/STARS/layouts/homeschool.pdf>

Here is something on the Common Core from a past convention keynote speaker, Andrew Pudewa. This is a link to his testimony in Oklahoma against the Common Core:
<http://www.scribd.com/doc/181696903/Testimony-of-Andrew-Pudewa-to-Common-Core-Interim-OK>

Also, Mary Pride has been including some great information on this subject. The Nov./Dec. 2013 issue of *Practical Homeschooling* features the article "Common Core Databases: They're worse than we thought". Worthwhile read whether you know much about P20W (Mary says "Prenatal to Workforce?") or very little. Check out her website: www.home-school.com Check out North Dakota's progress on this project at www.DataQualityCampaign.org or to learn more about SLDS and see how much federal moolah has been provided by the feds for development of this long-term data gathering go to: <http://nces.ed.gov/programs/slds/>

As I discover other materials on this subject I will send it your way. Happy reading!

CORE

If you are concerned about Common Core in N.D., come and bring a friend or two to learn more about the impact on N.D. families. Get some tips on what you can do to help in the battle against federal control of education.

Rep. Brenda Heller (R-33) and Sen. Margaret Sitte (R-35) will be available to answer questions regarding this latest federal initiative.

WHAT: N.D. Against Common Core

WHEN: Thursday, Dec. 12

TIME: 6:30 p.m. (TIP: plan to eat before you come.)

WHERE: 1603 Main Events Center (1603 East Main, Bismarck, N.D.)

From HSLDA

Washington: **HPV Immunization without Consent**

Some homeschoolers may not know that the HPV vaccine is being encouraged for boys as well as girls. One family in Washington did not realize this until taking their nearly adult sons to the doctor for a routine visit. [Read more >>](#)



CollegeMapper is an admissions website built by a guidance counselor to increase student access to higher education. The service is free for students and families. Their newest resource is an Online Classes Directory to provide high school students with options for taking dual credit classes. Check it out here: http://www.collegemapper.com/online_classes
Contact: Mia Myklebust, director of marketing for CollegeMapper mia@collegemapper.com

UPDATE: U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

From: Michael P. Farris, JD, LLM Chairman, Home School Legal Defense Association

On November 21, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee held its second and likely final hearing on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). You can watch [the first hearing on November 5](#), and [the November 21 hearing](#).

Senator Bob Corker (TN) and Senator Marco Rubio (FL) deserve high praise for asking tough questions of Secretary of State John Kerry about the dangers posed by the treaty. Secretary Kerry was clearly not expecting the questions. At times he struggled to give a satisfactory answer about how the Obama administration was planning to ensure that the treaty did not affect U.S. sovereignty, homeschool freedom, or the abortion debate in the U.S.

Reason to Hope

Coupled with the excellent questions asked of witnesses by Senator Jeff Flake (AZ) and Senator Ron Johnson (WI) in the first hearing, **HSLDA is cautiously optimistic about the chances of once again defeating the UNCRPD**. If one of these four senators is from your state, please take a moment to call his office or send him an email and thank him for attending these hearings and asking serious and thoughtful questions about the dangers posed by the UNCRPD. You can reach your senator through the Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121, or [via email](#).

The Senate will be on recess for Thanksgiving until Monday, December 9. **It is absolutely crucial that your two senators hear from you that the Senate must not ratify this United Nations treaty**. President Obama has mobilized top officials from across the federal government—including the Department of Defense and the State Department—to lobby the Senate and urge senators to ratify this UN treaty. The only way we will defeat this coordinated attack against U.S. sovereignty and parental rights is by overwhelming the Senate with phone calls, emails, and letters from We, the People.

We believe that supporters of the UNCRPD will try to approve it in the committee the week of December 9, and then try to have the full Senate vote on the UNCRPD before Christmas.

Send a Message

You can reach your senators by calling the Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121, by using our [legislative toolbox](#) to type your address and find their contact info, or by using HSLDA's emailing tool to send a prewritten letter to your senators by [filling out your information here](#). Your message can be as simple as: "I urge you to oppose the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. **This treaty surrenders U.S. sovereignty to unelected UN bureaucrats** and will threaten parental care of children with disabilities. Our nation already has laws to protect Americans with disabilities. This treaty is unnecessary and will hurt families by giving bureaucrats the power to decide what is in the best interests of a child with disabilities, not the child's parents."

You can [read our story from last year](#) to see which senators voted against the treaty in 2012. You can visit [HSLDA's action page](#) to learn more about the UNCRPD, and you can [read the text of the UNCRPD](#).



www.ndhsa.org

Find us on Facebook at: [North Dakota Home School Association](#)

Homeschool Students Invited to Participate in Math Kangaroo Competition

USA Math Kangaroo Competition for students in grades 1-12 will be held at the University of North Dakota, **Thursday, March 20, 2014**.

Every year more than 5,000,000 students from over 45 countries participate in the competition.

About the competition:

75 minute multiple-choice test

24 questions (for grades 1-4) or 30 questions (for grades 5 and up)

Participants receive recognition, a t-shirt, a certificate, and gifts on the test day.

In May national and state winners are recognized and awarded.

There are international summer camps and college grants among top awards.

Registration at: www.mathkangaroo.org. Registration ends Dec. 31, 2013. Participation fee is \$20. For more information visit www.mathkangaroo.org, or contact Dr. Reza Fazel (reza@und.edu, 701-777-3368).

Discount tickets to Creation Museum

Planning summer 2014 vacation? How about considering a visit to the Creation Museum? Make your vacation a whopper of a field trip!

Use coupon code 8111752 for a \$20, two-day adult ticket (normally \$29.95). Purchase discounted tickets at www.creationmuseum.org until December 18, 2013 (tickets are valid for one year after purchase date).

Visit their website for oodles of information.

www.creationmuseum.org



PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

- **Pray** for our board of directors: **Ken & Lora Knight, Jeff & Theresa Deckert, Pas. Jeff & Karol Kapelle, Sue Huntington, Neil Toman, Pas. Brian & Bev Skaar and Troy & Kristin Durham**. **Praise** God for them.
- **Pray** for homeschool families facing financial challenges, especially during this CHRISTmas season.
- **Praise** God that He sent His only Son as a vulnerable baby, of low estate, so that we could be made right with God.
- **Praise** God for the ways Home School Legal Defense Association 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.
- **Praise** God for America, not without troubles, but best place in the world to live!
- **Pray** for homeschoolers in foreign nations under hardship from their governments. **Praise** God for HSLDA's service to them. **Pray** for the Romeike family from Germany, seeking asylum in the U.S.
- **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** for Dr. Brian Ray as he continues providing research on homeschooling. His ministry is a blessing to all.
- **Pray** for homeschooling fathers. Pray they will seek ways to be involved in the discipling of their children.
- **Pray** diligently for your Pastor that our Lord will keep them faithful, honorable in all areas of their lives, and filled with wisdom from above.
- **Pray** for those afflicted with health issues. Remind us, dear Lord, that You give to each the measure of health that will most glorify You.
- **Thank** our heavenly Father that almost 30 years ago He called a few brave families to pioneer homeschooling in N.D.
- **Pray the families** - Sven Carlson, grandson of Gail and Wilgoth Carlson and Rick and Sharon Ziegler, passed away Saturday night (12-7). He just turned 3 on Nov. 24. Both families are homeschoolers.

For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. Heb.4:15-16

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

NDHSA Board of Directors

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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 23 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. Contact her at: billbiby@msn.com

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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

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!

MORE information on the NDHSA Christian Home Educators' Convention

March 20-22, 2014

Jamestown Civic Center

- Keynote speaker: **Phil Downer** of DNA Ministries <http://www.dnaministries.org/>
- Featured speakers: Paul Downer of DNA Ministries and our Children's Program will be *JandY Ministries*.
- Used Book Sale (UBS), Art Show, Silent Auction
- **New this year** . . . no home businesses and crafts at the UBS, BUT we will have special booths for them in the upper concourse open from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. each day. Let's see some young entrepreneurs especially!
- Also **new this year**, we will have *Mentor Tables* in the vendor hall for newbies (or oldies) that just need some one-on-one advice, encouragement, etc. from a seasoned homeschooling mom (still teaching or done). If you are interested in being a mentor during the convention, contact Karol at: kapklan@gondtc.com.
- **Nancy and Gene Transtrom** are coming back as speakers this year! I'm cheering.
- The *JandY Ministry* will be doing a Thursday night keynote for the whole family.
- Visit www.ndhsa.org for information or to register for the convention.