



The Eclectic Report

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Greetings!

Well, the good news is I have already received six seed catalogues in the mail. The bad news is . . . it's winter. Maybe it's not *bad news* because it *is* the Lord who ordains and sustains the seasons. So I'm putting my best face on and smiling at the snow and ice in unexpected places, just waiting to topple an old woman with a cane (But Ha Ha! I have a new rubber tip for my cane!). The way I see it in about 2 ½ months we will start our tomatoes, peppers, etc.

I used to make fun of and even sneer at 'snow birds' as they migrated to the south at the end of autumn; not sneering anymore. I can see why folks leave this frigid climate for several months. So I plan to work hard on being grateful about living in North Dakota during the winter. After all we don't have to worry about the exponential growth in the numbers of Burmese and Rock pythons like in Florida. Also, we are safe from reptilian-like creatures capable of eating my little poochie. And for months we can enjoy the coziness of a warm fire in the wood stove and luxuriate with a cup of hot chocolate (what good would hot chocolate be in Galveston or Tucson?). Plus, there is hardly anything like the crunch of snow underfoot as we stand, head raised, and speechless viewing the night sky. I can still enter into the joy of sledding as I watch my granddaughters zooming down the sides of the canal just south of our gravel road (it's the best the Valley can do for those living on this flat, flat plain!). And I still thrill to the splendor of snow crystals shimmering in biting cold air, the glorious display of early morning sun dogs, and the undulating look of a ground blizzard.

As I pray to develop an attitude of gratitude through every season, I will pray that you, too, will be filled with thanksgiving . . . even during these winter months. And there are always the seed catalogs to mull over.

Gail

NDHSA Convention
March 20-22
Jamestown, N.D.



The View from my Window

By Theresa Deckert, NDHSA Office Administrator



A year ago the NDHSA switched companies that provide our web services. That switch required me to learn how to maintain and update our website. I have to admit at times the task has been daunting. Karol Kapelle is also a web administrator so we have gotten together a number of times and worked on the site using her lap top and Wi-Fi.

The NDHSA website was recently chosen to be featured on www.elementaryeducation.com as one of their top 101 homeschooling websites to watch in 2014. I guess our hard work is paying off. Some of the criteria for being chosen were ease of navigation and site content usefulness.

In recent weeks I have been looking at other websites and considering ways to make our information as easy to use and helpful as possible. One of the new things we are doing is providing a link and description for all of our vendors this year under resources and links. If you decide to order something after the convention you can just go to the easy link and have access to their website.

If you have not been to the NDHSA website in a while check it out at www.ndhsa.org. If you have any suggestions for something you would like to see on the website, you can email me at office@ndhsa.org.

NDHSA and HSLDA Memberships: They Matter!

HSLDA has filled a unique role in homeschooling—helping to secure the freedoms we all enjoy to teach our children at home. They are one of the best friends a homeschooler can have . . . especially when trouble comes knocking.

That's why I'm sending you this email. HSLDA has been a friend to our group and I want to recommend that you join them—to secure your front door and our freedom to homeschool for generations to come.

If you're not a member already, would you please [consider joining](#)? And if you are a member, please be sure to [renew your membership](#) when it comes due.

The NDHSA has a special discount with HSLDA, so you can receive \$20 off the cost of your annual membership—just use our group number when you fill out the application.

HSLDA is good for homeschooling and they need our support to continue their important work. For more information on the benefits of HSLDA membership, [click here](#). To join HSLDA, [click here](#).

Are you a member of NDHSA? If not, contact office@ndhsa.org or go to www.ndhsa.org and join. When you join, our member discount number will be sent to you for your HSLDA membership discount.

. . . the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. James 3:17-18, ESV.

www.ndhsa.org office@ndhsa.org

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

What is Running Through my Mind

Ken Knight, NDHSA board president

2013 is gone and 2014 looms before us, but it seems to me that a glance back and a long look ahead may be in order. 2013 brought us some victories, taught us some lessons, and showed us some of our weaknesses.

We added **new board members** Brian and Bev Skaar and Troy and Kristin Durham to our ranks. They have proven themselves to be wise, productive and industrious additions to our team-rousing success.

In spite of a major snowstorm the 2013 convention was held in Grand Forks and was a great success. Rick Boyer, Bill Jack and our workshop teams did a great job of providing some tools and firing us up to be more effective in our homeschool experience. Thanks, especially, to Karol Kapelle our new Convention Coordinator and her fine team of volunteers who made everything run smoothly.

Because the NDHSA board of directors lost board member Chris Stevens, as he and his dear family moved to Montana, the NDHSA didn't author a homeschool bill for the **2013 legislative session**. Chris had been designated legislative team leader and had started the process of working on a bill for the session. Paul and Donna Henderson picked up the ball, assembled a team, and pushed a testing exemption bill through the state legislature. In the process some deficiencies, misunderstandings, and weaknesses were revealed and hopefully, by God's grace everyone came out stronger, kinder and better.

The Devils Lake support group hosted a mini-convention where six workshops were presented to help and encourage homeschool families. If your support group would like to host one of these events, contact the NDHSA office for information. (office@ndhsa.org)

Looking ahead, our **2014 Christian Home Educators' Convention** will be held in Jamestown, March 20-22, 2014. Keynote Speaker is **Phil Downer** of *Discipleship Network of America* (DNA) Ministries and **JANDY Ministries** will work with our youth (evangelism, creationism, declaring the truth to youth). Get your reservations early.

We are already working toward the **2015 legislative session** so we don't get caught flat footed. With some new faces on the education committees and some lessons learned from the last session, we are prayerfully preparing our strategies. We will need volunteers and support from the entire homeschool community to be effective in our efforts so be in prayer about what you can do to help.

We held a contest for a new NDHSA logo. The finalists have been selected and the winner will be announced at the convention. We are also collecting poems for an anthology. Participation has been sparse, to say the least, so everybody step up to the plate and produce your prose and prepare your poems to be posted for our posterity.

An ominous cloud looms in our future called the **Common Core State Standards** initiative. This national Department of Education movement is an attempt to solve the public schools' problems by forcing a higher level of mediocrity on all their students and teachers. Homeschoolers have solved this problem by enabling excellence. The challenge will be to insulate homeschool families from this heinous attempt to control our educational freedoms and choices. Pray for wisdom and discernment as the NDHSA develops strategies to combat this treacherous threat.

The NDHSA exists to help and support homeschool families like yours, so if there is anything we can do to assist you, or if there is a service we can provide, please let us know (office@ndhsa.org). Without your input we can only guess at what our role should be. Thank

LOTS of STUFF!

- **Homeschool News** More on (You guessed it!) **Common Core** (Click on 'Homeschool News') From Crosswalk.com 12/26/13.
- **Homeschool Encouragement** Homeschool Awards Ceremony (Click on 'Homeschool Encouragement')
Follow the above link for some great information on having a **Homeschool Awards Ceremony**. From Crosswalk.com
- **New Book by ND Homeschooling Dad** This from ND author and homeschooling father Jared Pozarnsky:
His new book with foreword by Ron Paul deals with his view of the **American culture and its effect on the Christian family**.
Book title: *Bucking the Status Quo: A Christian Family's Guide to Navigating a Corrupt Society*. (Written using pseudonym Daniel Savante.) Available at: www.buckingthestatusquo.com and Amazon.com: <http://amzn.to/1bh06JQ>
- **SAT Prep Helps** Helpful videos for **SAT prep**
Click this link for review videos arranged by section. <http://www.mometrix.com/academy/sat-test/>
- **And HOW ABOUT THIS!** From Melissa Greene, Editor www.elementaryEducationDegree.com As mentioned by Mrs. Deckert in her column: the **NDHSA website was chosen for inclusion on Sites to Watch in 2014** list. Go to: <http://www.elementaryeducationdegree.com/101-homeschooling-sites/> Main readers are elementary educators; provides a great opportunity for them to get their homeschooling information from our reputable, reliable and informative website. KUDOS to Mrs. Deckert and Mrs. Kapelle for their work on our website.
- **Read for FREE The Old Schoolhouse magazine**, January/February, at: www.TOSMagazine.com or on your mobile devices with the FREE mobile apps available at www.TOSApps.com
- **Bible Bee: Make Scripture Your Child's Strongest Subject** New classical "Sword Study" curriculum for the **Bible Bee** uses actual Bible books as launching pads for instruction! Three-month units include individual, age-leveled workbooks, Parent/Teacher Guide. [Read more >>](#)
- **30 Bible audios** from Joelee Chamberlain specifically for children ages 4-10, strictly Bible, no added characters. They are mostly Bible stories, though there are some dealing with apologetics. Ms. Chamberlain's purpose is to teach children Bible stories chronologically as history (not just a bunch of bedtime stories), to show the trustworthiness of God, and to give the good news of the Gospel. These can be found for free downloading at www.sermonaudio.com

Tax Increases . . . for your reading enjoyment . . . arrgh!

From the Heritage Foundation. Though this doesn't deal directly with parent-directed homeschooling, it certainly is of importance to families, especially to one-income families.

The 13 Tax Increases of 2013

1. **Payroll Tax:** increase in the [Social Security portion of the payroll tax](#) from 4.2 percent to 6.2 percent for workers. This hit all Americans earning a paycheck—not just the “wealthy.” For example, *The Wall Street Journal* calculated that the “typical U.S. family earning \$50,000 a year” would lose “an [annual income boost of \\$1,000.](#)”
 2. **Top marginal tax rate:** increase from [35 percent to 39.6 percent](#) for taxable incomes over \$450,000 (\$400,000 for single filers).
 3. **Phase out of personal exemptions** for adjusted gross income (AGI) over \$300,000 (\$250,000 for single filers).
 4. **Phase down of itemized deductions** for AGI over \$300,000 (\$250,000 for single filers).
 5. **Tax rates on investment:** increase in the rate on dividends and capital gains from 15 percent to 20 percent for taxable incomes over \$450,000 (\$400,000 for single filers).
 6. **Death tax:** increase in the rate (on [estates](#) larger than \$5 million) from 35 percent to 40 percent.
 7. **Taxes on business investment:** expiration of full expensing—the immediate [deduction of capital purchases](#) by businesses.
- Obamacare tax increases that took effect:**
8. **Another investment tax increase:** 3.8 percent surtax on [investment income](#) for taxpayers with taxable income exceeding \$250,000 (\$200,000 for singles).
 9. **Another payroll tax hike:** 0.9 percent increase in the [Hospital Insurance portion of the payroll tax](#) for incomes over \$250,000 (\$200,000 for single filers).
 10. **Medical device tax:** 2.3 percent excise tax paid by [medical device](#) manufacturers and importers on all their sales.
 11. **Reducing the income tax deduction for individuals' medical expenses.**
 12. **Elimination of the corporate income tax deduction** for expenses related to the [Medicare Part D subsidy](#).
 13. **Limitation of the corporate income tax deduction** for compensation that [health insurance companies](#) pay to their executives.



From Home School Legal Defense Association

(Another reason our HSLDA memberships are important. Even if I never need Dee Black's legal protection the price of membership is well worth the confidence I place in the continual monitoring by HSLDA at the U.S. Capitol in the continual fight to preserve parental rights, the integrity of the U.S. Constitution and the advancement of homeschooling rights around the world.)

Senate Adjourns--No UN Disabilities Treaty!

HSLDA is pleased to report that the Foreign Relations Committee failed to vote the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to the full Senate in 2013. This is a huge victory and the credit lies with you, homeschoolers, concerned parents and citizens. [Read more >>](#)

Science Camps

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS SOUGHT FOR NATIONAL YOUTH SCIENCE CAMP HONORS

BISMARCK, N.D. – Gov. Jack Dalrymple today called on high school seniors from across the state to apply to represent North Dakota at the 2014 National Youth Science Camp (NYSC) that will be held next summer in Charleston, West Virginia. Two high school seniors will receive a full scholarship to exchange ideas with scientists and other professionals from the academic and corporate worlds. The selected delegates must demonstrate academic achievement in science and show potential for thoughtful scientific leadership.

The camp will run from June 27 – July 20, 2014, and will include lectures and hands-on research projects presented by scientists from across the nation; overnight camping trips into the Monongahela National Forest; and a visit to Washington D.C. The NYSC is held near Bartow in the eastern mountains of West Virginia, within the Monongahela National Forest.

The NYSC experience is offered at no cost to its participants. Contributions to the National Youth Science Foundation allow delegates to participate in this “once in a lifetime” experience. Educational and recreational programming, as well as meals, lodging and round-trip air passage are provided free of charge.

Dalrymple appointed Glenda Fauske from the Coalition for Conservation and Environmental Education (C2E2) to serve as North Dakota's selection coordinator for the 2014 NYSC. More information can be found at www.nysc.org. Application forms are available on the NYSC website at <http://apply.nysc.org> and must be submitted by Friday, March 1, 2014. Glenda.Fauske@ndsu.edu www.ndsu.edu/ndfs



Did you Know?

- According to research by the National Home Education Research Institute both parents are actively involved in home-based education, with the mother/homemaker as the main academic teacher most of the time. Fathers do about 10 percent of the formal teaching of the children.
- Guess who: He asks too many questions. He does not like math. He cannot learn. The teacher says he is ‘addled’—confused or mixed up. He is the seventh and last child of Samuel and Nancy. They decide to teach him at home. His name? Thomas A. Edison—one of America's most famous inventors.

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

- **Pray** for our board of directors: **Ken & Llorra 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, health, or spiritual challenges. **Pray** for those who have lost loved ones.
- **Praise** God for His mercies are new every morning!
- **Praise** God for the ways Home School Legal Defense Association has advanced homeschooling in America. **Praise** God that HSLDA is a Capitol Hill watchdog particularly on issues about U.N. treaties and parental rights.
- **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.
- **Thank** God for homeschooling moms who lay down their lives everyday to do God's will by teaching their children.
- **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 needful and a blessing to homeschooling.
- **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 him faithful, honorable in all areas of his life, and filled with wisdom from above.
- **Thank** our heavenly Father that almost 30 years ago He called a few brave families to pioneer homeschooling in N.D. Remember the Larsens, Lunds, Reimches, Dagleys, Birsts, Huntingtons, Tomans . . . Thank you, thank you, Lord Jesus!

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Heb.4:15-16, ESV

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

NDHSA Board of Directors

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Troy and Kristin 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

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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!

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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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!



NDHSA Christian Home Educators' Convention

March 20-22, 2014, Jamestown Civic Center

Keynote speaker: Phil Downer, Discipleship Network of America (DNA) Ministries <http://www.dnaministries.org/>

Featured speakers: Paul Downer also of *DNA Ministries* and our children's program will be taught by *JANDY Ministries* (Will present Thursday night keynote for the whole family!).

Activities: Used Book Sale (UBS), Art Show, Silent Auction, *Mentor Tables, Business and Crafts* on upper concourse.

Workshops: Oodles of them and **Nancy and Gene Transtrom** are coming back as workshop leaders this year. Can't wait!

Registration: Visit www.ndhsa.org for information or to register for the convention.

WATCH for convention booklet in the mail.

Find us on Facebook at: [North Dakota Home School Association](http://www.facebook.com/northdakotahomeschoolassociation)

www.ndhsa.org