

The Eclectic Report

NDHSA, P.O. Box 1066, Devils Lake, N.D. 58301
1.701.662.NDHS (6347) office@ndhsa.org www.ndhsa.org
Face Book at: North Dakota Home School Association

Volume 5 Issue 4 Editor: Gail M. Bibby billbiby@msn.com April 2015



Logo design by Josiah Kopp

Greetings!

Oh, my what a fabulous convention! (Okay, so I've been saying that for the past 24 conventions!), but it's still true. Hundreds, in fact over a thousand, registered for the annual event. I love visiting with old friends and meeting new ones. I always have warm, fuzzy feelings when I see so many daddys holding little ones. I am continually amazed by the materials available to parent educators as I zoom through the vendor hall. The choir this year was simply delicious! Excellent work by participants and choir director Bev Skaar. And I remember well all the work involved in such a project and I am grateful that the Lord raised up Karol Kapelle to become convention coordinator. Really big job, really talented gal! The variety and number of workshops was amazing. The silent auction had an extraordinary number of possibilities. I bid on several without success. What a blessing the entire event was and how thankful we ought to be for the work of the NDHSA board of directors . . . and I mean *work!* And let's not forget Theresa Deckert. What an amazing job she does and how thankful we ought to be for her diligence, her kind and generous spirit, and her God-given abilities. Yeah! I'm cheering.

Continue to pray diligently for our state legislators, no matter the party, all need wisdom from above. Pray for those who are working for good and godly legislation publically (NDFA, NDHSA) and behind the scenes. It does me good deep down to see Rep. Nathan Toman at his desk in the House. He's the first homeschooled individual to serve in the legislature--it is something to be very pleased about . . . and I am!

Gail

Visit our website: www.ndhsa.org

Like us on Face Book: North Dakota Home School Association

13th Annual Prairie Days

June 27 8:00 a.m. to June 28 10:00 a.m.

Mark Dagley Farmstead
3329 20th St.
New Salem, ND 58563

Family FUN Days

July 3-5, 2015

Make your Fourth of July weekend special and join the Sip Family.
More news to come!
wbsip@loretel.net

Home School Roundup

Saturday, Oct. 3, 2015

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Watford City, ND

Watford City Civic Center

Featured Speaker: **Chuck Black**

Workshop presenters: Chuck Black, Theresa Deckert, Lora Knight and others TBA.
Morning and afternoon general sessions and workshops held throughout the day.

Homeschool Day at the Capitol

April 6, 2015

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Speakers

Support group displays

Field trip options

Legislator visits

Heritage Center visits

**Theresa is still looking for support groups to provide displays.
Contact her at office@ndhsa.com**



The View from my Window

By Theresa Deckert, NDHSA Office Administrator

Wuneful, wuneful, wuneful to quote a famous North Dakotan! That is my synopsis of the 2015 Home Educators' Convention held in March: great speakers, workshops, food, keynotes, vendor hall, state choir and fellowship. It was such a blessing for me to get to see many old friends, put more names and faces together and meet some new friends.

I want to especially thank our convention coordinator, Karol Kapelle. She manages everything beautifully without ever seeming rattled.

There is a group of volunteers that I also want to recognize. The Skaar children, Knight children, Durham children, Deckert child and Kapelle children worked like troopers setting up the convention all day Thursday, throughout the convention and then helped with tear down. Some of those are children grown and out of the house and yet they were still there helping their younger siblings and parents. They even invited a couple of friends to help.

Three other families deserve a huge salute. Those are the Kenneys, Morstads and Kermit Paulson families. They joined the board crew in all of the above mentioned activities.

There were many other volunteers who helped in various ways during the weekend. Of course we must also mention the Geigers and their kitchen volunteers who served us wonderful meals and great snacks. I missed out on the ice cream, but saw many happy faces enjoying a treat!

I really expected to be at the church late into the night on Saturday, but so many stayed and helped with tear down that we were heading back to the motel in time to actually do some visiting.

May God bless each of those who helped make this a very special weekend. I may not know all of your names, but He does!



NDHSA Board Column (daughter of board members!)

Behind the Scenes

by Reanna Knight

When we enter the homeschool convention we see a well-organized registration table. We see vendors and their perfectly-placed merchandise. We see speakers and their spot-on presentations. Yet often we fail to see the hard work that goes on to make it such a wonderful blessing to homeschoolers, parents and students alike.

This year I had the privilege of helping set up the convention.

Our first task was to “stuff” the convention bags, which required putting flyers, handouts, and convention booklets into bags that would be handed out as the people arrived. This was no easy task; it took 18 people 2 hours to stuff 400 bags. That’s a lot of work!

When we finished stuffing bags we all looked to the convention coordinator, Mrs. Karol Kapelle. She was everywhere at once detailing people to set up chairs in this room, and take some from that one, directing vendors to the vendor hall, and making sure the speakers knew which room they would be speaking in and when to be there. Tables needed set up for the silent auction and signs needed to be hung everywhere. She went from one task to the next solving problems, directing people in an orderly dance of tasks. At times she would be in a situation where five people needed her - right now! I would have pulled my hair out and screamed, but she calmly helped each and every one with a smile. It was truly amazing!

My brother had the pleasure of working with Mrs. Kapelle’s counterpart in the vendor hall, Mr. Troy Durham. It was Mr. Durham’s job to insure all vendors were in the right place and that they had sufficient space and equipment. He and his workers helped unload and set up some of the vendor booths. He also answered any questions they had and made sure they had exactly what they needed.

And all this set-up, from registration tables to the vendor hall, was just the preparation work. Friday was worse.

Hundreds of people came in droves. The staff, as I like to refer to this group of volunteers, had to give out name tags and hand out the stuffed bags and extra convention booklets and this was only the pre-registered families. If you registered at the door you had to fill out a form which we used to print you and your entire family name tags. We then showed you where everything was and sent you on your way. Just the registration took five hours – from 7am to noon.

No event is without problems. Did I mention that the keynote speakers almost didn’t make it? Their vehicle broke down somewhere near Minneapolis and a homeschool family loaned them a van to get to Fargo. There were problems with the sound system in this room and the power point equipment in that room. We needed more tables than anticipated for the silent auction. Yet every situation was dealt with, efficiently by someone.

On Saturday, when the convention closed, we had to do everything in reverse. From tearing down the booths in the vendor hall and helping vendors load all of their remaining merchandise into trailers and vehicles, to moving chairs once again – some to one room, others out of another room. We had to pack up the registration tables, collect badges and lanyards, pack-up and put away or take away. After it was finally done, we were glad and sad – glad that we could finally rest and sad because it meant leaving newly acquired friends.

I had a wonderful time helping the amazing men and women who put together the 2015 North Dakota Homeschool Convention. It was hard work, but it was made enjoyable by the people I worked with. So perhaps next year we will all have a greater appreciation for the labor and dedication of those people behind the scenes.

Until next year, my friends, and thank you for all your hard work.

Religious Freedom in Indiana and the Blubbering Media

Don’t let the whiney-voiced hyperbolists and the howling harridans fool you. The Religious Freedom Restoration Act signed by Gov. Mike Pence simply “sets a standard that state government must follow when dealing with cases that involve religious freedom. The government must demonstrate that it has a ‘compelling interest’ to get involved, and then, if a remedy is called for, it must use the ‘least restrictive’ solution. The law sets a high bar to get involved and a low bar for any solution. That’s it. It doesn’t give anyone a ‘license’ to do anything.”

3/30/15 *Citizen Link*, a public policy partner of Focus on the Family

Videos for Five Vaccine Culture War Myths Available Now for Sharing

By popular demand, you can now access five separate short videos featuring the five Vaccine Culture War Myths that were outlined by Barbara Loe Fisher in her Mar. 8, 2015 referenced commentary entitled "The Vaccine Culture War in America: Are You Ready?" You can share these short one to five minute videos with your family, friends and anyone you want to educate about vaccination, health and informed consent rights.

Watch and forward the five Vaccine Culture War Myths [here](#) or watch and access all references to the original commentary [here](#).

Worth reading no matter your stand on government mandated vaccines.

Convention note:

I spoke to one gentleman at convention who told me they had been coming to convention for 18 years! He further stated that originally they came to help with caring for their grandchildren. Now, he says, they come for the informational speakers and encouraging workshops.

BoomWriter just launched a whole new page dedicated to [Homeschools](#):

[Learn More](#)

Our free and easy to use group-writing tools are an ideal fit for **Homeschool cooperatives** and any other **home-based collaborative learning groups**, and we've created a new page to help you easily join BoomWriter and start conducting fun and engaging group-writing projects with your homeschoolers!

Between our three tools--[StoryWriter](#), [WordWriter](#), and the new [ProjectWriter](#)--there are plenty of ways you can use BoomWriter in Homeschooling to help you teach writing, reading, vocabulary, and peer assessment skills in Social Studies/History, Science, ELA, and more!

Snatched 4/30/15.

North Dakota Family Alliance Dessert Banquet

April 7, 2015

7:00 p.m. Fargo Ramada

Speaker: Pam Tebow

(Mom of Tim Tebow)

[Click to purchase tickets or sponsorships](#)

North Dakota Family Alliance invites you to a dessert banquet, Tuesday, April 7, at 7 p.m. at the Ramada in Fargo. Pam Tebow will be speaking about "Standing Strong for Life." Tickets and additional information are available at <http://www.NDFA.org> or by calling 701.364.0676 or emailing events@ndfa.org.

Pam Tebow speaks on a variety of faith-based topics and is currently writing a book. Pam and her husband have been involved in a variety of ministries and have five grown children, including the Heisman Trophy winner, Tim Tebow. Pam is passionate about encouraging others to trust in the Lord and to use the influence God has given them to eternally impact the world.

NDFA is a Christian non-profit that works to strengthen families by equipping and informing policy leaders, elected officials, churches and concerned citizens to protect life, religious freedom, and Biblical marriage and sexuality.

www.ndfa.org events@ndfa.org 701.364.0676

Surprising Map Facts

Posted in *Random but Relevant* by Matthew Lewis

We've all seen the old-time maps showing, for instance, all of North America being about as wide as Florida. But did you know our modern maps of the world contain inaccuracies almost...[Read More](#)

Snatched from Home School Enrichment 3/27/15

The Bravest Homeschoolers I Knew

By [Melanie Hexter](#)

I believe they are among the bravest homeschoolers I know—right up there with the pioneering parents of the 1970s and '80s who educated their children at home when it wasn't yet legal. Any parents who remove their children from the public schools to educate them at home are bold...[Full Article](#)

CHARTING YOUR HOMESCHOOL COURSE (OR: HOW TO GET FROM HERE TO THERE)

By Vicki Bentley, HSLDA Early Years Coordinator

When I mention the word *curriculum*, what comes to mind? Most of us think of books. While your studies will surely include books, the word *curriculum* simply means "course of study" (its root translates from the French *courir*, "to run," and Latin counterparts). Think of your [curriculum](#) as the *road map* for your homeschool journey.

Now, a little secret about maps and me: I am hopelessly geographically challenged. I have been known to call my husband on my cell phone from the parking garage of the state convention, unable to find an exit—even after 11 years at the same facility. Not long ago, I got lost for 20 minutes, a mile from my own house—after four years at the same address.

So if I called you for directions, you'd probably ask me where I am now and where I want to go, so you could help me figure out the best way to get from here to there. Similarly, in mapping out your homeschool course, you must determine [where you are now](#), where you plan to go, then ascertain the best way to get from here to there (lest you be "lost in the parking garage" of homeschooling). This can seem overwhelming, but don't panic! Let's take a "rest stop" to determine your philosophy of education, which will guide you on the rest of your journey.

Continue reading article: <http://www.hslda.org/earlyyears/ChartingCourse.asp>

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING . . .

~Pray for our board: **Ken & Llor Knight, Jeff & Theresa Deckert, Pas. Jeff & Karol Kapelle, Sue Huntington, Neil Toman, Pas. Brian & Bev Skaar and Troy & Kristin Durham.** Pray for them regarding legislative issue and general board governance.

~Pray for single parent homeschoolers. Maybe God would use you to come alongside and help them with childcare, finances, curriculum.

~Pray for all involved with the legislative session. Make them wise, Lord, make them wise.

~Continue to Pray for those with health challenges: Alvin (and Becky) Reich, Jamestown; Nathaniel Breur, 12th grader (and family), Minot; Evan Vanderbeek, 9, (and family); Nancy Larsen (and family) as she recuperates from chemo; and Jon Leedah (Adie, too) who is now back in the states recovering after his visit to Mayo Clinic.

~Pray for Christians in the Middle East. Beg God to strengthen them to the very end. Pray for Iraqi, Syrian, and Libyan Christians. Pray for Christians in Kenya, and Niger. *Open Doors USA* reports that 100 million Christians are persecuted globally. Many are dying with the name of our dear Lord Jesus on their lips. Pray for those fearful mommies and their little ones as they run, hide or die because they are Christians.

~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 the Lord** they are carefully watching the latest trend i.e. "medical kidnapping". **THANK God** for Dee Black and his many years of wise, gentle, and patient assistance to N.D. parent educators and NDHSA staff. Give thanks for Dee's visit to our convention.

~Pray for homeschooling mothers and fathers in your support group, on your block, in your city, in North Dakota.

~Pray diligently for your Pastor that our Lord will keep him faithful, honorable in all areas of his life, and filled with godly wisdom.

O Lord, how entirely needful is Thy grace for me, to begin any good work, to go on with it, and to accomplish it. For without that grace I can do nothing, but in Thee I can do all things, when Thy grace doth strengthen me. *Imitation of Christ, Thomas A Kempis*

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**



HE is risen. HE is risen, indeed!

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 kapkian@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**, office administrator & east region support group coordinator, 701.662.4790 or jntdeck@gondtc.com for NDHSA items, use office@ndhsa.org
Pas. Brian and Bev Skaar, directors, 701.247.2875 or walkalongdeut6.7@hotmail.com
Troy and Kristin Durham, directors, 701.298.3414 or tkdurham@ideaone.net

NDHSA statement of faith

We believe in Almighty God, the Author of all creation, eternally existing in three persons, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit; the Bible as the inspired, infallible, written Word of God, complete in 66 books and our sole basis of faith and practice; the fallen state of man, guilty by nature and by act and therefore condemned before God; the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, fully God and fully man, except without sin, the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ on the cross for our sins, His visible bodily resurrection demonstrating His power over death and sin, His personal return; and regeneration by God, the Holy Spirit when we accept His free gift of salvation by His grace, through our personal faith, and not by any works we can do.

Mission statement

To provide a comprehensive home education information system to support, train and protect every willing North Dakota individual, family and church in the methods of privately funded, parent-directed home education.

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 24 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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