



The Eclectic Report

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NDHSA Convention February 25-27, 2016 Bismarck Civic Center

Greetings!

It's convention month! There is so much going on at the event this year that my best advice is to go to our website (www.ndhsa.org) and view all the information. And we've **just added four new science sessions for children and teens**. Check out the article below.

Plus bring your used curriculum and recoup some education costs at the always well-attended **used-book sale** on Thursday night. And don't forget to practice your family entertainment for the Friday night **TALENT SHOW**. Are you getting an offering ready for the **SILENT AUCTION**? Remember to get the kiddies working on their **ART SHOW** entries! For the teens: **GENERATION JOSHUA**.

If you have a story to tell from the early years of homeschooling be sure to stop and visit with me. I am still working on researching the history of **homeschooling in North Dakota** and have much work yet to do on this project. Your story matters! Tell it to me.

This is kind of a slump time in the school year when we all feel a bit of cabin fever. My advice: Remember why you have chosen this more difficult course. Think about the immeasurable value of teaching all the disciplines from a Christian worldview. Ponder the joys of sharing those moments of learning. Reflect on the fact that when God calls us to do a task, He will provide all that is necessary to complete it. This is a true and comforting fact. Trust Him to strengthen you for the journey. He is totally trustworthy.

Praying for you and hope to see you in Bismarck,
Gail, from the Blessed Life Ranch

2016 NDHSA Christian Home Educators' Convention
February 25-27 Bismarck Civic Center
Keynote: Israel Wayne

Go to:
www.ndhsa.org
for complete
convention booklet

UPDATES for CONVENTION

Still need acts for **TALENT NIGHT**; sign up @ kapklan@gondtc.com

Get your **SILENT AUCTION** items ready; donation and receipt forms for businesses at ndhsa.org (click on convention)

Still time to get your tables reserved for the **USED-BOOK SALE**; sign up @ kapklan@gondtc.com

PREREGISTRATION DATE extended to Feb. 18; register now to get reduced rates!

The View from My Window

Theresa Deckert, NDHSA office administrator



As I look at my calendar, it reminds me that it will soon be time for Convention. I have talked to several people in the last couple of weeks that say this is the highlight of their year. I would readily concur with that! As I prepare for convention one of the things I always do is to get my "shopping list" ready. This helps me use my time in the vendor hall wisely. We have a number of new vendors this year which I am looking forward to meeting.

Last week I took everything to the engraver for the 2016 Homeschool Hall of Fame inductees. I think this is becoming one of my favorite parts of convention. I hope many of you will be in attendance at the Saturday general session when these plaques are awarded. It has been an honor to visit with one of the inductees over the phone and via email. I have never met them, but we each are indebted to this couple for the sacrifice their family made for our homeschooling freedom.

Our Devils Lake Home School Group has started working on the song for the Homeschool State Choir. It is not too late to be part of this group which is always a lot of fun. Contact Bev at walkalongdeut6.7@hotmail.com. She will direct you to where to get your music so you can familiarize yourself with your part. There will be a couple of practices all together prior to the Saturday performance. (See included note from Bev.)

This year I am working on a gift basket for the silent auction. This is a fun way to earn money for future conventions. I am amazed at the variety of items people bring!

My son is really looking forward to the Generation Joshua Teen Track. He was able to attend a couple of years ago when we were in Cincinnati for the HSLDA National Leaders' Convention. What a wonderful way for our teens to gain an understanding of how government works.

Well it is sure to be a fabulous time. Drop by the NDHSA booth and say howdy!

"My Grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness," 2 Corinthians 12:9

Wendell and Beth Sip Family Farm Fun Days

June 17-19, 2016 at the Sip Farm

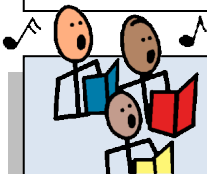
Please contact us by *PHONE* (218) 784-4804 or by sending us an *EMAIL* NOTICE (wbsip@loretel.net) to register your family.

PLEASE NOTE: you are **NOT** counted as attending by sending a "going" on one of our kids' face book accounts. I'm emphasizing this more than usual, as we have had families disappointed about past camps because they thought they were registered and later when we are full to capacity they realize they did not get their name in on time because they just signed on over face book. So, PLEASE call or email!

We look forward to seeing many of you and hope you are having a productive work and school season. I end with a blessing to each of your families that my Aunt Ruby (now age 95) sent to us:

In the name of Jesus Christ may you abound with the favor of the Lord and your life be full of blessing. Keep God's commands and you will find favor not only with God, but also with people. They will respect you for your good judgment and common sense, and your reputation will be one of honor. Let your actions be pleasing to the Lord and He will make even your enemies to be at peace with you. As you grow in stature, may your heart grow in wisdom, thus you will find favor, as Jesus did, with God and man.
(Psalm 5:12; Prov. 3:1-4; Luke 2:52.)

Your fellow servants in Christ,
The Sip Family
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wbsip@loretel.net



Haven't you always wanted to have an opportunity to participate in a "State Choir"? Well now YOU CAN!

"CALLING" one and all, ages 12-99 years "TO SING" in the Home Educators' Convention State Choir. The choir will be performing during the Saturday afternoon general session and we would be thrilled to have you join us as we lift our voices in praise.

The music selection is entitled "The Sweetest Song I Know". You will find it on rejoicemusic.com. Go to the tab Choral/Vocal music, then to Rejoice Choral series and then to 4-part choir (SATB). There you can download the music for \$.99 plus tax. If you have a problem go to the F.A.Q. tab at the top of the page and download the required apps. For further assistance call toll free: 800-722-3220 (Rejoice Music). If all else fails call Bev Skaar at 701-247-2875 and the music will be mailed out to you.

The Bismarck Civic Center is quite large so we need as many voices as possible. There will be two practices during the convention: one Friday; one Saturday. The times and places of the practices will be announced at the convention.

Thank you for sharing your talents to bless others. See you soon. Have fun practicing!!!

Think About THIS!

- For the 2014-2015 school year the average student cost for N.D. government education was \$11,000/child. It varied from district to district. For example, in the Goodrich school district with only 18 students the average annual cost was \$33,700/student. In Robinson with only 4 students the expenditure per student was \$47,700. A person can only shake her head in disbelief and disgust! The national average per student in 2010-2011 was \$12,608. (National Center for Education statistics)
- In a 2003 research project conducted with 5,254 adult participants by the National Home Education Research Institute's Dr. Brian Ray, findings showed that 75.8% of those homeschooled (for at least 7 years) strongly agreed with the statement "I am glad I was homeschooled." Another 19.4% agreed with the statement. Add it up: 95.2% were glad they had been homeschooled.

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Laurie Morstad is now collecting **Box Tops for Education** for the NDHSA. Send your clipped labels to her at: Laurie Morstad, 9175 80th St. NE, Hampden, ND 58338 or bring them to convention and drop them in the box at the registration table. Be sure to check for an expiration date.

Don't Be Stupid

{A Girl's Guide to the Good Life}
Blog by Erika Schanzenbach

If you think you have it all together, you are on the path toward stupidity my friend. We must recognize that we are flawed, sinful, blind, people. We are daughters of Eve and we don't know everything—we need help, wisdom. (Click on title to read.)

From ACTS & FACTS magazine, February 2016

Scientists keep finding short-lived biochemicals and even soft tissues in fossils! . . . they have found unmistakable evidence of specific proteins like collagen and hemoglobin, and even what look like red blood cells and bone cells, in dinosaurs and other fossils. Most soft-tissue structures occur as mineralized remains that preserve merely an impression or outline, but a few preserve decayed remnants of the original cellular structures. These original structures should be long gone after about one million years. A new report of intact blood vessels in a duckbill dinosaur bone pinpoints ways that such discoveries challenge old ideas about fossils.

Blood vessels in dinosaur bones look young. Why? Because they are made of proteins with short-lived amino acids that look like they have not been around long enough to completely react with oxygen. This good science again confirms Scripture's account of a recent creation.

(B. Thomas, Science Writer at the Institute for Creation Research.)

NEW education sessions at CONVENTION for children and teens!

2016 NDHSA CHRISTIAN HOME EDUCATORS CONVENTION SCIENCE EXPERIMENT WORKSHOPS

Each session will cost \$5.00 to cover the expense of materials the participant will take home.

SESSION 1--FRIDAY 8:30 a.m. (CHILDREN ages 8-12) Max. attendance, 20: Participants will dissect owl pellets to discover bones and bone fragments from small rodents that the owls have eaten. The birds digest the soft parts of the mouse they have eaten, but the bones cannot be digested, so the owl forms a pellet of hair and bones from the mouse and then spits it out. The pellets have been sterilized.

SESSION 2--FRIDAY 4:00 p.m. (TEENS) Max. attendance, 30: Participants will investigate the relationships between magnetism and electricity by making a simple motor from only a battery, magnet and piece of copper wire. We will explore how motors can generate electricity. We will look at light emitting diodes (LEDs) that can be red, green or blue depending upon the electricity applied to the leads. We will use a lemon to generate electricity.

SESSION 3--SATURDAY 9:00 a.m. (CHILDREN ages 8-12) Max. attendance, 20: Participants will investigate the relationships between magnetism and electricity by making a simple motor from only a battery, magnet and piece of copper wire. We will explore how motors can generate electricity. We will look at light emitting diodes (LEDs) that can be red, green or blue depending upon the electricity applied to the leads. The use of a multimeter will be demonstrated. We will also examine solar cells, simple circuits, and a citrus fruit battery.

SESSION 4--SATURDAY 10:45 a.m. (TEENS) Max. attendance, 30: Participants will learn about integrated circuits and make a tone generator that can produce almost any musical note depending on the combination of components including resistors and capacitors. A light sensitive resistor will be used to make a simple Theremin with infinite variety of tones.

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHY: Gary Plasschaert earned an undergraduate degree in Biology and a Chemistry minor from Moorhead State college and after a four-year tour in the Army Medical Service Corps returned to Minnesota to attend the University of Minnesota College of Public Health to earn a graduate degree in Health Care Administration. He currently is an administrator in Montana and volunteers his time promoting science education in public schools and with homeschool parents. He has judged science fairs, coached Science Olympiad, conducted in-classroom demonstrations, assisted with individual science projects and is currently volunteering two lunch hours a week to teach science at the Billings Educational Academy. He has three grown children and two granddaughters.

Students wanting to participate in these sessions will need to sign up ASAP by contacting Karol at kapkfan@gondtc.com.

Sessions are limited so first-come, first-served. If not full by convention students may sign up on site.

Ask not what the NDHSA can do for you, ask what you can do for the NDHSA

This is **Ken Knight**, President of the NDHSA Board of Directors. A little over a year ago I wrote an article explaining the NDHSA's reason for existence. As a reminder here are the last few paragraphs.

The NDHSA was founded to support people who choose to educate their children based in their own homes. The NDHSA is without apology a Christian organization, but we will work as hard to help a secular family as we would a Christian one. When a family first decides to homeschool, the NDHSA has done their homework to help guide them through the getting started process, including providing the Statement of Intent form. When discouragement rears its ugly head in a homeschool family, people who have been there and pushed their way through are there to talk to, to put you on the prayer list, to take you to a support group meeting. When there's a question about the law, when an over-zealous superintendent attempts to intimidate, or when a fearful grandparent thinks their grandchildren will be put into foster care because they don't understand, the NDHSA has answers. Our office and website, and our monthly newsletter, by careful research of the issues, knowledge of the current law (we take "legalese" and boil it down to common sense understanding), and doing our part to effect legislation in a positive way can provide those answers. When a group of homeschoolers in an area want to start a support group, we provide support group coordinators who can help them organize effectively and connect them with other support groups, and by providing tools and ideas for activities, field trips, and meetings.

When somebody wants to know what the NDHSA is all about they can attend our annual convention where we have nationally recognized keynote speakers, pertinent workshops, panel discussions, a mentoring booth manned by veteran homeschoolers, a used book sale, a diverse art and crafts display/contest, inspiring music and vendors who provide curriculum, supplies, literature, teaching aids, musical instruments, devotional material and a plethora of things that homeschoolers want and/or need. The convention also provides fellowship with like-minded people who are as different as they can possibly be so that everyone can feel at home.

The NDHSA is not just a board of directors; it is a mighty army of caring, loving, compassionate people who want to make as positive an experience for everyone involved as possible. Its purpose is to encourage, connect and facilitate as a group what individuals cannot do by themselves in order to insure that the generations to come will have the freedom, opportunity and wisdom to continue the essential work we are doing.

Now I want to put the shoe on the other foot. What should *you*, the homeschool families of North Dakota, be doing for each other and for the NDHSA? I understand that most homeschool families are inherently independent and self-sufficient. We seek out help when we need it but we draw great satisfaction from finding the solutions to most of our problems on our own. I would like to have us take a step back and look at the bigger picture: doing what is best for all of North Dakota's homeschool families. The NDHSA supports you but we need you to support us. I'm not talking about a fund drive. By God's grace, through membership dues, convention income, and the generous donations of faithful givers, the NDHSA is doing well financially.

What we need is *you*. We need *you* to come to the convention, attend Homeschool Day at the Capitol, be willing to testify for bills during legislative sessions. We need *you* to attend support group meetings, talk to your legislators, tell your friends and neighbors how great the homeschooling experience can be. We need *your* input on services you need that we don't offer or on activities you would like to see us provide. If we don't have the homeschool families of North Dakota standing with us, our ability to be an effective support organization is greatly diminished. The sacrifices that brought us the homeschool freedoms we enjoy are too precious to lose to selfishness and apathy. Take your place in the mighty army that is North Dakota homeschooling.

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 all issues of board

governance. Pray for our testing task force member, **Pas. Jeff Hoverson,** Minot.

~Pray for single parent homeschoolers. May God give them perseverance and peace as they follow His leading. Help them if you are able.

~Continue to Pray for those with health challenges.

~Praise God for His abundant grace.

~Pray for Christians in Iraq, Syria, and Libya. 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 daddies and their little ones as they run, hide or die because they are Christians. Then express your gratitude to the Lord for being born in America!

~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. **Pray for our new HSLDA attorney contact Daniel Beasley.**

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

~Pray diligently for your Pastor. Ask God to make them students of the WORD and courageous speakers of the truth. Pray they will devote themselves to prayer. Pray for the unity of your church and the entire Body of Christ.

~Pray for homeschooling mommies struggling with discouragement, feelings of being overwhelmed, resistance to this hard call, and for those who feel alone in their endeavor (especially in rural areas of N.D.). Pray the enemy will not diminish the zeal of beginning homeschoolers.

~Pray for every aspect of the convention that all will be done to glorify God!

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21 KJV

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



The cross-life . . .

Elisabeth Elliot's comments on what it means to take up the cross daily. From *A Slow and Certain Light*.

What is that cross? It is, I believe, the thing required of me today. "Let him take up his cross *daily*," Jesus said, "and follow me." Some duty lies on my doorstep right now. It may be a simple thing which I have known for a long time I ought to do, but it has been easy to avoid. It is probably the thing that springs to mind when I pray the prayer, "We have left undone those things which we ought to have done."

But when we understand the taking up of the cross in order to follow, we begin to understand that everything is actually an affair of the spirit, and we shall be asked about our motives. "The chief end of man," says the Shorter Catechism, "is to glorify God and enjoy him forever." This is what we are here for. Do I accept this position in God's universe or do I rebel against it?

The sooner we make up our minds to take up the cross and follow one lord and one master, the sooner we will be shown the right road, the path of righteousness.

All our problems are theological ones . . . All of them have to do with our relationship to God and his to us, and this is precisely why it makes sense to come to God with them.

God's command is always accompanied by his enabling.

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Troy Durham, conv. vendor hall coordinator & Kristin Durham, conv. art exhibit director

701.298.3414 tkdurham@ideacone.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 M. 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 and memberships 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 Daniel Beasley, Home School Legal Defense Association attorney of reference for North Dakota, 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 25 years. She serves on the advisory board for Lamplighter Publishing, writes a women's newsletter for her church gals, and volunteers with Caring Hearts Jail Ministry and Metropolitan Prison Pen Pals Ministry. She lives a modestly agrarian lifestyle in the Red River Valley of the North with a prince of a man, her husband Bill. Contact her at: billbiby@msn.com

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**Office hours: M-W-Th-F: 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Office closed on Tuesday.**

NDHSA Christian Home Educators' Convention

Feb. 25-27, 2016

Bismarck Civic Center

Keynote speaker: Israel Wayne

www.familyrenewal.org

Show me Your ways, O Lord; teach me Your paths.

Psalms 25:4