

The Eclectic Report

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January 2017

NDHSA Home Educators' Convention

February 23, 2017:
HOMESCHOOL DAY at
the Capitol

February 23, evening:
Registration; Used Book
and Home Biz Sale;
Teens Meet & Greet

February 24-25:
Convention Activities

Happy New Year!

How quickly the years fly by. Life is short. These years homeschooling can be very tricky. Sending your child off to a government school is the easy way; homeschooling him is the hard way. Don't give up. The rewards can be beyond your wildest expectations. And, frankly, the harm of taking the easy route is all too evident in our culture.

You will need help along the way: God's help, a good support group's help, the encouragement and instruction available at our annual state convention. Yes, convention takes effort, time and a bit of treasure, but you will come away blessed, encouraged, and further devoted to this calling.

May our dear Lord Jesus continue to pour out His grace on you and your dear ones.

Grace and peace,
Gail M. Biby

The View from my Window

By Mrs. Theresa Deckert, office administrator

Convention is rapidly approaching. Your convention booklet should have arrived in the mail. If not, please contact me at office@ndhsa.org and let me know you need a pre-conference booklet. The full booklet is available on our website. (www.ndhsa.org)

This year we are trying something new. We will be combining our **Homeschool Day at the Capitol** with the convention. On Thursday, February 23, make plans to meet at the Capitol to visit with your legislators. We have the *Memorial Hall reserved from 12:30 – 5:00*. If you want to sit with one of your legislators during the floor session, please contact them prior to the date. If attending the legislative floor session, you may want to arrive at 12:30. Those wishing to sit with legislators also need to be dressed appropriately: business casual, no jeans or holes in clothing. Parents, please watch your children while at the Capitol.

We will have an **NDHSA booth, Gen J booth** and *cookies* for our legislators. We are hoping to hear from several speakers in the afternoon including someone from Generation Joshua. Families can also take a tour of the Capitol or listen to committee meetings in the late afternoon.

Plan now on attending!

The Influence of Grandparents

From Dr. James Dobson

Let me turn now to the people who are most likely to give you the help you need. I'm referring to maternal or paternal grandparents. They have a God-given responsibility to influence their grandkids, and most of them are more than willing to fit the bill.

[Keep reading »](#)

50 Reasons Homeschooled Kids Love Being Homeschooled

From Mike Smith, HSLDA

This homeschool blogger surveyed her audience for the top reasons why kids love learning at home. Out of the mouths of babes, here is a list that will surprise, encourage, and warm your heart.

[Read More](#)

Health care sharing for people of Biblical faith

Christian families are sharing one another's medical needs through a unique model of Biblical community that doesn't require health insurance. Every month the more than 63,000* households share over \$23 million* directly to one another—household to household. They do not share in abortions and other unbiblical practices. The monthly share has never exceeded \$495* for a family of any size, and is even less for couples, singles, and single-parent families.

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* As of November 2016

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From *The Wisdom of Fenelon on the Education of a Child*

... let us render study pleasing; let us conceal the trouble under the appearance of liberty and delight. Let us suffer the children to interrupt their study by little sallies of diversion; these distractions are necessary, and ought therefore to be allowed, purposely to refresh their minds, that are so easily fatigued even by a short application.

The North Dakota Association of Counties (NDACo), through their affiliate, the Institute of Local Government (ILG) is pleased to announce six \$2,000 scholarships will be awarded to children or grandchildren of county employees and appointed or elected county officials. To qualify, students must have a parent or grandparent currently employed by a county or serving as an elected or appointed official of a county. The student must be age 17-22 at the time of the deadline, and enrolled to attend an accredited college or technical school in North Dakota.

A volunteer committee of academic leaders judges the applications based on a scoring system that emphasizes leadership potential and public service. Students are asked to write a brief essay on their personal academic and career goals and a second essay on the topic, "How has your parent's/grandparent's experience in county government affected you or helped shape your future plans?"

The application deadline is Friday, June 2, 2017. Winners are typically announced a month after the deadline, and winners will be invited to accept their honor at the NDACo Annual Conference in October.

The scholarship application is available for download at www.ndaco.org/scholarship or by contacting the NDACo office in Bismarck at 1-800-932-8730 or by e-mail at ndaco@ndaco.org.



2017 NDHSA Home Educators' Convention will be held February 23-25 in Bismarck. Registration is due by Feb. 13, 2017 for reduced prices. Visit www.ndhsa.org to download the full version convention booklet.

BOARD COLUMN



By Mrs. Karol Kapelle, convention coordinator NDHSA

I was reminiscing earlier today about my very first years homeschooling. I remember being so concerned about meeting the state's standards, my parents' expectations, my community's questions, etc. I started my sweet little boy off perched in an old public school desk (don't all new homeschoolers?) and thought, "Now, what?" Ha! I had purchased a set of kindergarten curriculum and just went at it following all the rules. He had such beautiful cursive writing as a first grader. I would send his handwriting papers to my mother who proudly hung them in the public school kitchen where she worked. All was going well until my son began to struggle with what was much later diagnosed as dyslexia.

Our precious firstborn daughter was next to join the homeschool ranks. She was a perfect little student in her desk sitting right next to her big brother. We soon became bogged down in the unnecessary seatwork (but we had to follow the rules) and learning issues were becoming more apparent with my son. He was so smart but just wouldn't "apply himself" and now hated sitting at his cute little desk. Many days were filled with tears on both our parts. Most of his issues were related to the dyslexia, some to his just being a boy who wanted to be outdoors working with his hands, and much to my concerns about what people would say if we didn't "make the grade". I just didn't want to disappoint anyone or reflect poorly on the homeschooling community. My desire to train up my children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord often took second place to my worrying that they wouldn't know all of their multiplication facts as soon as their public school counterparts. All I knew was how to "do" public school. I had very little knowledge of what constituted homeschooling. So, I did what I knew to do, not what I wanted to do. I wanted to enjoy my children; I wanted to teach them to love Jesus; I wanted to grow them in their giftedness.

We eventually added two more daughters to our little homeschool and learned many lessons along the way. I have never regretted our decision to homeschool. It allowed me to be the one that spent the most time with my children and have the most influence on their lives. Good or bad, the "buck" stopped with me. Oh, yes, if I could go back in time, I would change many things. I'll spare you all of the details, but I do want to leave you with one thought. Do what is best for your family calling on God's Word and wisdom. Yes, you will have to meet state standards and you will want your children to be able to function in society and earn a living. But don't let that be your guiding force. Don't let what others might think about you determine the outcome of your homeschooling experience.

I encourage you to attend our upcoming convention in Bismarck in February. You'll gain so much knowledge, support and encouragement to assist you in determining what is best for your family as you walk this BLESSED homeschooling road.

View complete convention booklet at: www.ndhsa.org

Homeschool Day at the Capitol - Feb. 23

From ParentalRights.org

- [Story: Blind Parents See Child Taken Away](#)
- [By the Numbers: Parental Rights and Parents with Disabilities](#)
- [Go Deeper: Buck v. Bell](#)

College Entrance Tests: Making Sense of the ACT, SAT, and CLT From Carol Becker and Diane Kummer, HSLDA

Do you have a college-bound high school student? If so, you're probably looking ahead to a college entrance test, such as the SAT, ACT, or other options. But which one is best for your student's future plans? This newsletter will explore the various options and give you the information you need to help you and your teen make informed decisions about college entrance tests.

[Tell me more about college entrance tests >>](#)

2017 Homeschool Graduates

The NDHSA is offering an opportunity for homeschool graduates to be recognized at our upcoming convention February 23-25, 2017. Send us a photo and short bio including what you have enjoyed about homeschooling, your future plans, your parents' names, where you're from, etc.

Please include this info and \$10 (payable to NDHSA) and we will publish it on a **2017 Graduates** page in our convention book. Send to kapkian@gondtc.com or mail to Karol Kapelle, 2443 91st Ave. NE, Tolna, ND 58380. **DO IT ASAP!**

From HSLDA:

Number of Homeschooled Children Doubles in 13 Years

The latest federal summary of homeschooling data confirms that this educational option is vibrant and expanding—and that homeschooling families are concerned by bullying and other problems plaguing more institutional methods of education. [Read more.](#)

Homeschooling When a Child Has Chronic Physical or Mental Health Problems

By Faith Berens, M.Ed.

As homeschooling continues to grow in popularity, our special needs consultants receive more and more calls and emails from families who have pulled their children out of traditional school settings due to chronic health issues. These are the parents whose children struggle with Lyme disease, chronic fatigue, mitochondrial disorders, sleep and mood disorders, epilepsy, depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder—you name it.

[Tell me more >>](#)

Dear Fellow Homeschooler,

Greetings! My name is Sheri Lang, and I homeschooled my three children from kindergarten through twelfth grade. During that time we were fortunate to have access to a local artist who gave art lessons to children and adults. One daughter recently graduated from college with double majors in art and theology. Another is currently studying biology with an art minor. Although not studying art at this time, my son also benefited from the art lessons.

Unfortunately many families do not have access to art lessons locally, or they may find the lessons are too expensive. With these needs in mind, my daughters have created an online art education program which teaches children and adults at a beginner or intermediate level.

This program consists of wholesome, step-by-step instructional videos. Content is sequential, each lesson building upon previous ones. It teaches the necessary foundations of drawing to help bring your budding artists to a more advanced level. Advanced classes will specialize in drawing people and horses. They will also have access to watercolor painting, water color marker "painting", and other more specialized courses.

To learn more about this program, go to www.marialang.net/courses.

Email: sherilynnlang@gmail.com or call 814-583-7792 with questions.

Sincerely,
Sheri Lang



Convention CHOIR

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

The musical selections are entitled "I Thank My Savior For It All" and "We Have an Invitation". You will find them 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 each plus tax.

Problems: Go to the FAQ tab at the top of the page and download the required apps. A toll free number for further assistance: 800-722-3220 (Rejoice Music). **If all else fails call Bev Skaar at 701-247-2875 and the music will be mailed to you.**

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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 billbivy@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: billbivy@msn.com

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Pray without ceasing ... for the fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

ASK God to continue to give wisdom in all governance affairs of the NDHSA to 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.**

BLESS those in your support group with encouragement and assistance.

INTERCEDE for Neal and Erica Anderson family as they remain at Children's Hospital with Arlyn.

PRAISE God for HSLDA and the myriad ways they continue to assist and defend parent educators.

ASK for wisdom as you raise your children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

REMEMBER the Barkie family as Lisa recently died due to a severe infection. She was a long-time support group contact for the Watford City area and still homeschooling.

PLEAD for a return to holiness in the land.

PRAY for your Pastor and his family. Encourage, support, assist them as the Lord leads.

INTERCEDE for homeschooling dads that God will strengthen their resolve and show them how to lead with devotion.

REMEMBER when you pray that the Lord is Sovereign; that He is good; that He intends good for His children; and that He will never leave or forsake those called by His Name.

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.

Eph.3:20-21

Send prayer requests to editor.