

North Dakota Home School Association *THE ECLECTIC REPORT*

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Editor's Musings:

Greetings,

Happy New Year. It is hard to imagine that 2018 is already history and that we have now embarked upon a new year.

Some have lost dear ones during the past 12 months, some have experienced losses of other types. But let's remember the blessings - all undeserved -- which we have enjoyed.

Think about this: no IEDs along I-94 or any road in ND; no children kidnapped to become child soldiers; central heat; more food than we can eat; the assurance of eternal life for those who belong to God; good health care allowing for treatment of many ailments which in ages past would kill us; bounteous mercies that are new every morning from our heavenly Father; friends and family who love us and whom we love; indoor plumbing and running water; the right to vote; laws that punish evil doers; dishwashers; automobiles allowing easy motoring from place to place; promised strength for each day; and a local body of be-

lievers to help us limp and lumber our way to the high places.

In fact, our blessings are so many it would take a book to write them all down ... just those we have experienced *this past year!* And one more thing to be very grateful for: North Dakota once had a very harsh homeschool law. There were many pioneers who worked hard, despite fear, to make sure that any family could homeschool their wee ones in North Dakota ... and the restrictions have continued to lessen providing additional freedom of choice for parents.

Yes, we have much to be thankful for and we look forward to the future with optimism. So heads up, hearts open to God's leading, and hands busy to do His work.

Grace and peace,
Gail M. Biby



On the Calendar:

- **Jan. 3** - Legislative Session 2019 begins
- **Jan. 25-27** - Cabin Fever Family Camp - wnbspip@gmail.com 218.784.4804
- **Feb. 28-March 2** - NDHSA convention-Jamestown
Keynote: Dr. Brian Ray
- **March 25** - Home School Day at the Capitol

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URGENT UPDATE
Hearing on the
homeschool bill HB
1052 is scheduled for
Tuesday, Jan. 8 at
10:30 a.m.
in Coteau A room.
Be there if you can.

The VIEW from my WINDOW

By Theresa Deckert, NDHSA Office Administrator

The homeschool bill was pre-filed by **Representative Daniel Johnston** who will be leading the charge in the House. Because of the pre-filing, HB1052 will probably come up for hearing early in the session. Even if this bill does not currently affect your family there are chances it will in the future, so it is important that homeschool families contact their legislators asking them to support HB1052 – especially if they are on the House Education Committee.

House Education Committee (District):

Chair – **Rep. Mark Owens** (17), Vice-chair – **Rep. Cynthia Schrieber-Beck** (25), **Rep. Ron Guggisberg** (11), **Rep Laurie Beth Hager** (21), **Rep. Jeff Hoverson** (21), **Rep. Dennis Johnson** (15), **Rep. Mary Johnson** (45), **Rep. Dan Johnston** (24), **Rep Dan Longmuir** (2), **Rep Andrew Marschall** (16), **Rep Brandy Pyle** (22), **Rep Michelle Strinden** (4), **Rep Denton Zubke** (39). Underscored names are bill sponsors.

The bill will change the first section of the home education statute referring to definitions. Currently the law reads:

15.1-23-01. Home education - Definition.

For purposes of this chapter, "home education" means a program of education supervised by a child's parent in accordance with the requirements of this chapter.

The proposed change reads:

15.1-23-01. Home education - Definition.

For purposes of this chapter:

1. "Home education" means a program of education supervised by a child's parent in accordance with the requirements of this chapter.
2. "Parent" includes a child's legal guardian.
3. "Supervise" means the selection of materials, determination of an educational philosophy, and oversight of the method, manner, and delivery of instruction.

When the bill comes up for committee hearing show your support by coming to the Capitol and attending the hearing. There will be a sign-in sheet at the lectern for everyone attending. Please sign in and indicate that you are in favor of the bill.

If you have relevant testimony you would like to share please contact me at office@ndhsa.org ASAP. Even if you have never testified, I will be glad to guide you through the process.

Let's let our legislators know that HB 1052 is a good and much-needed bill for ND home educators and that we fully support it!

BOARD COLUMN

From Jeff Deckert, a man of few, but important, words.

Reflections of a Home School Dad

The start of a new year brings thoughts of reflection and anticipation. What will this year be like? Will Jesus come back? What changes will occur during the year?

This year will bring a big change for us. It will be the close of home educating after 33 years of doing so. Those 33 years have included many changes: from the school desk in a “school room” to a recliner in the living room, from hiding in the house to giving concerts in nursing homes in the middle of the day, from one or two choices of curriculum to a plethora of options.

Sometimes you think about how you could have done it differently, but the choice to homeschool was definitely God ordained. It is no doubt an education for parents as well as children. Homeschooling has been a blessing in our family and I hope it will be in yours as well.

Stay the course, resist the urge to quit, and let God be responsible for the results.

Approximately two million U.S. students are home educated

Estimates range from 1.7-2.3 million homeschooled students in 2016.

(nheri.org)

Homeschoolers are diverse

Blacks, Hispanics, Asians and other minorities make up 41% of homeschooling families.

(nces.ed.gov, Table 7)

Homeschooling families come from many different backgrounds: Atheists, Christians, Muslims, and Mormons; progressives and liberals, libertarians, and conservatives; low-, middle-, and high income; parents with Ph.D.s, GEDs, and no high school diploma.

(nheri.org)

Parents homeschool for these reasons (among others):

(nces.ed.gov, Table 8)

- Concern about the environment of other schools
- Dissatisfaction with academic instruction at other schools
- Desire to provide religious or moral instruction

Many African American parents homeschool to:

(theatlantic.com)

- Protect their children, especially their boys, from institutional racism and stereotyping

Give their children a sense of their historic cultural roots

Homeschoolers score substantially higher on standardized tests than public school students, on average

The average U.S. homeschooled student scores 15-30 percentiles higher than the national average. Oregon homeschoolers, on average, score 29 percentiles higher than the national average. Arkansas homeschoolers, on average, score 11 percentiles higher than the national average.

(homeschoolingbackgrounder.com)

Homeschooled students are as consistently (equitably) educated as public school students

There are proportionately just as many well-served homeschool students as there are well-served public school students. And there are proportionately just as many ill-served public school students as there are ill-served homeschool students.

(homeschoolingbackgrounder.com)

The typical homeschooled student is well-socialized

Socialization is the process of gaining the abilities and motivations necessary to function well as a member of society. In recent research, homeschoolers have demonstrated the sufficiency of their socializing experiences, on some issues showing better results than conventional schools.

(stetson.edu)

One study suggests homeschooled students may be more politically tolerant than public school students.

(nheri.org)

Homeschoolers likely have a lower child abuse rate than the national average

The best data available offers credible evidence that homeschoolers have a lower child abuse rate than the national average. There are no studies existing that offer credible evidence that homeschoolers have a higher than average child abuse rate.

(homeschoolingbackgrounder.com)

Regulation does not help homeschooled students

Homeschool academic achievement is not boosted by regulations.

(homeschoolingbackgrounder.com)

There is no evidence that regulating homeschoolers protects homeschooled students from child abuse.

(nheri.org)

HOMESCHOOLING

Backgrounder

(From the *Homeschooling Backgrounder*, Fast Facts. © 2018. www.homeschoolingbackgrounder.com)

HB 1052

Committee hearing: Jan. 8 - 10:30 a.m. Coteau A Room

With the passage of HB 1052 all confusion over what the term 'supervise' means as contained in ND homeschool law will be removed. It will provide additional freedom to parent educators to fully oversee and direct the education of their children. Look for much more information on this in the *Legislative WATCH*, published weekly during the legislative session. Information will also be posted at our website: www.ndhsa.org

Clinton Birst quote; December 28, 1993, *The Home School Report*

While the seasons change, the blessings of relationships within our family can continue all year long. Changes in the calendar may change some aspects of our family focus, but the joy of our relationships does not decline. New home schoolers have commented to me that one of the things they have noticed after beginning, is how the quality of their home life has improved. They have found they now enjoy and nurture each other more and that they do not have to spend near the time trying to counteract the negative effects of peer dependency and other forces. *While nothing is perfect, homeschooling does provide a wonderful opportunity to build the kinds of relationships in which joy is evident all year long.*

19.0351.02000

Sixty-sixth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

House Bill No. 1052

Sponsors: Reps. Johnston, M. Ruby, B. Koppelman, Hoverson, Simons, Kasper, Strinden
Sens. Kannianen, G. Lee, Hogue, Sorvaag

A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 15.1-23-01 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the definition of parent and supervise in home education.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 15.1-23-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

15.1-23-01. Definitions.

In this chapter:

1. "Home education" means a program of education supervised by a child's parent in accordance with the requirements of this chapter.
2. "Parent" includes a child's legal guardian.
3. "Supervise" means the selection of materials, determination of an educational philosophy, and oversight of the method, manner, and delivery of instruction.

Here is the entire bill. Please carefully read it before contacting your legislators. Legislative information at: www.legis.nd.gov

HOMESCHOOL DAY at THE CAPITOL
March 25, 2019
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Great field trip!

Now is the time to make donations to sustain the work of the NDHSA. Donations are down but the work continues to grow. **Help if you can.**



Send clipped labels for **BOX TOPS for Education**:
Laurie Morstad
9175 80th St. NE,
Hampden, ND 58338
Check expiration dates.

For legal assistance
JOIN
Home School Legal
Defense Association.
www.hslida.org

Find a support group near you at:
www.ndhsa.org
click on support groups.

NDHSA Convention
Feb. 28--March 2, 2019
Jamestown Civic Center
Keynote: Dr. Brian Ray

NDHSA CONVENTION

February 28-March 2, 2019

Jamestown Civic Center

The convention information will be online soon at www.ndhsa.org. Take a look at the speakers, workshop descriptions, and the teen's and children's tracks. Register ONLINE. Pre-conference booklets in the mail. If you don't receive one, contact our convention coordinator at kapklan@gondtc.com. She'll mail one out promptly.

FRIDAY night SPECIAL EVENT

The Ed Wiley
Comedy Show
March 1 7:00 p.m.

Admission: \$5; \$25/family; Under 6 FREE

IMPORTANT UPDATE

Thank you for those who included the NDHSA in your end of the year giving! **Donations for the month of December were \$505.** This is over double our usual monthly donations. Right now the convention and memberships are funding the NDHSA, but that cannot continue long term unless we raise convention prices significantly. We have tried to keep them low and affordable so that all families can attend. Our bare minimum monthly operating costs are about \$2000. This is pretty low when you consider that covers salary for 3 part time employees, website hosting and miscellaneous office expenses such as postage. Of course our annual expenses are much higher because of the cost of the convention. **You can help by first of all renewing your membership to the NDHSA** which has several perks. Additionally, would you consider either a **one-time gift or monthly support**? Thank you for helping us to be a resource for homeschoolers and future homeschoolers of ND!

TEN WAYS TO HELP KIDS KEEP THE FAITH

https://www.crosswalk.com/slideshows/10-ways-to-help-kids-keep-their-faith.html?utm_source=&utm_campaign=Crosswalk%20Home%20School%20HighSchool%2001/14/05&utm_medium=email&utm_content=2672017&bcid=f63d90f9a76bd7aabf4cff48a78c2eae&recip=488840289%20

SIX WAYS TO ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD TO READ (AND LIKE IT)

https://www.crosswalk.com/family/parenting/kids/6-ways-to-encourage-your-kids-to-read-and-like-it.html?utm_source=&utm_campaign=CW%20Home%20School%20Encouragement%2001/17/05&utm_medium=email&utm_content=2667787&bcid=f63d90f9a76bd7aabf4cff48a78c2eae&recip=488840289%20

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~Pas. Brian, director & Bev Skaar, convention choir director 701.247.2875 walkalongdeut6.7@hotmail.com

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 more than 28 years. She has served on the advisory board for Lamplighter Publishing, writes a newsletter for her church gals, and volunteers with Caring Hearts Jail Ministry and Metropolitan Prison Pen Pals Ministry. She and her husband Bill are recipients of the 2017 NDHSA Homeschool Pioneer Award. Contact her: billbiby@msn.com. She is blessed beyond measure and once had a very long bucket list. She now prefers buckets of June berries.

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North Dakota Home School Hall of Fame Inductees

- 2014 Rev. Clinton & Judi Birst, Mark & Lynette Dagley, Dr. Ray & Rita Larsen, Gerald & Sheryl Lund
2015 Neil and Chris Toman, Dr. Graef Gannon, Rev. Edward and Sue Huntington
2016 Michael Farris J.D., Rev. Thomas & Peggy Patzer
2017 Bill & Gail Biby, Morris & Jackie Conklin, Allen & Barb Entzel
2018 Linus & Anna Evinger
2019 ????



PRAYER

- **PRAY** for those in spiritual need. Some are in your support group; some are in your church fellowship; they are at your grocery store; meet them at the clinic when your wee one is ill; find them at STOP lights and YIELD signs; see them in the homeless men; know they are in your closest friends and family.
- **ASK GOD** to make you holy - and obedient - and kind - and generous.
- **REMEMBER** the forsaken, those still outside the fold, many who are lonely and afraid, the disillusioned and disheartened, friends who have lost loved ones this past year, and those who are discouraged. Do more than pray...help if you are able.
- **PRAISE GOD** for salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- **INTERCEDE** for your spouse, your pastor and family, our state legislators, our national leaders, and loved ones yet unsaved.
- **ASK GOD** to make us wise. Oh, Lord, make us wise!
- **PRAY** for those in prison.
- **ASK GOD** to fill us with the knowledge of His will; to help us grow in grace; to love His Word and to obey it.
- **PRAY REGULARLY** for the NDHSA board of directors as they continue to provide vision and wisdom.
- **PRAISE GOD** for Home School Legal Defense Association; for Daniel Beasley, HSLDA rep for ND; for their continued careful monitoring of federal legislation; for their continued work to expand freedom for homeschoolers.
- **REMEMBER** the suffering Church around the world. Often.