

THE ECLECTIC REPORT

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August 2021

Vol. 12 Issue 7

Published by the North Dakota Home School Association

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Greetings.

As I continue work on *The History of Home Schooling in North Dakota*, I have the opportunity to read through much I have written over the past three decades.

It's encouraging to read the works of other authors that have been included in the newsletters over the years and I have found comfort and peace in doing so.

The task turned out to be greater than I imagined, but it has been so smilingly delicious.

I am overwhelmingly grateful to the many, many home schoolers who have encouraged me in my work, those who have assisted local groups to provide information and resources to parent educators.

I am grateful for the groundwork laid by Clinton and Judi Birst and many others. And words can hardly express how much we owe to Home School Legal Defense Association. They have been there for us. It mattered.

And I am thankful that God called me for this time, this place, this job. I really got to do it all! He has been very good to me.

I leave you with a thought that is paramount: Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved! In the end, nothing else matters.

Till we meet again,

Gail



The NDHSA is a 501c3 non-profit.
We rely on memberships
and donations to keep operating.

NDHSA Convention
March 10-12, 2022
Fargo, ND

On learning new things

By Liz Buck, NDHSA Office Administrator and Publications Editor

Someone wise once said, "The expert in anything was once a beginner."

These days I find myself becoming the student once again. As I have taken on this new position of Administrator and Editor for the NDHSA, I feel a bit like I am learning to ride a bike without training wheels. My mentor, Theresa Deckert, has been extremely patient with me as she shows me the ropes. It takes me back in time to when I was six years old, learning to play the piano. Theresa was my teacher then, too! Back then (much like now) she was patient and generous of her time and knowledge.

It's tempting to think Theresa was born with this innate knowledge of homeschooling and that I will never be able to acquire all of the information it takes to do my job successfully. But, then I remember Theresa was once a new homeschooler too. I find myself learning from her once again, and I know eventually there will be fruit. Learning something new is never easy, and it seems to get harder as we age. But being in this position makes me think about all who are taking on this crazy home schooling lifestyle for the first time. Many of you feel a little lost right now, maybe even a bit panicked. You look at your little ones and wonder if you are up to the task. I have to be honest with you...you aren't.

If there's one thing I have learned in my years of homeschooling it's that I cannot do the work without the guidance of my heavenly Father. The Bible makes this promise to us when we aren't sure what to do (or when we are learning something new!), **"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you."** Rest in the promise that if you ask Him for wisdom, He will give it. And, not only will He give it...He will give it GENEROUSLY! I have seen this demonstrated time and time again throughout our years of homeschooling.

For those of you who are seasoned pros on the homeschool journey, I encourage you to step into the water and learn something new. It might be uncomfortable for a season, but in the discomfort you will find yourself relying more on God to help you!

Seasoned pros, newbies, or somewhere in between, it is always helpful to walk in the shoes of the kids we are teaching every day and remember what it is like to learn something new.

Your Cheerleader,
Liz

Board Column

From Lora Knight, forever wife of Ken Knight, separated for a time, one day to be reunited in glory.

My dear friends – I did not know back in May when I volunteered to write an article this month for The Eclectic, what my life would look like in August. So much has changed in so little time. I am no longer Ken Knight's wife; I am his widow. I never understood the impact of the word widow, until now. I am now "head of household" and can't pass off those telemarketing calls to my dear husband who had a gentle, yet convincing way of saying, "No." I can't tell my teenaged son, "Let me talk to dad." And those are just the tip of the iceberg – name changes on phones, bills, insurance, bank accounts, beneficiaries. I teasingly told Ken just a couple of days before he died, "So, you are going to up and go to heaven without me!" He motioned me close, kissed me, and whispered, "Not if the Lord comes and we go together." Oh, how I wish He would have. But it reminds me that our separation won't be long. Jesus is coming again and when He does, I will see my beloved again. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the home schoolers of the great state of North Dakota. Your prayers and support – physical, emotional, and spiritual have been greatly appreciated. God blessed my family beyond belief throughout this painful journey and I'd like to share some of that with you.

When Ken became sick, our support group was in the last stages of preparation for Liberty Camp – a five-day, day-camp all about American history. I was scheduled to teach one of the stations but needed to stay home and care for Ken. One of the ladies in our support group jumped in to assume that responsibility and did a wonderful job! When neither Ken nor I could reprise our characters, they were able to reschedule and reorganize to cover the loss of actors.

When hotel rooms weren't available in Bismarck due to the rodeo being in town a home school family gave us the use of one of their rental properties – free of charge, for as long as we needed it. That meant 20+ people living in a house, but it perfectly met our need. The Bismarck/Mandan support group furnished said house with chairs, beds, dishes, and even food.

When my watch broke (those of you that know me, know how addicted I am to the time) a homeschooler from the Valley City area who "just happened" to be headed to Bismarck brought me a new one. That seems little, but it was huge to me at the time and the short visit and prayer with her encouraged me that day.

When we realized the potential attendance of the funeral and knew that our small church could not provide a meal, the homeschool families of the Dickinson area all jumped in and prepared a feast! Someone heard that Ken loved banana pudding and A&W root beer. They distributed to the family, during the meal, individual containers of banana pudding and a can of A&W root beer. That felt like God was personally giving each of us a big hug!

When two of my boys needed haircuts for the funeral and two grandsons received terrible haircuts that needed cleaning up, a local homeschool dad who is a barber, met that need – above and beyond. They all looked great!

When the funeral started there were homeschoolers there from around the state. People who had known Ken, been touched by his wisdom or humor or generosity, all rallied to support our family. Their many kind words and remembrances, even just their presence was comforting. God promised in His word to comfort us in our troubles. I was reminded that He often keeps His promises through the hands and hearts of His people.

When I walked into the chapel for the funeral the wall of flowers that greeted me were a testament of the love and care that so many had for my husband, myself, and my family. We were consoled with greetings from Canada, the workplaces of several of my children, my husband's workplace, homeschoolers from across the state and even my Marine son's company. Words cannot truly describe the comfort that those arrangements brought, knowing they were sent in love to ease the aching of our hearts.

When we were all gathering in Dickinson, after living in Bismarck for over two weeks, homeschool families and our church family, brought food out. That was such a blessing. It wasn't money that the meals saved, although they did. It wasn't the prep time saved, although it was. It wasn't the planning it saved, although that was appreciated. Mostly – it was that there was food available. The little ones needed and very much wanted to eat. The rest of us didn't think about food – planning, buying, preparing, etc. But when it was just there, it was easy to pick up a plate, serve a bit and eat. Or someone would fix a plate and bring it to me and say, "Mom, you need to eat."

When we were looking at housing 20+ people in my smaller house in Dickinson, a home school family brought a nice fifth wheel out and parked it for our use – for as long as we needed it. Once again, a need was met which allowed more of my family to stay close. Another family offered their mobile home which allowed a daughter and her family from Canada to stay for three weeks! That daughter and her husband helped me through some paperwork and organizing.

When my heart was heavy, God often lightened the load with a text or a card from someone telling me that we were in their thoughts and prayers. These were often accompanied with an invite to coffee or a visit or an ear whenever it was needed. God's Holy Spirit guided these kindnesses when He knew that I needed them.

Those of you who are one of the unnamed mentioned above, you know who you are – THANK YOU. Those two words do not begin to cover our gratitude, but they are what we have. Be assured, I remember your work and labor of love and thank God for you daily. May God richly bless you as you all have richly blessed me and my family.

Here is a perk to our NDHSA members. There is a **FREE homeschool planner** on the member portion of our website. You can download as many as you want.

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

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



Memberships, donations and convention income is what keeps the NDHSA operational. If God so leads, a year-end gift will be greatly appreciated and carefully used on behalf of ND parent educators.

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

With SchoolhouseTeachers.com, you don't need anything else. We offer [Preschool Playground](http://PreschoolPlayground) for the littles, and many options for the rest of your children all the way through [12th grade](http://12thgrade)! Science to language arts and everything in between, we've got you covered. Every subject, every grade, every student.

QUICK OVERVIEW of the LAW

By Gail M. Biby

NDCC 15.1-23

The ND home school law, in my opinion, is now one of the finest in the land. *EXCEPT* for, and this is no small thing, the discrimination that continues against the developmentally disabled. That section of the law is shameful.

The statement of intent (SOI) must be filed annually for each child between the ages of 7 and 16 with your local school district. If you do not file on a child older than 16 they are considered a drop out by the DPI for their statistics. It is to be filed within fourteen days of beginning your home school or within fourteen days of establishing a new school district of residency. It is to contain:

- name and address of child
- child's date of birth
- child's grade level (determined by parent, not by age)
- name and address of parent
- qualification of parent
- list of public school courses child will take
- list of extracurricular courses child will take at public or nonpublic approved school
- opt out section for testing now included

The SOI must be accompanied by the child's proof of identity (copy of child's birth certificate -**NDCC 12-60-26**) and the immunization record, if you immunize. You may opt out of all or any immunizations for philosophical, moral, or religious beliefs or for medical reasons. (**NDCC 23-07-17.1**)

The parent is qualified to home school in ND if you have a high school diploma or G.E.D. Attach proof of same to your SOI. You may home school even if you have neither through the monitoring provisions of the law.

Some courses are required by law. Find them at **NDCC 15.1-21**. You must provide 4 hours of instruction for 175 days per school year.

Some records are required: an annual record of courses and the child's academic progress assessments including standardized achievement test scores. These records must be provided, if requested, to the superintendent or

administrator of a public or nonpublic approved school if the child transfers from home schooling. Otherwise you simply keep the files for your records.

If you do not have a high school diploma or G.E.D. you must be monitored for two years. The monitor must be ND state certified and, if requested by the parent, must be supplied and compensated by the local school district. Your other option is to hire your own state certified teacher to act as your monitor. The monitor must file a progress report twice a year with the local school district. Monitoring times: one hour/week for the first child; an additional 1/2 hour/month/additional child. It is to be proportionately reduced if the child attends any classes at the local school.

Testing is required in grades 4, 6, 8, and 10, but the parent may opt out of testing based on:

- philosophical, moral, or religious beliefs, or
- is a state certified teacher, or
- has a baccalaureate degree, or
- has met or exceeded the cut off scores on a national teacher exam

This opt out information must be included on your SOI. The test must be a standardized achievement test used by the school, if provided by the school, or a nationally normed standardized achievement test if the parent rents their own. The test is to be taken in the child's learning environment or at the school, at the parent's discretion.

Three sections of the Code deal with test results and remediation. Read them at **NDCC 15.1-23-11** and **-12** and **-13**.

Developmental disabilities and home schooling are addressed at **NDCC 15.1-23-14** and **-15**.

Regarding high school diplomas the law allows the local school district, a nonpublic approved school or the center for distance education to grant diplomas. Usually the child must enroll in the school district fulltime for a period of time. The center for distance learning may be expensive. Obviously the child would need to meet all requirements of the issuing entity.

Our law is now easy to understand and easy to implement. We can thank those who worked hard to make it so.



CHANGES

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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

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 bilibiby@msn.com.

Gail M. Biby is the publications editor for the NDHSA and has been joyfully working with parent educators for more than 30 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: bilibiby@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 Dr. Brian Ray, the Sack-Headed Anonymous HSer

2020 Leroy and Ann Nelson, Greg Lange, esq.

2021 Marvin & Connie Wolf, Doug and Ruth Bernston



PRAYER

- **ASK GOD** to make us wise and gentle.
- **REMEMBER** the lost. THEY ARE LOST!
- **INTERCEDE** for your spouse, your pastor and family. Pray to be faithful, obedient, willing to throw away all excuses that keep us from denying self, taking up our crosses, and following Jesus.
- **ASK GOD** to stay the hand of the evil ones. Oh, God, please don't leave America to its own devices! We are in trouble, Lord.
- **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 and state legislation.
- **PRAY** for courage to stand when standing is difficult, even dangerous.
- **INTERCEDE** for your neighbors.
- **PRAY** for Gail Biby as she continues work on *The History of Homeschooling in North Dakota*.
- **BLESS** the Lord at all times. May His praise be continually in our mouths.
- **PRAY** for Liz as she adjusts to her new job. Bless the Lord for her as she takes on this important business.