

Greetings!

Change is a hard thing and as we get older (here's a hint for millennials and GenXers): it gets even more difficult as you age. Oh, yes, it will happen to you, too. But the thing about God's good and generous Sovereignty is that He chooses for us--our habitation, our vocations, our families, our church leaders, our government, the time of our birth, the time of our death and everything in between. I don't know about you, but this brings me great comfort. I know enough about me to know that if I were left to my own devices I would be in grave difficulty. Even when we find ourselves in the valley of troubles, our dear Lord Jesus is with us ... and our God is FOR us! He is *with* us, and He is *for* us.

Changes are coming soon for your family schedule as you once again begin another blessed year of homeschooling. I am so grateful for the changes I have seen in the past 26 years that I have had the privilege of working with parent educators. At one time in order to homeschool in N.D. you would need to be a N.D. state certified teacher. Previously testing was required annually, then in about every other grade. Now anyone with a philosophical, religious or moral opposition to testing can opt out --- WITH-OUT any academic qualifications. At one time the N.D. Department of Public Instruction had the right to write rules of administration for the homeschool laws passed by the legislature. By God's grace that duty was removed from them and a good thing, too. The last rules written were 13 pages long for a law that was only six pages. Our homeschool laws are something to be very grateful for and the changes though incremental, were persistent. We are blessed. I am blessed to have been called by God to do the work He chose for me. I have been overwhelming blessed, encouraged, nurtured, corrected, loved, and strengthened by those the Lord has brought into my life.

Bear with me in the September deadlines as my dear husband and I will be experiencing some very monumental changes in our lives. If you think of us, pray for us. We are praying for you -- that you will be filled with the knowledge of God's will in your lives; that you will grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus; and that you will persevere in homeschooling your wee ones. A more worthy pursuit could hardly be found.

Grace and peace,  
Gail M. Biby

## Labor Day Camp

September 1-4

Labor Day Family Camp will be held at *Crystal Springs Camp*, west of Jamestown, Sept 1-4, 2017. If you are planning on attending, please **send us an email ASAP**, as we're sure camp will fill up quickly and we are limiting the number of people attending. Please note: We are currently taking only registration for full family units who are willing to commit their families for the entire weekend. Exception is single adults. Hope to see many of you there - enjoy the summer months! :)

"Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord." PS 31:24

sip family [wnbsip@gmail.com](mailto:wnbsip@gmail.com)

**Notice email change!**



## The View from my Window

By Mrs. Theresa Deckert, NDHSA Office Administrator

Maybe you will be entering the new realm of high school with your student this year or maybe you are in the middle of those years. I thought I would write about some strategies for high school this month.

My first word of advice would be to keep good records! You will need to put a transcript together at some point and good records over the high school years will be invaluable. I actually start the transcript after the first semester of the freshman year and then keep it on the computer to update. After I add something at semester's end I also print a hard copy just in case I have computer issues!

It is important that a transcript contain the following: name of student and birth date, name and address of school, a table for each year of high school with the grade and year listed, subjects, grade received and credit. At the bottom of each year's listing, you will list total credits, GPA and cumulative GPA. The very bottom should include your grading scale and a place to sign certified by and your title. Include an anticipated graduation date and a spot for the actual graduation date when completed. I also have "Official Transcript" typed on the top of mine. A transcript should be just one page long and the key is it should be easy to read and understand.

After your child graduates, keep a copy of their transcript in a safety deposit box as this is a permanent record that needs to be kept! You should make a transcript even if your child does not plan on attending college. They may have to produce one for a job, application, trade school or if they homeschool their own children someday.

Transcripts are difficult to produce after the fact, especially if several years have passed. Keeping current with your record keeping will free you of much stress down the road!



## BOARD Column

By Mrs. Bev Skaar



On July 20 we climbed into the minivan and set our course for Mt. Morris, NY, with "port-of-calls" in Sault Sainte Marie and Niagara Falls; our destination, the **2017 Lamplighter Guild for Creative Disciplines**. Mark Hamby and his crew rolled out the red carpet to more than 90 attendees, eager to glean some new creative skills from master instructors.

The 6-day event centered around the theme of **Wisdom, Faith and Folly** taken from the book of Proverbs. The goal: "to make ready a people prepared for the Lord". Mark's chosen verse for the week was 2 Peter 1:

*"His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness according to a full intimate knowledge of Him who has called us to His own glory and excellence; by which he has also granted unto us great and magnificent promises, that through these, we might become partners and partakers in His divine nature."*

The classes offered this year by 11 master teachers were: Biblical Theology, Film Making, Photography, Culinary, Visual Arts, and Dramatic Arts including Script Writing, Stage Acting, Sound Design and Digital Music Composition. My son, Jonathan, chose the Stage Acting track and I chose the Photography track. Our days started early with Morning Reflections at 6:15 a.m. and the master-led classes lasted until 10:30 p.m. each evening. Special guests included [Light of the World Ballet](#), [David and Karen Maines](#), [Dr. Lew Sterrett](#), and [Andrew Peterson](#) in concert. To see a biography of the master teachers go to [www.lamplighterguild.com](http://www.lamplighterguild.com) click on courses, then 2017 Masters.

We were excited to see North Dakota so well represented including several of my State Home School Choir members. There were 10 of us in all! By far the cutest and most photographed attendee was little Edison Jost from Bismarck. His daddy, Joel, was one of the master teachers in Film Making for the week. His grandparent's are Brian and Lisa Geiger.

The Lamplighter Ministry Headquarters at Mt. Morris hosted us for the first 3 days, then (via chartered bus), we spent the next 3 days at Mohonk Mountain House near New Paltz, NY. Mohonk is a 500-room Victorian Castle surrounded by breathtaking scenery!

Jonathan enjoyed learning from Patrick Powell, once a well-known and professionally sought-after stage actor and theatrical director now known for his portrayal of "St. John in Exile". I enjoyed discovering some new-to-me photography skills from Kim Winery's photography class. To see a photo portfolio of the week check out the Lamplighter Guild for Disciplines Facebook page or YouTube.

On our final evening together each of the creative disciplines gave a presentation of their newly-acquired skills. Under Patrick Powell's direction, the Stage Acting class acted out Proverbs 1 through 9. They came away with not only some new acting techniques but more importantly with a deeper heart knowledge of God's word in "Wisdom, Faith and Folly". Also on the final evening the founder and president of the Lamplighter Guild, Mark Hamby, shared with us from his heart and led in a time of prayer and consecration. He encouraged all to join him in the "quest toward a creative excellence that inspires one to know God intimately, proclaim Him passionately, and enjoy Him infinitely." Maybe you have a passion to serve the Lord through the creative arts; plans for the 2018 Guild have already begun.

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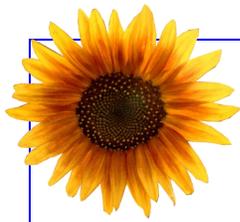
Laurie Morstad is collecting **Box Tops for Education** for the NDHSA. Send your clipped labels to her at: Laurie Morstad, 9175 80<sup>th</sup> St. NE, Hampden, ND 58338. Be sure to check for an expiration date.



## New STATEMENT OF INTENT ...

... published by the NDHSA is posted at [www.ndhsa.org](http://www.ndhsa.org). The form will reflect the new law allowing any parent, regardless of academic qualifications, to opt their child out of testing based on a philosophical, moral or religious belief. **New law takes affect August 1, 2017. Make sure you notify of opt-out on your statement of intent. You cannot do so later on in the year as the law requires that it be included on your SOI. Also, the form is to be filed at least 14 days before you plan to begin homeschooling. HINT: file in early to mid-August to avoid confusion at your local school district even if you plan to begin after Labor Day.**





# Review of the LAW

It's that time of the year to begin or complete your planning for the upcoming school year. Now is a good time to review the N.D. Century Code relative to homeschooling. So here's a few things to remember.

## Statement of intent

Parent educators are required to file an annual statement of intent on each child between the ages of 7 and 16. No 'official' form is required. The NDHSA publishes one that includes *only* the information required by law. It is available from [www.ndhsa.org](http://www.ndhsa.org). The SOI must contain the following information: name and address of child; child's birth date; child's grade level; name and address of parent supervising the program; qualifications of the parent; any public school or extracurricular activities (sanctioned by the N.D. High School Activities Association) the child will be participating in at the public school; any extracurricular activities (again, NDHSAA sanctioned activities) the child will be participating in at an approved non-public school; and your notification that you are opting out of testing. It is to be filed with your school district of residence at least 14 days before beginning your homeschool or within 14 days of establishing a new school district of residence. It must be accompanied by the child's proof of identity and immunization record. **Remember:** The SOI requires specific information, not a specific form; once on file and if nothing changes the proof of identity and immunization records need not be filed every year; keep a copy of the SOI for your records. Also, *you are not asking for permission* to homeschool. The SOI is simply your notification that you will educate your children. **Tip:** Use our form; it is easily recognizable and asks for only the information required by law.

## Parental qualifications

The only requirement is that the parent educator has a high school diploma or G.E.D. But even if you possess neither you may still homeschool but will need to be in a monitored program for at least two years. **Tip:** Take the G.E.D. if you do not have a high school diploma. **Remember:** Once the monitoring is completed for the first child it does not need to be done for any subsequent children. Previously if you wanted to opt out of testing you would be required to be a N.D. state certified teacher, OR have a baccalaureate degree, OR meet or exceed the cut-off scores on a national teacher exam. Now you may opt out of mandatory testing based solely on philosophical, moral, or religious beliefs. If you do not possess such, you may still opt out based on the aforementioned academic qualifications.

## Required subjects and instructional time and academic records

The law states that you must "include instruction in those subjects required by law to be taught to public school students." This list is found at NDCC 15.1-21-01 and is general in nature for the elementary years. The requirements listed for the high school years is a way for the State to grant approval to public and nonpublic schools. Homeschoolers are not bound by the list, but it serves as a good guide, especially if your child is contemplating college. Minimum credits for high school graduation in N.D. is 22 credits. Another good guide though you are not legally bound by it. Yes, you must keep some records. The NDCC requires you maintain an annual record of courses, keep academic progress assessments, and standardized achievement test results. According to the law you must provide at least four hours of instruction for 175 days. **Remember:** Which 4 hours and which 175 days is left to parental discretion. **Tip:** During the high school years when homeschooling I made copies of each textbook cover and the table of contents; filed according to subject; made copies identifying features of any resource materials used (e.g. Great Courses Fundamentals of Music); and kept copies of items related to extracurricular activities (e.g. community theater programs, musical recitals, art competitions). At the end of each high school year I filled in my working transcript. When the senior year was completed, I had the working transcript with proof of what was taught already neatly filed.

## Monitoring

Monitoring is required ONLY for the parent without a high school diploma or G.E.D. If you do not possess either you can request that your local school district provide you with a monitor, free of charge, or you can contract with any willing N.D. state certified teacher to provide these services. The monitor is to be in contact with the parent and child an average of one hour per week plus an additional 1/2 hour per month per additional child in the homeschool program (for which an SOI has been filed). The monitoring can take place in the home, at the local library or anyplace agreeable to both the monitor and the homeschool family. Twice annually the monitor is to file a progress report with the school; this is not the homeschoolers job. Be sure to request a copy of each monitor report. A sample progress report is found in the NDHSA HS PKT. Your monitor may administer any mandatory testing if you do not opt out. **Remember:** It is not the monitor's job to provide any of the instruction. Her job is to see if there is an education program in place and does it seem to be working. **Tip:** Again, take the G.E.D. and avoid this hassle entirely. See more on this at NDCC 15.1-23-06 -07.

## Testing

If you choose to test in grades 4, 6, 8, and 10 you must use a standardized achievement test used by your school or one that you rent from a test supplier. It must be administered by a state certified teacher in the child's learning environment or at the local school. Test results must be filed in a timely manner with your school district. If the child tests below the 30th percentile a whole new set of requirements comes into play (See NDCC 15.1-23-11, -12, -13, -14, -15.) **Remember:** You have the right to opt out of testing based solely on philosophical, moral, or religious beliefs or you can meet academic qualifications to do so. If you choose to opt out you may still test for your own information. You can then choose the test, administer it based on requirements of the test supplier, file the results in your child's folder, but you would not need to submit them to the school. **Tip:** I tested just for my own information during the high school years and used the CAT provided by Seton Testing. Quick, easy, actually tested academic abilities.

## Extracurricular activities

Your child may participate in any extracurricular activities (sanctioned by the ND High School Activities Association) under the auspices of your school district of residence or an approved nonpublic school. They must meet the same requirements as a public school student.

## High school diplomas

You can get one through your school district of residence or an approved nonpublic school or the center for distance education, however, most school districts will not issue such unless the child becomes a public school student for a period of time. Private schools may do as they wish; the center for distance learning requires extensive paper work and fees.

Read the entire code here:

<http://www.legis.nd.gov/cencode/t15-1c20.pdf>

<http://www.legis.nd.gov/cencode/t15-1c21.pdf>

<http://www.legis.nd.gov/cencode/t15-1c23.pdf>



Need to contact the NDHSA office manager. Contact Mrs. Theresa Deckert at: [office@ndhsa.org](mailto:office@ndhsa.org)

or call, leave a clear, slow message, repeat your number at: **701.662.6347**

## JOIN!

What? You are not a member family of the NDHSA yet? It matters. Maybe you won't be in desperate need of our services, but your membership allows the staff and association to continue to write, research, lead support group workshops, make contacts with school districts, keep up to date on national homeschool issues, plan and coordinate statewide conventions, answer questions and provide guidance, and much more. Go to [www.ndhsa.org](http://www.ndhsa.org) and join today.

**Yes, it really does matter.**

## Determination from *Come Before Winter* by Chuck Swindoll

Our day, unfortunately, has made quitting fashionable. After all, if you can quit a job or a team [or homeschooling] when the road gets bumpy, why not apply that philosophy to everything. Like a ... class or a church or a marriage or parenthood. The fog of failure clouds the issues and the cramp of criticism sucks away the motivation. Conviction is now being viewed as a neurotic tendency. Discipline is considered somewhat sadistic. Determination is, in the minds of the mesmerized masses, that which characterizes a stubborn fool ... a quality not needed and not wanted by those who seek public approval.

Ah, but what then are we left with?

Take away conviction, discipline, and determination and you have cut the heart out of real living. You have eliminated the challenge that keeps the game of life exciting and rewarding. You have settled for nothing better than a tie with the opponent.

The history of man is strewn with the litter of nameless people who faced calamity and hardship, suffering and criticism--and gave up. Or--in the words of Psalm 78--"They turned back."

To you who are tempted to turn back ... I urge you instead to stand firm ... act like men ... be strong! The benefits of determination far outweigh the alternate course.

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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](mailto:billbivy@msn.com).

Gail M. Biby is the publications editor for the NDHSA and has been joyfully working with parent educators for more than 26 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 and her husband Bill are recipients of the 2017 NDHSA Homeschool Pioneer Award. Contact her at: [billbivy@msn.com](mailto:billbivy@msn.com) She has been blessed beyond measurability and once had a very long bucket list.

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**Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made know to God. And the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7**

**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.** Pray they will be strengthened and encouraged by the Lord to continue faithfully in the work God has given them.

**PRAY** for your support group families as you begin planning for the 2017-1018 school year. Volunteer!

**INTERCEDE** for those struggling with harmful lifestyles, disregard for Scriptural teaching, and lack of love for the Saviour. Is it you, dear one?

**PRAISE** God for Home School Legal Defense Association and for our attorney of reference, Daniel Beasley.

**ASK GOD** for wisdom; how desperately we need it.

**Continue to REMEMBER** in prayer those who are facing the loss of a loved one, the loss of a friendship, the loss of a child, the loss of home.

**Praise** the LORD for good friends ... and be one!

**PRAY** for your Pastor and his family. Encourage, support, and assist them as the Lord leads. Being a shepherd to a flock of unruly sheep is no picnic!

**INTERCEDE** for homeschooling dads, that God will strengthen their resolve and show them how to lead with devotion and grace. And may they be encouraged to *participate!*

**REMEMBER** these words of Jesus, "I am the resurrection and the life, He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die."

**PRAY** for those in prison. It is a hard life for Christians.

**God is our refuge and strength. A very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear. The Lord of hosts is with us. Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations. I will be exalted in the earth! The Lord of hosts is with us. From Psalm 46**