

# The ECLECTIC REPORT

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## Editor's Musings:

### On the brink of 2020

Do you ever stop to think of the changes God has made in your life?

Do you ever consider the many ways in which He may have protected you?

Do you ever recognize the comforts your life affords because of God's blessings?

Do you remember the days apart from Him? Ever think of the difficulty of living through life's trials without Him?

Are you aware of this truth: God loves His

own with an everlasting love?

Was He with you in 2019? Will He be with you in 2020?

I'm talking to me... maybe to you. If I spent more time on this thinking would I be less likely to love self? Am I willing this year to die daily to self, to take up my cross, and to follow hard after Jesus? Jesus said it is the only way to be His disciple. The only way.

This is hard.  
Let us pray for one another in 2020.

Gail M. Biby



March 5-7, 2020

NDHSA Convention

Jamestown, ND

Keynote:

Chuck Black

Mark your calendars!

Convention info at [www.ndhsa.org](http://www.ndhsa.org)



## The VIEW from my WINDOW

by Theresa Deckert, NDHSA Office Administrator

Wife, mother, sister, friend, mentor, piano teacher, office administrator: these are all hats that I wear, but I think one of my newer hats is what I was destined to wear – grandma! I know that home educating not only changed and benefited my children, but also me. The years spent teaching my own has caused me to be a very different kind of grandparent.

Our legislative victory last session opened the door so that I am able to help tutor my grandkiddos! What an awesome treat! Seven year old James has been coming to my house each Thursday and spending the night. Then on Friday he and grandma do school. We have learned about the senses, studied trappers and frontiersmen and even gone outside and identified and tracked various imprints in the snow. We have had sister Abby join us one week and cousin Noah another. We have listened to wonderful classical music selections, let our imaginations paint pictures and read many delightful books.

I am now witnessing a new phenomenon at our home school support group as other grandmas are joining the ranks in helping with their grand kids. In the past month we sort of had a homeschool mom's reunion, but we were all attending as grandmas who were helping out with the grands at homeschool group – 5 of us in all!

When we began our homeschooling journey we studied Scriptures in Deuteronomy that talked about the generational effect of teaching your children to follow the Lord as you sit in your house, as you walk, as you lie down and as you rise. It is truly amazing to be on this end of the journey and to see those fruits; it is my prayer that I someday will get to add being a great-grandmother to many wonderful homeschooled children to my collection of hats!



# BOARD COLUMN

By Karol Kapelle, convention coordinator

Convention info at [www.ndhsa.org](http://www.ndhsa.org)

I was pondering the other day what I would do if I ever resigned from my job as the convention coordinator or as a board member. I wondered if I would still attend the conventions even though I had no “official” duty or responsibility. Would I still enjoy attending with no real “goal” in mind?

It also made me think of the many other parents in my same shoes. There are many of us who have recently graduated our last student and have a little more time on our hands. We may not feel the need to attend the convention to learn any new teaching techniques or purchase the latest trend in curriculum (although there is always the possibility of tutoring grandchildren to think about), but we do have a very important reason to consider still attending the convention. With that in mind, I would like to present a **SPECIAL opportunity** to our “retired” homeschooling moms and dads... **VOLUNTEER!** It takes a small army of volunteers to ensure that our convention runs smoothly and effectively, and my fellow retirees may be the answer to our prayers! It would also free up more of our homeschooling parents from needing to fill volunteer positions and allow them to attend the training workshops and various activities with their spouses and families.

I became so excited thinking about the possibilities of this opportunity that I wanted to jump out of bed (it was about 11:30 p.m.) and start typing this article! There are so many ways veteran/retired homeschoolers can be a blessing to the next generation.

Have you considered what a blessing it is to parents attending with their children to have the option of our children’s programs? You could spend the day (or part of it) simply providing crowd control as a **helper for one of our MANY children’s programs sessions.**

Do you have the gift of hospitality? Maybe you’d enjoy being our **food service coordinator.**

Or how about being a **vendor booth helper?** Could you man a vendor’s booth while they speak at a workshop? Or pick up their lunch for them so they don’t have to stand in the buffet line when they could be helping a customer?

And what about being a **speaker’s assistant** to help our out-of-state speakers feel welcome in an unfamiliar place and assist them in staying organized in getting to and from their workshops in a venue they aren’t familiar with?

Do you like to drive? Be our **transportation coordinator(s).** You can free up our board members from having to pick up speakers from the Fargo airport or just ensure that our out-of-state speakers get back and forth from the hotel to venue without the NDHSA having to pay the expense of a car rental or taxi.

As an added perk, I will offer **FREE CONVENTION REGISTRATION to any retired homeschooler that volunteers a total of three hours or more.** Non-homeschooling grandparents are already able to attend FREE OF CHARGE, so why not put in a few hours of volunteer work while you’re at it.



Please take a look at all of the volunteer opportunities listed on the website under the “2020 Convention” tab or contact me with questions.

And, yes, I WILL continue to attend the conventions upon leaving my post. I can’t wait to offer my time to bless those young(er) parents needing a break or just a chance to enjoy the convention. I hope you will consider offering your time and talents as well.

The last check for the Box Tops for Education was \$145.90 – largest in two years! This year Box Tops brought in and extra \$181.60 to the NDHSA.

Keep scanning those Box Tops!

Send clipped labels for **BOX TOPS** for Education:

Laurie Morstad  
9175 80<sup>th</sup> St. NE,  
Hampden, ND 58338  
Check expiration dates.



For legal assistance JOIN Home School Legal Defense Association. [www.hslda.org](http://www.hslda.org)

Find a support group near you at:

[www.ndhisa.org](http://www.ndhisa.org)

Click on support groups.

JOIN today at

[www.ndhisa.org](http://www.ndhisa.org)

Convention info at [www.ndhisa.org](http://www.ndhisa.org)

## 2020 National Youth Science Camp

*Operated by the National Youth Science Foundation*

### GOVERNOR SEEKS HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS FOR NATIONAL YOUTH SCIENCE CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

Valley City – Governor Doug Burgum appointed Bonita Roswick, from the Coalition for Conservation and Environmental Education, to serve as North Dakota’s selection coordinator for the 2020 National Youth Science Camp (NYSC) scholarships. Two high school seniors will receive a full scholarship to exchange ideas with scientists and other professionals from academic, governmental, and corporate worlds. The nearly month-long experience includes lectures and hands-on research projects presented by scientists from across the nation, overnight outdoor trips into the Monongahela National Forest, and a visit to Washington, D.C. The selected delegates must not only demonstrate academic achievement in science but also show potential for thoughtful scientific leadership.

The NYSC experience is offered at no cost to its participants so that selected delegates may attend regardless of their financial status. Contributions to the National Youth Science Foundation allow delegates to participate in this “once in a lifetime” experience. Educational and recreational programming, as well as meals, lodging, and round-trip air travel, are provided free of charge. Many alumni of the NYSC describe their experience as life-changing and giving them the confidence to achieve more than they thought possible.

Delegates arrive in Charleston, West Virginia, on Monday, June 22, and depart on Wednesday, July 15, 2020. The NYSC is held near Bartow in the eastern mountains of West Virginia, within the Monongahela National Forest. The application process is available on the NYSC website at <http://apply.nysc.org>. **Applications must be submitted by Friday, Feb. 28, 2020, by 6 p.m. EST.** For more information, contact [bonita.roswick@vcsu.edu](mailto:bonita.roswick@vcsu.edu) / (701) 845-7570.

#### Learning Financial Skills

Watermans recently met Sage Doehler, the Grand Forks representative of the North Dakota Jumpstart Coalition which puts on an event called Real World Camp ND. It’s purpose is to build **financial skills and knowledge** for local students by introducing them to real life financial decisions. During her talk she mentioned wanting to reach out to the homeschoolers in North Dakota. The upcoming camp takes place in different locations on different dates throughout the state. Their website below lists all the places and times. It sounded like it would be a valuable opportunity for our North Dakota homeschoolers.



<https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Frealworldcampnd.org%2F&data=02%7C01%7C%7C4a18fab573c4907c88e08d77d73e601%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637115809049035783&sdata=jrHrmBxiLfsyUss3NRijCXI5N2VNyAkinQLsUwVzFal%3D&reserved=0>



God be merciful to us and bless us,  
and cause His face to shine upon us.  
That Your way may be known on  
earth, Your salvation among all  
nations. Psalm 67:1-2

## School Choice

The *Old Schoolhouse* magazine had an informative article on school choice written by Dr. Brain Ray, president of National Home Education Research Institute. The article appeared in the Fall issue, 2019, of TOS and is well worth the read.

Dr. Ray states that there are “definite negative effects upon faith-based schools when they take government money.”

He goes on to write:

If a homeschool family or organization wants to be truly free and distinctively different from civil government-run institu-

tions and values and see the percent of school-age children being home educated increase, they would remember the old adage, *He who pays the piper calls the tune.*

In closing he writes,

“Speaking of ‘choice’ and God’s ways: Would enrolling your child in a tax-funded/wealth-redistribution school-at-home program more likely advance your personal kingdom, the kingdom of this world, or the kingdom of God?”

More from Ray at [www.NHERI.org](http://www.NHERI.org)  
TOS article at  
[www.TheOldSchoolhouse.com](http://www.TheOldSchoolhouse.com)

## The Blaine Amendments

James G. Blaine was a Republican politician from the state of Maine. His push to prevent any tax monies from being used primarily by Catholic schools led to 37 of the 50 states having ‘Blaine’ language added to their state constitutions, including North Dakota.

So what? Well, when it comes to school choice, which I am strongly in favor of, some would like tax dollars to follow the child to whatever school option parents choose. The problem, of course, is that if one chooses to use tax dollars then you must recognize the strings attached. Head out of sand, please, there are always strings attached to taxpayer funds. Wouldn’t we want that anyway? Disbursement of citizen dollars without oversight?

The Montana *Espinoza* case may bring some clarity to this issue; we’ll see what happens.

For an outstanding overview of the issue see *World Magazine*, August 31, 2019, “Blaine, Blaine, Short-Sighted Briber from the State of Maine.”

## NDHSA Board of Directors

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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 [biliby@msn.com](mailto:biliby@msn.com).

Gail M. Biby is the publications editor for the NDHSA and has been joyfully working with parent educators for more than 29 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: [biliby@msn.com](mailto:biliby@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



Convention info at [www.ndhsa.org](http://www.ndhsa.org)

# PRAYER

- **PRAISE** God for His continued mercy over our land.
- **PRAY** for those who are feeling defeated and alone. Christ leads us in a victory march. He will never leave or forsake His children.
- **ASK GOD** to strengthen those who are weary; ask Him to renew the homeschooling mom’s courage and perseverance. Pray for those who have given up.
- **REMEMBER** the lost. If one dies apart from Christ, one is eternally lost...think about it. Speak to them.
- **INTERCEDE** for your spouse, your pastor and family. Pray we will be faithful, obedient, and willing to throw away all excuses that keep us from denying self, taking up our crosses, and following Jesus.
- **PRAY** for those in prison. Especially for Christians.
- **ASK GOD** to strengthen our resolve in all manner of godly living. Courage, Lord, give us courage.
- **PRAY REGULARLY** for the NDHSA board of directors as they continue to provide vision and wisdom. Pray especially for all the convention work.
- **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. Nigeria, Egypt, Kenya, Cameroon, Sri Lanka. Christians are dying daily. God will surely keep them, even to the end.
- **PRAISE** God for His interventions in the affairs of men. The real King is still on the throne!