

# THE ECLECTIC REPORT

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## Greetings.

I will echo what Theresa and Ken have to say about the recent convention. It was wonderful. Are they getting better every year? Such great times of fellowship and instruction; times of learning and sharing. Opportunities to rekindle old friendships and develop new connections. It was so grand!

I admit to being struck dumb by the surprised recognition of my upcoming retirement in August. My husband and I have been blessed repeatedly over the 30 years I have been involved with the NDHSA. I learned on the job and became somewhat accomplished at a lot of things.

But this was a certain truth: I was made and equipped by God for the tasks I performed.

That made it both easy to do and easy to persist in. I cannot take any of the credit. All glory belongs the Lord. And much thanks to the many who came alongside and made the journey so sweet.

Thanks to Llorra for the lovely reception and delicious cake! This convention was a complete delight and I am one grateful old woman.

And we welcomed with joy **David and Liz Buck** to the NDHSA board of directors. We had Liz in our Good News Club many years ago. What a blessing!

*Gail*

P.S. You can order DVDs from the convention. Go to our website: [www.ndhsa.org](http://www.ndhsa.org)



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



## The View From My Window



The 2021 NDHSA Home School Convention was an amazing time of refreshment for the soul! It is always such a joy to see friends from near and far, past and present!

I was particularly reminded that homeschooling is about perseverance. I had the joy to see two friends who I have visited with at past conventions as well as on the phone several times. I have watched each struggle in the early years of homeschooling to see them emerge as joyfully moving forward.

The smiles on their faces at convention would have lit up the room if the power went out. I knew things had changed since our first acquaintances a few years back.

C. is at the point where her oldest will be graduating. She shared many of the accomplishments of her children which amazes this Mom of two. She struggled a few years because homeschooling was not her first choice, but she saw no other option. It was hard to find a curriculum and schedule that worked for this busy family, but she persevered and now is starting to see the reward of sticking to it.

I met A. a couple of years ago and she had several littles. It was obvious that she had a busy household.

Her smile and calm countenance this year showed that home life and school life is finding a rhythm. She shared with me something that had really helped her and her husband. She felt in the past that they were not growing in the same way and wondered what they could do. They began reading the same books together either aloud or separately, but then coming together as a couple and discussing them. She said this has made for more unity in their journey. What a wonderful, wise

**The convention this year was a bit bittersweet as my former mentor was honored during the Hall of Fame presentation. Ruth has gone on to be with Jesus, but I cherish her years of friendship and wise words. Congratulations to our Hall of Fame Inductees this year, Doug and Ruth Berntson and Marvin and Connie Wolf. May each of us persevere in the roles God has called us to and may we come to a place of joy in that journey!**

# BOARD COLUMN

## Why Did We Have Such a Great Convention?

By Ken Knight

Why did we have such a great convention? Was it the fantastic keynote speaker? Jared Dodd presented inspirational, timely and practical messages and workshops. They convicted our hearts, enlightened our eyes and focused our minds on the biblical principles, family dynamics and godly attitudes that will bring God's richest blessings to our homeschools. That was fantastic, but not what made our convention great.

Was it the teen track? Israel Wayne spoke dynamically to the teens on how to stand for the faith in a sinful and ungodly world. His messages brought the necessity of establishing, maintaining, and promoting a truly biblical worldview. Israel also spoke Thursday evening on how to keep our children in the faith and brought our board of directors up to speed on national trends concerning conventions from the perspective of a state board member, a vendor, and a speaker. His insight was well received and tremendously helpful. But this was not what made our convention great.

Was it the workshops? As is typical for an NDHSA convention, a full schedule of helpful, focused and encouraging workshops provided instruction for beginners, seasoned veterans and everyone in between. When one workshop presenter's husband tested positive for Covid, the question-and-answer session with a pair of homeschool experts that was substituted in its place turned out to be a crowd pleaser. But those were not why our convention was so great.

Was it the honoring of those who served, sacrificed and stood strong to give us the freedom to homeschool we have today? We inducted Marvin and Connie Wolf and Doug and Ruth Berntson into the homeschool Hall of Fame. We also were able to honor Gail Biby for the immeasurable contribution she has made over the years. She truly is the heart of North Dakota's homeschool movement. But that's not why our convention was so great.

Was it the great vendors? Our vendor hall was smaller than we've had in past conventions but with Covid and a devastating freeze over a large swath of the nation, many had to pass this convention bye. Yet, a representation of high quality homeschool curricula, supplies, support, career options, and services gave attendees an excellent homeschool shopping experience. Thursday night's used book sale was a rousing success as well. But that's not what made our convention great.

Was it the faith, courage and wisdom of the board of directors in choosing to go ahead and hold this convention in the face of Covid restrictions, high facility costs, uncertain estimates of attendees, vendors or presenters? This was the first year for our new president of the board of directors, Thor Sand, and to face these unprecedented challenges and come through with such a blessed success is a testimony to his confidence and leadership. Karol Kapelle once again showed how her capable and organized coordination skills came through to save the day. We also cannot thank the army of volunteers enough for their labor of love bestowed. But that is not what made this convention great.

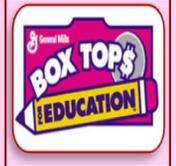
Was it the attendees that made this convention so great? People came from the farthest corners of the state, as well as neighboring states, in great numbers. Together we experienced fellowship, instruction, encouragement, and blessing. This would not have been possible without these faithful, courageous and willing families But that's not what made our convention great.

What truly made this convention great was the hand of a loving God blessing the labors of all the people involved that made this convention great! And we want to give Him all the praise and glory!

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](http://www.ndhsa.org)  
Click on support groups.

Send clipped labels for **BOX TOPS for Education:**  
**Laurie Morstad**  
9175 80<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.hslda.org)

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

### College Credits for Homeschoolers

Arizona Christian University (ACU) has an exciting and affordable opportunity for students to earn college credit and college-level academic skills while still in high school.

Through ACU's Concurrent Enrollment Program, students complete University classes online for college credit on their high school transcripts. Courses are taught by Christian faculty through Canvas, our online learning management system. Course content is available anytime, and assignments and tests are completed online. Students age 15 and up with an unweighted GPA of 2.5 or higher can enroll in lower division classes including Bible, English, Communication, History, Spanish, and many others.

Concurrent Enrollment is an affordable way to save time and money, as *the cost is only \$65 per credit hour* - meaning a huge savings on a courageously Christian education.

Applying is easy! Fill out an application at <https://www.arizonachristian.edu/apply/concurrent-application/> and attach a current high school transcript. A blank transcript template is attached below, should you need it. The next session starts in a few weeks, so *now* is the time to apply.

I homeschooled my kids through high school and I wish I had known about this program when I was homeschooling. Now, as the Concurrent Enrollment Coordinator, I can answer your questions and help your qualified students get enrolled in classes. Let's get started today!

Best wishes on your homeschooling journey,  
Jane Hopkins, Dual and Concurrent Enrollment Coordinator,  
[jane.hopkins@arizonachristian.edu](mailto:jane.hopkins@arizonachristian.edu)

### Hillsdale College offers FREE classes

(That's some addy!)

[https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fonline.hillsdale.edu%2F%3Fgclid%3DEAIaIQobChMIxdWYv5uK7QIVEdvACh3YpAwgEAAYASABEg-J5m\\_D\\_BwE%23course-offerings%3Fdevice%3Dc%26network%3Dg%26keyword%3D%26creative%3D434442235193%26placement%3D%26sc%3DMK617PP1&data=04%7C01%7C%7Ccd64972b9a76432e451f08d88b2abbbe%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C63741236293315897%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAilCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBIiI6IklhaWwilCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sd=x%2FOalTzdSrlqoxXKUnGuuoQ1FaRcHd17bc95H3NLFc%3D&reserved=0](https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fonline.hillsdale.edu%2F%3Fgclid%3DEAIaIQobChMIxdWYv5uK7QIVEdvACh3YpAwgEAAYASABEg-J5m_D_BwE%23course-offerings%3Fdevice%3Dc%26network%3Dg%26keyword%3D%26creative%3D434442235193%26placement%3D%26sc%3DMK617PP1&data=04%7C01%7C%7Ccd64972b9a76432e451f08d88b2abbbe%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C63741236293315897%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAilCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBIiI6IklhaWwilCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sd=x%2FOalTzdSrlqoxXKUnGuuoQ1FaRcHd17bc95H3NLFc%3D&reserved=0)

### Convention STATS!

**Offering total** - \$3,164.93

**Silent Auction** - \$1,435.51

**Attendance** - Including all ages, 950

At least 7 representatives and 2 senators attended.

**WOW!**

**The Concord Review** was founded in March 1987 as a 501c3 non-profit to recognize and publish the exemplary [history essays by high school students](#) in the English-speaking world. With the Winter Issue, 1,394 research papers (average 8,500 words, with endnotes and bibliography) have been published from authors in 46 U.S. states and 42 other countries. TCR remains the only quarterly journal in the world to publish the academic history papers of secondary students and believes that the pursuit of academic excellence in secondary schools should be given the same attention as the pursuit of excellence in STEM and other extracurricular activities.

Students entering college will face reading lists of nonfiction books and be asked to write research papers. Unfortunately, the vast majority of American high school students are not asked to read a single complete nonfiction book or to write a term paper before graduation. Our goal with *The Concord Review* is to get middle and high school students interested in history and encouraging them (and their teachers) to engage in reading and writing so that they are better prepared for college and the work force.

Questions? Contact:  
Robert L. Nasson  
*The Concord Review*

730 Boston Post Road, Suite 24  
Sudbury, Massachusetts 01776  
[www.tcr.org](http://www.tcr.org)

### Bank of North Dakota Scholarship Info!

One year ago, Bank of North Dakota hosted 3,000 North Dakota teens as they completed the College SAVE EverFi Financial Bee.

This year, we're excited to announce a slightly new format – College SAVE's March Money Madness – with the goal of educating North Dakota teens, 13-19 years of age, about basic financial literacy principles. Bank of North Dakota is hosting March Money Madness, a financial literacy event for North Dakota youth, 13-19 years of age. Those who complete it are automatically entered for a chance to win one of two \$1,529 scholarships to a College SAVE account.

Students complete three online challenges. Each challenge contains three short videos with a two-question quiz. Covered topics include needs versus wants, repaying loans, and the difference between gross and take-home pay, and more.

The entire program can be completed in less than one hour. Students can begin March Money Madness by going to [www.marchmoneymadness.nd.gov](http://www.marchmoneymadness.nd.gov). The challenges must be completed by midnight on March 31, 2021.

If you have any questions, please contact Janel Schmitz, Bank of North Dakota Communications Manager at [janel.schmitz@nd.gov](mailto:janel.schmitz@nd.gov) or 701.328.5880.

## Six Ways to Increase College Acceptance

1. Plan for a balanced curriculum.
2. Create a portfolio.
3. Consider attending a residential college summer program.
4. Prepare for standardized tests.
5. Schedule a campus interview.
6. Let your child take center stage.

Find a fully fleshed-out article by Jennifer Corgan in the Winter 2020-21 edition of *The Old Schoolhouse* magazine.

Find it here: [www.TheOldSchoolhouse.com](http://www.TheOldSchoolhouse.com)

**School Choice & the Cost of Freedom** is a brief article by Alison Slatter and well worth the read. From the article: "Homeschool critics want the world to believe that parents are incapable of educating their children at home without government help." And "Where public dollars go, government control reigns."

Go here and read the whole article: [iahe.net](http://iahe.net)

The pathway to holiness is located right where you are. In those circumstances, those relationships, in that tiredness, in that challenge. The grace of God to make you holy is right there.

From *Secure in the Everlasting Arms*,  
Elisabeth Elliot

I'm a wee bit Irish!

## NDHSA Board of Directors

- ~Thor Sand, president and Amber Sand, director 701.535.1335  
[sand723627@gmail.com](mailto:sand723627@gmail.com)
- ~Ken Knight, director & Llorra Knight, W region spt.grp. coordinator 701.880.6126 [knight\\_publishing@hotmail.com](mailto:knight_publishing@hotmail.com)
- ~Karol Kapelle, convention coordinator 701.262.4446  
[kapklan@gondtc.com](mailto:kapklan@gondtc.com) [convention@ndhsa.org](mailto:convention@ndhsa.org)
- ~Susan Huntington, director 701.663.7858 [sooznh@gmail.com](mailto:sooznh@gmail.com)
- ~Jeff Deckert, director & Theresa Deckert, office administrator & E region spt.grp. coord. 701.662.4790 [intdeck@gondtc.com](mailto:intdeck@gondtc.com) [office@ndhsa.org](mailto:office@ndhsa.org)
- ~Bob and Melanie Joerger, directors 701.430.3978 [bobjoerger79@gmail.com](mailto:bobjoerger79@gmail.com) [pollywogmusic@gmail.com](mailto:pollywogmusic@gmail.com)
- David and Liz Buck, directors 701.562.0080 [david.buck16@gmail.com](mailto:david.buck16@gmail.com) [resolutionsphotography@gmail.com](mailto:resolutionsphotography@gmail.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 [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 almost 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: [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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[www.ndhsa.org](http://www.ndhsa.org) [office@ndhsa.org](mailto:office@ndhsa.org)

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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 Berntson



# PRAYER

- **PRAY** for those facing 2021 without a dear one.
- **ASK GOD** to strengthen us; to give us courage; to help us daily through the power of His Spirit..
- **REMEMBER** the lost. THEY ARE LOST!
- **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 all who are confined in nursing homes and w/ restricted visits. Pray for the safety and comfort of those confined.
- **ASK GOD** to give strength to Doug Berntson and daughters Angela and Charissa, after the death of Ruth. Long-time homeschoolers and convention vendors. Doug now resides at Villa Maria in Fargo.
- **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 for homeschoolers.
- **PRAY** for the school girls snatched by militants in Nigeria. Grim futures.
- **INTERCEDE** for godly men and women in the ND Legislature. Pray for their stamina, encouragement, and power to stay the course.
- **BLESS** the Lord at all times. May His praise be continually in our mouths.