



## KHEA NEWS

NOVEMBER 2004

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## News from the HSLDA Conference by Connie Laffin and Jan Fletcher

We packed our bags and took off for a busy four days at the Home School Legal Defense Association's annual conference for homeschool state leaders Sept. 29th. In this issue of KHEA news, we share some of the highlights with our members.

### Homeschooling Statistics

The 2004 U.S. Department of Education statistics reveal 1,100,000 school-aged children are currently being homeschooled in the U.S. This shows a growth of 15 percent each year.

On the other hand, the 2001 figures from the National Home Education Research Institute (NHERI) estimate 1,900,000 school-aged children were homeschooled in U.S. If you project a 15 percent growth rate each year, then NHERI estimates that 2,900,000 school-aged children are being homeschooled in the U.S in 2004.



### We've packed a suitcase of news from Spokane!

According to NHERI, home-school students account for 2.2 percent of the US school-aged population.

### Homeschooling Special Needs Students: Research Results, and Applications

This seminar presented a small study which examined the instructional techniques used with ADHD children. It focused on the similarities and differences in instruction between homeschool and public school settings. The results were very interesting.

There are an estimated 95,000 ADHD children being homeschooled this year. The study showed that the

homeschooled ADHD students progressed at a faster rate than their public school counterparts.

What kinds of instruction did the "untrained" parent/teachers in a homeschool environment provide? The study showed that the homeschool students spent twice as much time "actively engaged" in learning than the public school students studied. The homeschool students spent more time writing, discussing, reading etc. They spent very little time "watching" others learn. The homeschool parents/teachers spent more one-on-one time with the student than the public school teachers did. The study concluded that homeschool students with ADHD make better-than-average progress – even though the parent/teachers have no professional training.

To view the study yourself go to [www.nasponline.org/publications/spr331duvall.pdf](http://www.nasponline.org/publications/spr331duvall.pdf).

### State of the Nation Panel

HSLDA is working to improve the rights of homeschoolers across the nation.

- In New York and Pennsylvania, HSLDA is working to change the homeschool law through open cases in the courts. They are hoping to strike down repressive laws

*Continued next page*

### KHEA NEWS deadline

The next KHEA Newsletter is expected to be published in January. Have you ever thought about writing an article for the KHEA newsletter? We'd love to have more membership involvement as to what goes in the Newsletter. If you have an announcement you would like to submit, or an article to submit to the January KHEA newsletter, please send it to [kheanewseditor@hotmail.com](mailto:kheanewseditor@hotmail.com) by Jan. 1st.

**Support Group Leaders: Mark your calendars for our Winter Seminar! See Page 4 .**

to improve the freedoms of homeschoolers.

- HSLDA is dealing with the Veterans and Social Security Administrations helping homeschool families to be able to receive benefits for their school-aged children. They are working to better define the term “educational institution” so that all homeschoolers can easily claim benefits for their children.
- HSLDA is hoping to reinstate the pilot project which allows homeschool students to enlist in the armed forces at Tier One status. The pilot project ends this year. Another option would be for the armed forces to change their administrative policies.
- HSLDA has successfully lobbied to see new legislation passed which forces states to properly train their social workers so that they understand each family’s fourth-amendment rights. The new law requires states to teach their social workers that a warrant is necessary before a social worker can enter a home to investigate a child-abuse accusation. The new law also requires social workers to inform the family of the allegations made against them at the onset of the contact. States who do not include this training will become ineligible to receive government funds. (Last year KHEA helped a Kentucky family who had their 4<sup>th</sup> amendment rights violated. It does happen in Kentucky.)

### Panel Discussion on Effective Lobbying

This was a panel discussion, so four different points of view were represented. The first speaker noted that every state should host an annual state Homeschool Day at the legislature. This event could showcase

homeschool talent and feature short speeches from friendly legislators and homeschool leaders. After the public event, those in attendance would be encouraged to visit their legislator in order to pass out information about homeschooling.

The second speaker gave an interesting account of how homeschoolers in New Mexico were able to get a new, less restrictive homeschool law passed. The most interesting point they made was that it took a bipartisan coalition to pass their homeschool bill.

“ **More homeschoolers need to run for office and develop relationships with homeschool friendly legislators.** ”

And in the end, it was the relationships that homeschool moms had developed with the wives of their legislators, which convinced the legislators to vote for the new legislation. Never underestimate the power of homeschool moms.

The third speaker was a legislator. He made the following points. Some states have restrictive homeschool laws which require testing, notification of test scores, portfolio review, etc. The best way to change the restrictive law is to pass new homeschool laws one issue at a time. It is more likely that subtle changes can be passed each year than it is to pass a totally new bill. Getting a bill passed is an art. You need to learn how to work with a variety of interest groups.

State groups need to be working to form relationships with other special interest groups who might make good partners in a coalition. And, more homeschoolers need to run for office and develop relationships with homeschool friendly legislators. We need a strong influence with our legislators because the dominant views of most

legislators are diametrically opposed to the reasons why we homeschool.

When asked the best way to contact a legislator in order to catch his interest, the legislator said, “I place the following value weights on communications. I listen to personal visits more than to handwritten letters. I view handwritten letters as more important than phone calls. I view phone calls as more important than typed letters or emails. But, if you worked in my campaign and helped me to get elected, what you think is most important to me.”

The last speaker was from a state with a private school/homeschool law quite like Kentucky’s. He said that these states have the best homeschool laws. They have nothing that needs changing. He suggested that homeschool organizations in these states resist getting directly involved in “side issues.”

These organizations should only have an official opinion on laws which directly address homeschooling. Otherwise, these organizations should work on the grassroots level to build relationships with legislators and with other groups who would make good coalition partners.

### HSLDA President Michael Smith’s Address

Michael Smith’s message focused on the fragility of freedom. “It is only one generation away from extinction,” he said, quoting President Ronald Reagan.

He pointed to a statement attributed to Benjamin Disraeli:

“From bondage to spiritual faith; from spiritual faith to great courage; from great courage to liberty; from liberty to abundance; from abundance to complacency; from complacency to apathy; from apathy to dependence; from dependence back into bondage.”

*Continued next page*

## Spokane conference continued from pg. 2.

Smith said this digression from freedom to bondage is true of countries and of movements. He cautioned that the greatest threat at this point in the growth of the homeschooling movement is complacency. He pointed to the fact that 70 percent of Americans are willing to give up their freedoms to have more security.

Smith said the homeschooling movement began a quarter century ago with great courage, as parents faced arrest and criminal charges. The liberty those people won for homeschooling has led many to homeschool. As this has happened, some homeschoolers now are viewing homeschooling as more of a consumer choice. This leads some to trade homeschool freedom for government-sponsored incentives like free computers, given to entice some into charter schools.

“How do we convince others to buy our convictions about liberty? What can we do to protect our liberty and reverse the trend to dependence and bondage?” he asked.

Smith predicted another 10 years of growth in the homeschooling movement. However, he cautioned that homeschool leaders must do more to counter the growing trend toward complacency and apathy among homeschoolers.

### Tips for Support Group Newsletters

Suzanne Stephens, editor of the HSLDA's *Home School Court Report*, gave suggestions for keeping a fresh look in homeschool support group newsletters.

“Art communicates the tone. Is there a way to communicate heritage without looking dated?” said Stephens. “It’s 2004 and it is a different generation. They’re much bolder.”

She gave examples, such as a trend away from group photos il-

lustrating homeschooling, to a single, intimate photo of parent and child.

Other suggestions:

1. Try not to jump articles to the back or inside of the newsletter.
2. Find a balance between communicating threats to our freedom without overly alarming homeschool parents.
3. Detail people make the best editors, not visionaries.
4. If you have strong writers, use them, and have them interview experts.
5. Tap into talent by using students for graphic arts/photography and writing.

### A Good Investment for our Members

Attending the conference helped us in the following ways:

1. We were given more information than we can process, and challenged to improve what we are already doing. We have a broader, deeper understanding of homeschool issues as they affect all 50 states and specifically Kentucky.
2. We had an opportunity to talk with our HSLDA lawyers and CHEK while strategizing our unified response to key issues as they develop in the next year.
3. We had quality personal time with Brother Joe and his wife, who are leaders of CHEK.
4. We met other leaders from all over and made contacts which will serve us well in the future.
5. We both grew in our understanding of what it means to be state homeschool leaders. We received abundant affirmation from others and in turn, became more comfortable with ourselves.
6. We have a more personal relationship with our HSLDA lawyers.

*For more information on the conference, see article on page 7.*

## HS Group Leaders: Be prepared for a quick response when our freedom is threatened.

KHEA will offer support group leaders live chats during the legislation session. This is an excellent way to answer questions and discuss strategy. In order to take advantage of this capability, support group leaders need to set up an AOL Instant Messenger account, unless they already have one. If not, go to <http://www.aim.com/> (AOL Instant Messenger's website) and follow the directions to download the FREE software. Set up an account, obtain your AIM screen name, then email Jan ([countedworthy@mac.com](mailto:countedworthy@mac.com)) your screen name. She will add your name to her Buddy list. When a live chat is scheduled, you will be notified in advance of a specific date and time. Those who want to participate in the live chat need to be on line at that time. Then, Jan will invite you to the chat. That's all there is to it.

Email Jan at [countedworthy@mac.com](mailto:countedworthy@mac.com) if you have any questions. This is a low-cost and effective way for support group leaders to interact with KHEA board members during times when pending legislative may impact homeschoolers.



## Music Showcase

The Music and Christian Ministries Departments of Cedarville University invites homeschoolers to participate in Music Showcase. The event will be held at Cedarville University in Cedarville, Ohio Feb. 17-19. Featuring an honor band and honor choir, music showcase provides a forum to develop and “showcase” the exceptional talents of Christian high-school musicians from across the country.

If students wish to be considered for this honor, they should ask their music teacher to complete a nomination form. Nominations may be submitted online at [www.cedarville.edu/musicshowcase-nom](http://www.cedarville.edu/musicshowcase-nom). For more information, check their website or call 1-877-Cedarville (233-2784).

## What are we up to?

What has KHEA been doing since school began?

- So far this school year we have called local support groups to gather and update our records.
- We have answered countless emails and phone calls.
- We have called several DPPs trying to get everyone back to working within the guidelines of the Best Practices Document.
- We have given newspaper and radio interviews and spoken at support group meetings.
- We have sent out email announcements, an eNews and a KHEA Newsletter.
- Hoping to improve how KY homeschoolers communicate, we have transferred our entire website to a new internet server. The web address is still the same, but the website will be able to serve you better. (See right ►)
- We continue to update and add information to the KHEA website.
- Jan and Connie attended the National Homeschool Conference hosted by HSLDA.
- We have conversed with HSLDA on legal matters.
- We have already started plans for this year's Support Group Leaders Seminar.

By supporting KHEA, you have had an active part in shaping the environment in which Kentuckians homeschool. You have helped strengthen our rights and our freedom. Thanks for your support!

### Need to join HSLDA? (Home School Legal Defense Association)

You can access an application online at [www.hslda.org](http://www.hslda.org). KHEA members may use the KHEA discount number, # 291057, to receive a \$20 discount on HSLDA membership.

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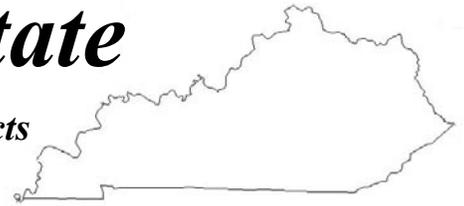
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# Across the State

## 'Tis the season for DPP contacts

By Connie Laffin



The beginning of a new school year brings new opportunities for interactions between homeschooling families and local school officials. This year was no exception. There were at least 20 school districts which sent their local homeschool families a letter asking them to fill out a form which the school district provided. Some of the forms were fairly basic, while other forms asked for information like curriculum, school calendars, and educational achievement of the parent-teacher.

Some of the cover letters sent with the form stated that the DPP would be in contact with the homeschool family as the year progressed. And some DPPs actively sought to meet the homeschool families living in their district. This made several Kentucky families pretty nervous.

KHEA called several DPPs reminding school officials of the content of Kentucky law and the agreements stated in the Best Practices Document. Even though many of

the state's DPPs have read and can quote from the Best Practices Document, they fail to look at the document objectively. We believe that "good fences make good neighbors." When we call DPPs, we try to remind them that the document outlines where each group's legal rights and obligations lie. It defines where the fence is.

How can you help? Fulfill your legal obligations. Send in your letter of intent to homeschool in a timely manner. Keep good records. Work to provide an excellent education for your children. And, lastly, encourage other homeschoolers to support KHEA.

**NEW!!! JOIN KHEA'S ON-LINE FORUM.**

[www.khea.info/forum](http://www.khea.info/forum)

This forum will replace our current KHEA msn group list. Our new webserver gives us expanded options for our forum. You'll really like it!

## Sharon Grimes featured speaker at KHEA's Winter Seminar

Support group leaders....

Mark your calendar for the 2005 Support Group Leader's Seminar

Feb. 12 in Hopkinsville

Feb. 19 in Lexington

Our Guest will be nationally recognized homeschool speaker – Sharon Grimes

Why should you attend? Here's what some KY support group leaders think....

"It's a shot in the arm! The booster shot I need every year to keep me connected and remembering that we must work to keep connected." Molly Stotts CKCHSA

"... to meet other leaders and get ideas for solving any problems that you may be dealing with." Peggy Rockstroh FREE

"As a Support Group Leader, this is your time to be encouraged and to connect with others across the state in the same position. It is so helpful to hear from others in the same shoes." Stacey Foster JCHEA

*Support group leaders, plan to come and bring some friends!*

## Louisville Livestock show in November

The North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) is the world's largest purebred livestock show, and it's right here in Kentucky. See it at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center in Louisville, Nov. 6-19. The NAILE organization offers School Tour Programs. Student group rate is \$1.00 per person. You can learn more about the event by calling Alice Timberlake at 502-367-5198 or by emailing her at [Atimberlake@ksfb.ky.gov](mailto:Atimberlake@ksfb.ky.gov). The web info address is [www.livestockexpo.org](http://www.livestockexpo.org)

## HELP US MAKE KHEA'S WEBSITE THE BEST!

Lots of folks visit our website to find out about homeschooling, and we'd like to give our site a friendly look by including photos of homeschooling families. If you have a digital photo you would like to share, please email it to: Jan Fletcher, [countedworthy@mac.com](mailto:countedworthy@mac.com). Include a brief note giving permission for KHEA to publish the photo on the Internet. Thanks!

### New resource for special needs children

Susan Norman, a mother of four and stepmother of three - one of which has cerebral palsy - is a veteran home educator (1990-2000). She also operates Ninability Educational Supply Company, an estore, created to help parents educate their special needs children by giving them the tools they need to help their children reach for the stars.

*"Having a disabled child has made us aware of the high cost of items for them. We are currently building a web site - [www.ninability.com](http://www.ninability.com) - dedicated to these children and offering information, links and items to help better their life."* - Susan Norman

Ninability Educational supply co.  
Po box 79  
Hustonville KY 40437

## Focus on history: Clubs, contests, crafts

### What is the Kentucky Historical Society?

The Kentucky Historical Society ([www.kjhs.org](http://www.kjhs.org)) is a wonderful way for Kentucky students to learn about and become involved in their state history! And homeschool students can get involved also. Just establish a Kentucky Junior Historical Society Club. Homeschool clubs can be comprised of a group of homeschool families or as individual homeschool families. The annual membership fee is \$3.00 per club member or \$5.00 per individual member and there are many benefits.

Groups receive a sponsor handbook giving advice on how to set up a club with suggested activities. Each club member receives a "Timeline" newsletter three times per year. Each teacher also receives a "Teacher's Timeline" newsletter. Kentucky Junior Historical Society Club members receive FREE admission to many state historical sites and museums. Best of all, club members can learn about their community's heritage and develop a love of history!

This group also gives mini-grants for club/school field trips and project grants for History Projects in the Classroom. Kentucky Junior Historical Society Clubs must apply to receive these grants.

For more information, contact Carrie Dowdy at 502-564-1792 ext.4402 or [Carrie.dowdy@ky.gov](mailto:Carrie.dowdy@ky.gov).

The Kentucky Historical Society is also sponsoring a contest for students in grades 6-12. The contest is entitled "National History Day" and the top two Kentucky winners at in each category and division advance to the national competition in Maryland next June.

How does the contest work? Throughout the year, students conduct research using primary and secondary resources to prepare projects based on an annual theme which is broad enough to encourage investigation of topics ranging from local and state history to national and world history. The 2005 theme is "Communication in History: The Key to Understanding." National History Day has two divisions: junior division (grades 6-8) and senior division (grades 9-12). Students may complete individual or group projects in any one of four categories: Research Paper (individual only), Exhibit,

Performance, or Documentary. Students and teachers participating in National History Day receive a packet including a Curriculum Book (guide) and contest rules.

To sign up and receive your informational packet or to get more information, contact Kate Hesseldenz at 877-444-7867 ext. 4477 or [Kate.Hesseldenz@ky.gov](mailto:Kate.Hesseldenz@ky.gov). You might also want to visit the National History Day website at [www.NationalHistoryDay.org](http://www.NationalHistoryDay.org).

### Special Children's activities in the "History Zone:"

Saturdays, 1 - 4 p.m., History Center (100 W. Broadway, Frankfort, (270) 564-1792. November - "Discover Paper's Past" Paper is all around us. We handle it every day. But where did paper come from? Join us and explore the history of papermaking by creating your own handmade paper. For kids 5-10 and their families. Free. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Groups of 10 or more must register in advance. Contact Flint Collins, ext. 4461.

December - "Holiday Heritage Gifts" Create old-fashioned handmade gifts to give during December's holidays. For kids 5-10 and their families. Free. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Groups of 10 or more must register in advance. Contact Flint Collins, ext. 4461.

### Current Exhibits at the History Center:

*Into the Wild Blue Yonder*, Kentucky Military History Museum. 125 East Main Street, Frankfort. Open September 10, 2004. Commemorating over 50 years of service, *Into the Wild Blue Yonder* chronicles the history of Kentucky's Air National Guard. Formed in 1946, air guardsmen and women are citizen soldiers, civilians who left their jobs, families, and homes behind in times of crisis to serve their country. Exhibit open to the public Tuesday through Sat., 10 am. to 5 pm.; Sun., 1 pm to 5 pm.

*A Kentucky Journey*. Ongoing at the Kentucky History Center. Follow along the phenomenal journey from prehistoric-era Kentucky to our present-day Commonwealth. Experience the remarkable story of Kentucky and its history firsthand by taking a chronological walking trip through time. Exhibit open to the public Tuesday -Sat., 10 am -5 pm; Sun., 1 pm to 5 pm.

## Two new KHEA board members

The KHEA by-laws define the board as having seven members. Since the election, we had two board members reelected and one returning board member. We are very fortunate to have two well-qualified men join our board in-

between the election period. Our bylaws allow existing board members to appoint qualified applicants to vacant positions pending the next election period. So, we are introducing our two new board members:

### Jay Boyd

Jay Boyd is the director of software development for a large, multinational financial services firm. His clients and staff are located across the US, Europe and Asia/Pacific; therefore Jay is often traveling. Jay and his family were transferred to Louisville three and a half years ago. Prior to moving to Louisville, Jay was an information systems and business process consultant and worked in the U.S., Europe and Canada. Jay also spent two and a half years working for the Federal government in Washington D.C. Jay is a graduate of Texas A&M University.

Jay and his wife, Felicity, have three children. This is their fourth year of homeschooling. Felicity is the vice-president of the Capital Area Christian Homeschoolers (CACH) in Frankfurt. Both Jay and Felicity feel very strongly that homeschooling is a right of families that should be protected. Jay is looking forward to helping Kentucky's homeschool families through KHEA.

### Charlie Fletcher

Charlie, who lives in Columbia, currently works as a telecommuting health reporter for a financial advisor in San Francisco. His previous background includes public affairs director for a major homeless shelter; managing a successful campaign to defeat a ballot measure in Oregon that would have banned gillnet fishing; and working as an editor for a small-town Kentucky newspaper. He served as an Arabic linguist/journalist in the U.S. Army in the 1980s. Charlie's wife, Jan, currently serves on the KHEA board as vice president. Charlie and Jan have five children, ages 8 to 20, and have homeschooled since 1992, when they lived in Oregon. The couple moved to Kentucky in 1994.

Charlie is committed to keeping our homeschool freedom in Kentucky. "I have a vision of seeing the communication in Kentucky's many rural communities improved so that we can be proactive in responding to any future challenges to our homeschool freedoms." Charlie's special area of expertise is in database management.

## We're looking for you!



KHEA is hoping to add a Bulletin Board and/ or email group for homeschool sports teams. We realize that there are homeschool sports teams sprinkled across the state who would like to connect with other homeschool sports teams. Wouldn't it be great if your high school girl's basketball team could play another homeschool girl's team? We'd like to help you connect. If you are interested in helping to get this started, please contact Connie at [laffinatu2@hotmail.com](mailto:laffinatu2@hotmail.com). We are looking for someone to coordinate gathering and updating the Bulletin Board information. It should not involve a lot of time commitment, but having email is a must.

## Recycled computers

New Life Computers partners with the visually impaired and blind community to refurbish and provide affordable computer systems for persons who are economically/physically challenged, community organizations, churches, schools, and non-profit organizations.

Some of the Louisville organizations they have provided refurbished computers for are, Home of the Innocents, Kentucky School for the Blind, Habitat for Humanity, Louisville Housing Authority. The computer equipment they build consists of a Pentium CPU, 15" monitor, utility cords, keyboard, mouse, speakers, internal modem, Windows 98 Second Edition, office 97, and an internal sound card. The group receiving the computer only pays \$125.

New Life computers also accepts computer donations, which are tax deductible. It is their mission to serve those who, without an affordable computer system, would be at a disadvantage in their lives or their business.

If you are interested in learning more about this organization or interested in donating a used computer, call 502-417-4954. ([www.neighborhoodlink.com/org/computers](http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/org/computers))

## Celebrating the 1st Three Rivers Family and Home Educators Conference!

Friday & Saturday, Nov. 5 -6, 2004 • First Baptist Church, Murray, KY

<http://www.threeriversconference.com/>

**Vision, encouragement, practical ideas, and shopping all wrapped up in just 2 days!**

**You'll Love Our Wonderful Exhibit Hall!**

**Speakers include:** Richard "Little Bear" Wheeler, Charlene & John Notgrass, Dennis Gunderson, Cindy Wiggers, Steve Clark, Darlene Lake, Chuck Michaelis, and more!

**Workshop topics include:** Encouragement, High School, Teens, Moms, Dads, Hands-on Ideas, Beginners & more!

**FREE Introductory Workshop** for those who want to learn about homeschooling!

**Pre-Registration deadline extended to Oct. 29th!**

Pre-Registration: Adults - \$15 (spouse & children free)

**Group discounts for carpools!**

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- High School & Teens,
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# Reducing liability in support groups



by Jan Fletcher

Annette Friesen, a popular speaker at homeschool events who specializes in helping support groups manage and prevent conflicts, said phone calls from homeschool leaders looking for help are increasing. Friesen works for Peacemaker Ministries and was one of the speakers at the Home School Legal Defense Association's Spokane conference.

Support groups are facing an ever increasing litigious atmosphere, but there are steps groups can take to avoid liability issues, she said.

1) Put all policies in writing. This one thing can prevent a lot of misunderstandings, she said.

2) Use conciliation clauses, which are legally enforceable. These clauses can be used for bylaws/membership agreements; giving advice, policy manuals, permission slips, liability release forms for activities, and contracts with vendors at homeschool conferences. These clauses can spell out the process for reconciliation if there is a dispute, so that a lawsuit can be avoided. She recommended putting a dispute resolution policy in group bylaws. "Courts like these clauses because they can prevent lawsuits," she said.

"When people sue, typically, they want three things: an apology, restitution for harm, and a clear commitment to change," Friesen said.

3) Follow your policies and procedures consistently.

Additionally, every organization needs to have a policy on how to deal with child abuse and sexual harassment, said Friesen's colleague, Frank Mylar. "In your policies, define child abuse in accordance with what child abuse is," said Mylar, as it is defined by state law in your state. It's also important to document any claim of sexual abuse in writing with an actual signed form.

To prevent sexual abuse, never leave children or young women alone during events, Friesen said. Make sure volunteers are screened and always work in pairs, especially when supervising children. It's also wise not to allow married couples or two family members to supervise other children alone.

Medical permission slips are an issue for a lot of support groups and are important, said Mylar, because sometimes medical staff will withhold medical care if it's not an emergency. However, with liability release forms for activities, he gave a word of caution. "A parent or guardian cannot waive the right of a child to sue," he said.

## BUY/SELL PRE-OWNED CURRICULUM

Evelyn Apple, a homeschooling parent in Secane, Penn., offers "My Homeschool Store," a website where homeschoolers can buy or sell pre-owned homeschooling materials. You can browse by category, subject, or age group. Check it out at <http://www.myhomeschoolstore.com>.

## TEEN CRUISE DATE SET FOR MAY

THE 2nd Annual Kentuckiana Home School Teen Cruise has been tentatively scheduled for the third week in May. "This year I will have an earlier cut off date for the registration. Last year was just too crazy with last minute reservations. I must have the final count one week prior to the cruise. I will also try to keep it just to students 13 and older unless they are coming with a 'school' group. If you were one of the ones who said that you would be willing to help this year, could you contact me? I will have a meeting early in January to get things squared away. Last year, we had students from many other areas besides the Kentuckiana area. More information will be coming as we get closer. I really just wanted to give everyone an early heads up" -- Marilyn McAloon - [mrs@insightbb.com](mailto:mrs@insightbb.com).

## CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP SCHOOL

TeenPact is a comprehensive leadership experience that challenges students to grow both personally and spiritually. During TeenPact, students will enjoy meeting and interacting with other Christian young people and leaders from across their state. The first step in the TeenPact Leadership School is the State Capitol Four-Day Class for ages 13-18. Here students learn about the political process and the basics of state government. Even if the student has no prior interest in government, he will gain an understanding of his responsibility as a citizen of their state and nation. At TeenPact State Capitol Classes, students practice leadership through hands-on experience. To find out how to participate in the next Teen pact in Kentucky, visit: <http://www.teenpact.com/stateclass/KY.htm>.

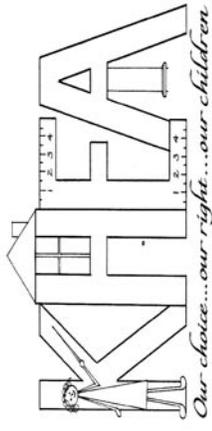
## CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK COMING UP

The 85th annual Children's Book Week is November 15-21, 2004. Since 1919, educators, librarians, booksellers, and families have celebrated Children's Book Week during the week before Thanksgiving. This year, join the party and share the joy of reading. Children's Book Week introduces young people to new authors and ideas in schools, libraries, homes, and bookstores. Through Children's Book Week, the Children's Book Council encourages young people and their caregivers to discover the complexity of the world beyond their own experience through books. Children's Book Week will be observed November 15-21, 2004. There are a lot of ways to celebrate Children's Book Week with kids, including:

- Scheduling a trip to a local bookstore or library. The children's librarian or store manager would love to work with you to plan a fun event for your group.
- Collecting books for a local homeless shelter.
- Volunteering to read books to kids at an after-school program.
- Bringing a group of young people to read to older adults at a retirement home.

More ideas are at <http://www.cbcbooks.org>.

# In this issue of the



## Newsletter:

- A report on HSLDA's national state leader's conference
  - News from around the state
- Introductions to our two new board members
- Winter Support Group Leaders' seminar dates
  - Reducing liability in support groups
  - and lots more ...