



KHEA NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2005

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Urgent matter? Use our home phone numbers or email addresses listed above. Otherwise call (859) 779-6574 or email us at: mail@khea.info News items: mail@khea.info

TOUGH QUESTIONS

by Connie Laffin

I've been doing some thinking lately. It is one thing to watch and listen, but to think.... now that could be dangerous!

I was loading the dishwasher, doing laundry, and listening to the news when it dawned on me that the world seems to be getting smaller. Instant communication through technology and a world economy brings countries and people closer together. In response to the catastrophe in the Gulf States, governments of other countries are pledging their monetary support to help the storm victims. You don't need to drive to the Mississippi coast; you can watch FOX news to get moment-by-moment live updates on how the relief efforts are going.

The internet is bringing people on different continents together. At the touch of a finger, we can find out the weather conditions in London (England - not KY) or see satellite images of our own backyard. When I was in



"We find the information we need on the Internet, but do these things help us interact with the world around us?"

high school, I spent a summer in Finland as a foreign exchange student. In the 70s, the only cost effective communication with home was through writing letters. I would write, ask a question, and then have to wait two weeks for a reply to come. With email, that kind of communication works much faster. I have a niece who is living in Vietnam for a year. I got an email letter from her yesterday which had been written just a few hours before I read it. And if I really wanted to, I could converse with her live via instant messaging.

It is a small world after all.

So I guess that I am wondering if all of this technology is actually helping or hurting us. On the one hand, communication has been made easier. But is there a negative side-effect?

It seems to me that we are becoming a spectator society. While the world is coming to us via the media and the internet, we sit back and wait for the delivery. We watch the news. We find the information we need on the internet. But do these things help us interact with the world around us, or bring a real change

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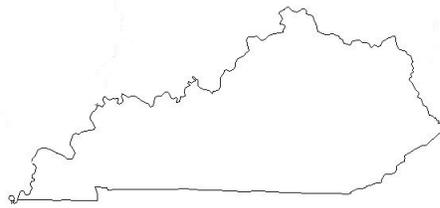
KHEA NEWS deadline

The next KHEA Newsletter is expected to be published in November. 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 July KHEA Newsletter, please send it to mail@khea.info by Nov. 1st.

What do DPPs really need? See Across the State on Page 2.

Across the State

What do DPPs really need? by Connie Laffin



The beginning of a new school year brings new opportunities for interactions between homeschooling families and school officials. Sometimes the interaction is good and sometimes it is not. Generally speaking, the state's DPPs are continuing to ask homeschool families to fill out and return a form in order to be approved as a homeschool. The forms generally ask for information which is not necessary for the DPP to do their job. The law only requires homeschool families to inform the DPP of their intent to homeschool, and to give the DPP all information which is required for the DPP to perform his duties.

So what things are really required by the DPP as contrasted with the details the DPP and school district would like to know? This has been a point of contention between DPPs and homeschoolers for many years. We tell our members that the following information is all that the DPP needs to fulfill his responsibilities. Homeschool families should write their local school board, stating that their children will be attending a particular homeschool, giving the name and address of the school. You must also include the name, age and home address of each child in your school. You need not include

anything else in the letter whatsoever.

We do not recommend that you include test scores, letters of recommendations, or any other material since it implies that you are requesting permission from the school board to teach your children at home. You are not requesting permission, simply informing them of the situation. DPPs do not need a Social Security number, textbook list, and school day schedule, curriculum lists or immunization records.

So what does this mean? No matter how safe you feel you are, trouble with DPPs can surface overnight. One more note... If you get a letter from the local school district asking for information you are not required to give them, apply the "Golden Rule" – treat other people the way you want to be treated. Many times these DPPs are ignorant of the law. If you were in their shoes, you would like a homeschool parent to call and talk through the family's objections BEFORE they call in KHEA or HSLDA. You would rather have a chance to talk a problem over with someone before they take the matter to a lawyer. Give them the respect you want them to have for you. Call them up and go over your objections with them. Then if the DPP doesn't back down, call KHEA or HSLDA.

was ordered to put her child back in public school and has complied with the court order. The second family, who had been homeschooling for several years, was a member of HSLDA. At their May trial date, the school district dropped the case because they had no grounds to stand on. The family was doing a great job homeschooling.

Grayson County – The unsettling situation in Grayson County is ongoing. The DPP is continuing to single out the family involved, threatening some sort of action. She is also asking the other homeschool families in her district to submit extra information and to be ready for home visits. The extra pressure has local homeschoolers on edge. Fortunately, many of the homeschoolers are members of HSLDA. Homeschool leadership there is pursuing resolution of the conflict through indirect channels. We are keeping an eye on this situation.

Spurious Abuse Claim Refuted by Home School Legal Defense Association (August 26, 2005)

Coming home at 8:30 p.m. on Saturday this summer, the Wall family were puzzled to see a sheriff's car and another car parked in their driveway. As they exited their car, a social worker asked, "Are you James Wall?" After the father acknowledged he was, the social worker said, "We have received a call about possible child abuse in your family."

The shocked parents gathered their family together immediately and prayed.

Need to join HSLDA? (Home School Legal Defense Association) You can access an application online at www.hsllda.org. KHEA members may use the KHEA discount number, # 291057, to receive a \$20 discount on HSLDA membership.

Updates from Spring hot spots (see the spring 2005 newsletter)

Bowling Green – The single mom

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TOUGH QUESTIONS continued from pg. 1.

in the lives of others? We watch professional football, basketball, tennis or snow skiing brought right to our living room. But when do we get out there to exercise? When was the last time we played a sport?

We are living our lives watching what other people do. As homeschoolers, we have chosen to live “counter culture,” but our culture still influences our view of the world and our actions. We have been conditioned by our culture — whether we like it or not. Do we value our independence so much that it separates us from the people we live with in our community? Do we interact with the homeschoolers in our support group with that same spectator mentality? Are we so focused on our family’s needs that we lose track of the need to have relationships with other homeschoolers?

These are questions worth pondering. These days, support

“Take time to think – even though it is dangerous.”

groups are experiencing a growing lack of membership involvement. It has always been this way, but the problem is getting worse. Support group leadership is becoming more isolated from the members in their groups because the members don’t want to be actively involved. People want to go to support group activities, but they don’t want to help plan the activities. Homeschool parents are becoming content to be spectators.

You know, homeschool support groups are not really about activities. The activities are just the excuse to get together. Support groups are about community – about living and growing together. The “support” in support group is about relationship and about giving to each other. It is pretty hard to give when you

take the place of a spectator. If you don’t give, others won’t be in the positions to give back to you. Leaders in support groups don’t have some sort of inherent “duty” to serve the support group members. Actually, the opposite is true. Support group members have the responsibility to get involved, give to other folks in their support group and support the group’s leadership by diving into relationship. We all need relationship.

So I’d like to challenge you all to consider these things as this school year passes. Take time to think — even though it is dangerous. Get involved with the people in your support group even though that takes your time and energy. You aren’t too busy with school work, extra curricular activities, and church to give to the people in your support group. They need your support and encouragement and are ready and willing to do the same for you.

Spurious Claim continued

Afterwards, they had their 15 year-old son take their 5 year-old daughter into their home.

The parents asked the social worker about the allegations. She refused to reveal them. The parents decided it was time to call HSLDA.

The family called our after hours phone number, and moments later HSLDA attorney Scott Woodruff was on the phone. Though she had refused to tell the family the allegations, she told Woodruff that the hotline said the son had bruises on his neck and arms and was being locked in his room.

Woodruff then spoke privately to the family and found there was absolutely no

truth to the allegations. He advised the family to not permit the social worker to come into their home and not permit her to question their daughter. Instead, the family should allow the social worker to see their daughter and to ask the parents questions, and the son questions, in their presence, but only questions relating to the two allegations.

The family accepted this advice, and the social worker was soon convinced the allegations were groundless. Woodruff stayed on the phone until the social worker and sheriff had left the premises.

The heavy toll on families from investigations of spurious complaints has never been adequately studied. The next day,

the 5 year-old was found walking around the house covering one hand with the other. Upon being questioned about this odd behavior, she told her mom she was trying to hide a little cut she had received from a pencil sharpener. She said she was afraid someone would see it and think her mommy had abused her.

A day or two later, the social worker told the family the hotline report also said the family were vegetarians, had a privacy fence and were homeschooling. It is a small consolation that the social worker had the good judgment to realize none of these are evidence of abuse or neglect. (From <http://www.hsllda.org/hs/state/ky/200508260.asp>)

From HSLDA:

State Organizations: Making Our Voices Heard

“State organizations serve the homeschooling community tremendously by providing instruction, encouragement, and training through symposiums, conferences, and conventions. By providing speakers that teach the principles of liberty and the importance of advancing homeschool freedoms, state organizations offer an invaluable service to parents.”
- J. Michael Smith

“The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.”
Edmund Burke

Every day, hundreds of thousands of committed mothers and fathers selflessly devote themselves to the task of teaching their children at home. Free from the strictures of government bureaucracy and standardization, these parents create positive learning environments that engage their children’s learning styles and respect their individuality. Like a diamond, the beauty of homeschooling is truly multi-faceted.

Homeschooling parents are, by definition and necessity, an independent lot. They are pioneers in the frontiers of parent-directed education. And, yet, during the course of the last 20 years, these same parents have astutely perceived the need to band together to form extremely successful state homeschooling organizations. State organizations have played essential roles in the amazing political, legal, and PR successes of the modern homeschooling movement.

Christopher Klicka, senior counsel for HSLDA observes:

After working in the homeschooling movement for 18 years, I’ve found that the state homeschool associations are crucial for maintaining the freedom to homeschool in each state. It is important for individual families to be involved with their state organizations so that homeschoolers have solidarity throughout the state. As Benjamin Franklin said, “If we do not hang together, we shall most assuredly hang separately!”

“For many years I have viewed HSLDA as the Air Force and state homeschooling organizations as the Army. The Air Force can take out particular targets and can support the ground attack. State organizations are the forces that ‘occupy the land’ allowing freedom to be sustained.”
- Michael P. Farris

Susan Beatty, co-founder, board member, and Communications Director for Christian Home Education Association of California, says, “State organizations promote camaraderie. When we are part of a bigger group, we realize that we are not alone. When we band together, we can make our voices heard.”

State organizations have, in many respects, become choirs for the homeschooling movement. When we join our voices together, we create a quality musical performance that cannot be duplicated by one or two voices singing alone. By joining the choir, homeschooling parents don’t surrender their individuality or personal convictions and responsibilities. On the contrary, we reaffirm them as we commit to work together in the public square. As in all good choirs, participants sing different parts. We all have unique talents and gifts to contribute.

In spite of the important role state homeschooling organizations play in the continued growth and well-being of the homeschooling movement, “Serving Homeschoolers at the State Level: Current Perceptions,” a recent survey conducted by Thomas W. Washburne, Esq., Director of HSLDA’s National Center for Home Education, concludes the following:

Overall, slightly less than one-half (48%) of homeschoolers consider themselves to be involved in some way with a state homeschooling organization. Those homeschoolers not involved with a state organization, 52% of the total, indicated that they were not involved for a number of reasons.1 When asked directly, about half (52%) said they were not involved with a state organization because they “just never thought about getting involved with it or didn’t know about it.”2

Homeschooling organizations are involved in a wide array of essential activities. Pray for the state leaders, board members, and volunteers involved in these organizations. Today would be a good day for you to become involved in your state’s organization if you are not already! Make a note of those areas that are appealing to you and in which you are gifted, and call your state organization today.

This article is a part of a larger article written by Zan Tyler and published in the January/February 2003 HSLDA *Home School Court Report*, available at this link: <http://www.hslda.org/courtreport/v19n1/v19n101.asp>

Time to select your KHEA board members.

The KHEA by-laws define the board as having seven members. Since we have two returning board members and one board candidate, we still have openings for four more board members. It is our desire that all of you see KHEA as an organization that represents its members. We are all in this together. The KHEA board and all of the KHEA members are dynamically dependent on one another. The board represents the members and is itself made up of KHEA members. The KHEA membership depends on the board to set policy, keep abreast of legislative challenges,

encourage local support groups, provide homeschooling information, etc. The KHEA membership relies on some of the ordinary, everyday KHEA members to take a turn as board members.

As of this writing, we only have two board members and one board member candidate for the 2005-2006 school year. We truly need your help. Our by-laws state that the board has the power and privilege of appointing new board members to fill any vacant seats. When we find good candidates for the board, we will be glad to appoint them.

HELP NEEDED

With the loss of Charlie and Jan Fletcher from our Board, we have some serious needs. Charlie and Jan took care of our website. When they move, our website file will need to stay here in KY. We need a KHEA member to be our new webmaster. That would involve keeping our 21 MB website files on their computer. It would also involve some time, upkeep, and posting of files. Whoever takes on the job would need to agree to serve on the KHEA Board.

We are also in need of someone to assemble and publish our newsletter. It would involve some time and energy looking for content in addition to assembling and mailing it out. The good news is that other Board members will help contribute content. Whoever takes on this job will also need to serve on our Board of Directors.

We still are in need of two Board members from the Lexington/Frankfort area. We need folks who will monitor the Legislature this winter and help organize an action plan needed to protect our homeschool freedoms. The current Board members live too far from Frankfort to be able to respond quickly.

Board members aren't super-human. They are just ordinary folks who are willing to give their time and energy to KY homeschoolers. If you would like to talk about what would be involved in either position call Connie at 270-782-7384.

Charna Leonhardt

Hi, I am Charna Leonhardt and I live in Bowling Green, Kentucky with my husband Mark and our three sons, Joseph, David and Jacob. We started homeschooling 12 years ago while stationed overseas in Italy. Being a Navy family we moved A LOT (18 times in 18 years) and I have homeschooled overseas and numerous locations stateside. Having done so I have experienced a wide variety of state and federal homeschooling regulations and requirements. Each new experience helped to affirm my desire to help parents with questions they might have about homeschooling and to identify local resources. I would consider it a privilege to serve on the KHEA board. Thank you.

— — — — — Cut here and mail. — — — — —

Board Members

Vote (x) for who you would like to see on the board.

____ Charna Leonhardt

Please return this completed ballot
NO LATER THAN OCT. 1ST to:

Kentucky Home Education Association
P. O. Box 51591
Bowling Green, KY 42102-5891

Thank you so much!

Special thanks to Jay Boyd as well as Charlie and Jan Fletcher serving on the KHEA Board. We appreciate all of the time they have given to us and the many ways that their service has enabled us to school our children at home.

Jay is leaving our Board due to his ever growing work responsibilities. He will be missed.

Charlie and Jan Fletcher are resigning as Board members. They have decided to move their family to the state of Washington, way out there in the Pacific Northwest. The current plan is to move during the second half of the month of December 2005. Many of us will sorely miss both their friendship and encouragement.

Defining Moments

Every so often organizations come to a pivotal point. They are presented with an opportunity to grow and change or dissolve the ties which bind them together. At that juncture, they come to a defining moment. This school year, KHEA will find itself in one of such moments.

Over the last few of years, our organization has had difficulty finding members who will serve in leadership positions. At the same time, we have experienced strengthened ties between our affiliated support groups and our individual member families. Our members believe in our mission and support our goals. We have never been closer or more strongly committed to each other than we are right now.

But in order to continue along the course we are traveling, we are going to need some of our members to step up and commit to taking leadership roles. Whether that will take shape through a reorganization of how Board members are recruited or through us continuing in our present leadership structure, I can't tell you. This year we will be asking our members to think through why we need a group like KHEA. We are going to take a look at what we are doing and how our organization can best realize those goals.

In the end, for our group to survive, some of our members will need to step up the plate and commit themselves to the purposes we are pursuing. Some people are going to need to stop watching and start doing. I believe that we have plenty of people who can and would serve well in our leadership. We are just in a defining moment. We need to stop, ponder, and decide who we want KHEA to be. — Connie Laffin

Websites of interest

www.landforms.biz This site has downloadable satellite images, digital state maps, continent maps, USA maps, as well as Mars maps and many others. The maps are stored in many formats including black and white images, shaded color relief, 3-D format and GIS format. These maps may be purchased "a la carte" or you can obtain unlimited access to the maps by purchasing a year-long subscription. The subscription price is on sale in September.

Listening link is an audio-based program which helps promote thinking and develops students' listening skills. The curriculum uses audio instructions and work sheets to help students learn to listen carefully and follow directions. The program was created for 8-12 year olds. For more information call Listening Link at 866-880-2033 or visit their website at <http://www.listeninglink.net>.

Reduced price software

Microsoft is continuing to offer Microsoft Office suite (XP) to students and teachers for school use at a drastically reduced price. There *are* some stipulations, however. The student and teacher must agree to use the product *only for school*. Homeschool families qualify for this discount and you can use your KHEA Membership Card (which you should be receiving shortly) as proof of homeschooling.

Why would you want to purchase this package? Many homeschool families with jr. or sr. high students could use the Office suite programs (Word, Excel, Access, Powerpoint,...) as part of their curriculum. Let's face it, if we want to truly equip our students for the "real world," then access to and knowledge of these programs is pretty important. Businesses use word processors, spreadsheets, and databases to store, manage and communicate various aspects of their businesses.

Microsoft Office is the software of choice for a high percentage of these businesses. Students can learn these programs by purchasing a "how-to" tutorial book available at bookstores and also from www.amazon.com. For more info on this great Microsoft offer, look on the internet at www.microsoft.com/office/forstudents/default.asp.

“ Whilst men are linked together, they easily and speedily communicate the alarm of any evil design. They are enabled to fathom it with common counsel, and to oppose it with united strength. Whereas, when they lie dispersed, without concert, order, or discipline, communication is uncertain, counsel difficult, and resistance impracticable. Where men are not acquainted with each other's principles, nor experienced in each other's talents, nor at all practised in their mutual habitudes and dispositions by joint efforts in business; no personal confidence, no friendship, no common interest, subsisting among them; it is evidently impossible that they can act a public part with uniformity, perseverance, or efficacy.... No man, who is not inflamed by vain-glory into enthusiasm, can flatter himself that his single, unsupported, desultory, unsystematic endeavours, are of power to defeat the subtle designs and united cabals of ambitious citizens. **When bad men combine, the good must associate; else they will fall, one by one, an unpitied sacrifice in a contemptible struggle.** ”

— Edmund Burke

BITS AND PIECES:

Homeschool Speech and Debate

For any of you considering speech and debate for your children, here are two good opportunities:

Veritas Christian Speech and Debate Club: Interested in Christian Home-school Speech and Debate? You can get involved by joining Veritas. The club meets on Tuesdays, Sept through March from 6:00-9:00pm in Evansville, Indiana. Some members of this club drive 2-3 hours to participate. Veritas participates in the NCFCA (National Christian Forensics Communication Association <http://www.ncfca.org>). For club information, contact Miriam Kauk at miriam@sigecom.net.

Truth Advocates Debate Club of Kentuckiana meets in the Louisville/Kentuckiana area. Benefits of Speech & Debate:

1. To become better communicators for the Lord and communicate His message of love to a lost world.
2. Research and study skills.
3. Learning how to organize your thoughts and think on your feet.

Opportunities in the 2005-06 School Year: Debate Co-op held from 9:00-1:30 the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month to learn debate skills, practice and prepare for tournaments. LD classes also offered this year. (A parent needs to be involved in some way at this co-op.)

Speech Co-op held from 2:00-4:00 the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month to learn the different types of speeches, practice and prepare for tournaments. (Space will be limited for this.)

Jr. Speech Tournament open to any home-schooled 7 to 11 year olds held on Sat. Oct. 22 or 29. To give younger students an opportunity to practice speech skills. Practice Tournaments throughout Louisville/Southern Indiana starting from November. For more info, contact JoAnn at ejbroaddus@juno.com.

Energy Explorations at Expo

Visit the children's Expo at the Bluegrass

Energy Expo at the Convention Center in Lexington, KY on Sept. 24 and 25. There will be hands-on energy explorations, arts and crafts, solar oven making, and more. See a straw bale structure and the "Cruising Cleaner Car Show." There will be workshops and exhibits for the adults. For more information go to <http://www.bluegrassenergyexpo.org>, or contact Ben Perry, Event Coordinator, benperry@a-spi.org, (606)256-0077, or Andy McDonald, Educational Coordinator, solar@kysolar.org, (502)227-4562.

HSLDA Announces New Homeschooling Thru High School Program

HSLDA is launching a new program to aid and encourage parents teaching high school aged children. Go to the Homeschooling Thru High School pages on HSLDA's website to see:

- Answers to frequently asked questions
- Curriculum resource lists and links
- Record keeping and transcript resources
- Testing resources
- College admissions information
- Plus lots more...

You'll find the new pages at:

<http://www.hslda.org/mlink.asp?id=2463>

This is just the beginning! We will regularly be adding more resources and services, so please visit often. And, be sure to sign up for our new email publication "Homeschooling Thru High School" which will provide regular encouragement and guidance for families who are homeschooling through high school. You'll be glad you did, you won't want to miss an issue! Sign up at: <http://www.hslda.org/mlink.asp?id=2464>.

Homeschooling speaker at THINK

THINK ~ Teaching Homes In Northern Kentucky is pleased to present Debbie McGregor at our THINK meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 20 from 7:00 - 8:30. We meet at Fellowship of Believers in Florence. (Directions are on our website <http://www.thinkathome.com>) Debbie will be addressing the topic: "Taking Steps to a God Given Lifestyle of Learning." Come join us.

OnLine Math League

The Online Math League offers fun, challenging math contests to schools and individuals in Grades 3-12. OML contests stimulate student interest in mathematics through the use of great tests. Our math competitions are challenging, motivating, and fun! These contests use worthwhile problems to develop students' problem-solving and critical thinking skills. Students get immediate feedback and classy awards. For more info go to <http://www.onlinemathleague.com/?HS>.

Health Benefit Plan

AmeriPlan USA® Corporation...the nation's premier Provider Access Organization, saving its members hundreds of millions of dollars in supplemental healthcare since 1992.

AmeriPlan® is the largest referral fee-for-services program in the country. Our track record of success in providing access to affordable healthcare speaks for itself. We know our business, and the future looks bright!

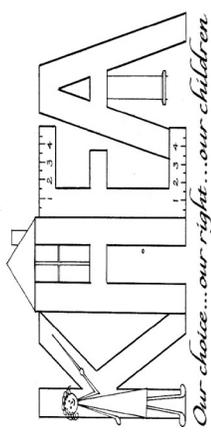
AmeriPlan® is a discount supplemental health benefit program which allows you to save up to 80% on expenses associated with dental care, vision care, chiropractic care, and prescription drugs.

You get all four benefits* for just: \$11.95/month for individuals or \$19.95/mo for an entire household! Savings begin immediately! No claim forms to complete! No restrictions on age, ongoing dental/medical problems (conditions), or how many visits you can make! No surprises! Your monthly fee is guaranteed for 2 years! 100% Satisfaction Guarantee! Orthodontics Included! Visit <http://www.mybenefitsplus.com/familiesonamission> for more information.

Essay contest

Janie B. Cheaney, former homeschooler and author of the Wordsmith creative writing series and several children's/young adult novels, is sponsoring an essay contest open to students ages 12-16. The theme is "The Price of Freedom." See <http://www.jbcheaney.com> for details.

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