



KHEA NEWS

SPRING 2004

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Several bills watched, but the pot didn't boil -By Jan Fletcher

This year's legislative session has ended and homeschoolers can breathe a sigh of relief. All the bills KHEA opposed have died quietly in house and senate committees. The kettle may have steamed a bit, particularly with HB304, which was an attempt to resurrect the No Pass/No Drive bill that was ruled unconstitutional in December. However, the watched pot didn't boil this year.

Future vigilance is still required. As Connie Laffin notes (see sidebar), the move to reinstate a bill of this type will undoubtedly resurface again. When it does, we will be prepared with a strategy to defeat any attempt to do so. Homeschoolers have run into obstacles, in the past, with this bill, before it was ruled unconstitutional, due to the overzealous interpretation of the law by circuit court clerks.

This year's crop of compulsory education extension bills (raising the drop-out age) died a quiet death. This was due in large measure to the state's budget crisis, as each one would have required millions more in state funding for public schools. Any future proposals to extend compulsory education, particularly in the early childhood years, will be watched carefully.

Perhaps the bill that gave us the most concern was HB 610, sponsored by Rep. Kathy Stein, which would have offered homeschoolers the option of voluntary certification. We viewed this as a new development — a sort of regulation by the back door approach. Essentially, by defining what certification is, homeschoolers who “voluntarily” certify may be given certain perks to encourage their voluntary compliance. The development of such

For all intents and purposes, HB304 is dead, but not buried. The Senate judiciary committee chose to just let this legislation languish. However, we do not think that this is the end of the No Pass/ No Drive type of legislation. Public educators are looking for ways to keep Kentucky's teens in school. In two years, someone will have come up with some sort of a new bill designed to keep teens in school until they can receive a high school diploma. And in the meantime, there is no telling what certain judges may do in order to “replace” this legislation and its power to keep teens in school until they graduate. At the present time, we are glad for the short reprieve.

Once again, thank you for your help in protecting the freedom to homeschool in Kentucky. - Connie Laffin, president KHEA

certification standards could be used at a later point in time to argue for mandatory certification of homeschoolers who elect not to certify.

We will certainly be alert to any future trends in this area. “Bait and switch” bills, which may offer certain “perks” for homeschools that choose to participate in voluntary regulation, can be a divisive element among the homeschool community. In Alaska, half of the state's homeschoolers have signed onto charter schools, using virtual classrooms and free books and other supplies provided by the state as an incentive for homeschoolers to enroll in a charter school. Scott Somerville,

an attorney with Home School Legal Defense Association, said there are millions of dollars flowing into charter school operations from homeschoolers nationwide.

It's a “bait and switch” approach, because, eventually, when such programs lure enough homeschools into voluntary participation, suddenly the carrot's quality goes down. And for those who don't sign on, they may be facing new regulatory legislation that will use the precedents set by voluntary certification programs to argue for mandatory compliance. For example, the state may offer education tax credits, which, initially, may be used to buy all sorts of curriculum. Later, that is changed to only those textbooks the state approves, and so on. By developing standards to decide what textbooks the state will “fund” for voluntary homeschooling participants, legislators have ammunition in the form of standards developed for voluntary purposes. It's not too hard to use these standards to argue for more regulation for everyone.

Rep. Stein is apparently aware of the Alaska Charter School program. Such a “carrot” approach at state regulation, if enacted, could eventually turn into a stick for those who elect not to certify.

Although Charter Schools are currently unconstitutional in Kentucky, the fact that this bill was proposed could be an indication of a new tactic by supporters of homeschool regulation to slip in quietly with the offer of a “helping hand.”

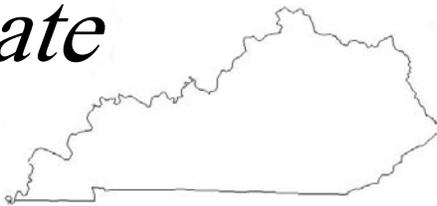
It's all the more reason to stay vigilant. Working together, we can continue to protect homeschool freedoms in Kentucky.



Support Groups: Join us for our first on-line chat April 26th. See Page 5.

Across the state

By Connie Laffin



Rockcastle Co. – The DPP of Rockcastle County found a unique way to “visit” her county’s home school families. The DPP arrived on a homeschool family’s doorstep without any prior notice, because the family had not returned the form offering participation in Federally funded programs. The DPP stated that the homeschool family had a legal obligation to return the form she had sent. Because the family had not returned the form, the DPP believed that she was under an obligation to get the form signed.

Shortly after the new year, all of the local school districts send out a letter to the private schools located within their school district boundaries. These letters offer private schools the ability to participate in several Federally funded programs. Since homeschools in KY are private schools, the school district is legally obligated to offer each homeschool the right to participate in these Federal programs. That is right — the *school district* is obligated to offer homeschoolers participation in the programs. Most school districts offer homeschools these Federal programs by sending the family a certified letter. That way, the school district can prove (they get a receipt) that they have offered us those programs. The Rockcastle DPP did not send her letter via certified mail, so she was not able to prove she had offered these services to homeschools. That was

her reason for visiting homes. Homeschools are under no obligation to return the form indicating election to participate or not participate, as a private school, in a Federal Title program. We have called the DPP and followed up with a letter suggesting that, next year, she should send the 20-30 homeschool families living within her school district the letter via “certified” mail.

Ohio Co. – A KHEA member family from one of your Affiliated Support Groups was astonished when a social worker arrived at her doorstep. The social worker was visiting to follow up a complaint that the family was not able to feed their children adequately. Even though the complaint was not concerning their decision to homeschool, it is probable that the caller did not approve of the family homeschooling their children. Fortunately, the parent and the social worker were able to resolve the situation amicably.

Two unnamed counties in South Central Kentucky (near I-65): KHEA talked with two families from separate (but adjacent) counties who had pulled their children out of public school mid-semester in order to homeschool. One of the families had their oldest child placed temporarily in a foster home. The other family had been threatened with the same result. It is hard to know whether these people were families desiring to

establish bonafide home schools or folks who had chronic “red flag issues” (see the best Practices Document). Nevertheless, there are still places in the state where judges hold families hostage when they choose to homeschool their children.

KHEA suggests that all Kentucky homeschool families join HSLDA. None of the above mentioned families were HSLDA members before they were contacted by the authorities. Since only a small percentage of KY homeschool families are members of HSLDA, it is reasonable to assume that most of the families who will be contacted by school district authorities or social workers in any given year will not be HSLDA members. Families with inadequate legal representation often set negative legal precedents which later affect bonafide homeschool families.

HSLDA will allow all homeschoolers to join their organization even after they have become involved in a problem with local authorities. However, they are rarely willing to get involved with or defend homeschool families after they have become involved in an on-going problem with local authorities.

The one, best thing you can do to defend your freedom to homeschool from negative legal precedent is to join HSLDA. As a KHEA member, you can join HSLDA at a discounted price. Normally, HSLDA membership is \$100 per year, but if you use the KHEA discount number, you get HSLDA membership for \$85 per year. The discount # is on your KHEA membership card.

Online College Network by Connie Laffin

Is your high school student college-bound? For many home school families, researching information about colleges is a bit intimidating. With so many colleges to choose from, parents and students can easily become overwhelmed with the task to find the right college. With each college asking for different pieces of information, finding ways to communicate the academic background and special abilities of their high school student can use up lots of time and energy. Wouldn't it just be nicer if someone would develop a web service where students could post their educational "resume"? It would be even better if the web service would link with colleges helping them to find students for their school. Well there is such a web service – The Online College Network.

HSLDA has partnered with the Online College Network (OCN) in an effort to gain exposure for college-bound home schooled students. Through your KHEA membership, you have free use of their services. Students register with OCN, then use the site's "lesson plans" to develop a student resume highlighting their unique interests and experiences. In addition to listing their academic coursework, students can detail their involvement in sports, the arts, or other activities

College admissions departments across the nation are looking to identify students who are a good match to their programs. Through the OCN, your student's unique resume is made available to authorized college personnel who are recruiting new students. This information is not available to the general public. It is only given to college personnel who pay to peruse the OCN database. Many colleges, having experience with home school graduates, are actively seeking home school students for their student body.

Getting to the OCN website is easy. Just go to the KHEA website at <http://www.khea.info/> and look for the OCN link at the bottom right of the main page or go directly to the OCN site at <http://www.OnlineCollegeNetwork.com/>. Before you actually sign up, you need to download a copy of the "Lesson Plans" they have posted on the site. Their database will ask you to give them more information about your student's activities than you would imagine. Believe me, you need to get the lesson plans and fill them out first so you don't waste your time backtracking when you sign up. Once the "lesson plans" are filled out, go to the OCN and sign in as a home school student using the red link at the top left. Shortly thereafter, your student's info will be available for colleges and universities to access.

If you have any difficulties, contact Connie at laffinatu2@hotmail.com or our KHEA email address at KHEAhomeschool@hotmail.com.

Support Group Tidbits



Kentucky Homeschool Choir Nicholasville, KY

KY Homeschool Performing Arts Festival State Choir will have their concert on Saturday, April 24, at 7:00 p.m. at Edgewood Baptist Church (North Main Street, Nicholasville). We have 32 members in the choir that have been working very diligently for this performance. Please come out and support these wonderful young people and enjoy a great evening of sacred and classical music.

Bluegrass Home Educators in Bardstown, KY

Several families are planning to carpool to the Kings Island Homeschool Day on May 21st. Info. contact 349-3029. (R.S.V.P. Deadline for advanced tickets is April 27th) Homeschool Day is open to any homeschool family. Advance tickets are \$20.00 per ticket (\$22.99 off the regular price.) A curriculum fair, an educational presentation by Dr. Bill, of Science Discovery Learning, and learning packets will also be available. For more information, or to order tickets, call Paramount's Kings Island at 800-333-8080. The waterpark will be closed.

Conferences, Curriculum Fairs, and Used Book Sales

KENTUCKY

July 16-17

Louisville: 2004 CHEK Conference, Valley View Baptist Church, 8911 Old Third Street Road, Louisville, KY 40272. Early Bird Registration before June 15 for CHEK Members \$25.00 / for non-members \$40.00; Regular rate at the door for CHEK Members \$30.00 / for non-members \$45.00 For more info: call Don & Debbie Woolett at (270) 358-9270 or go to <http://www.chek.org/> for more complete information.

May 21

Times TBA

Horse Cave: Sponsored by HCHE – at a home, 6975 South Jackson Hwy., Horse Cave. Near I-65 At the intersection of 31E and Hwy. 218. All homeschool families welcome to come sell or buy. Homeschool curriculum, yard sale items, home businesses. For more info contact: Linda Rayner at lindarayner@hotmail.com, 270-786-3914.

Monday, June 14 4 - 8:30 ish.

Harrodsburg: New and Used Book Sale. Lots and lots of used curriculum and some displays of new curriculum sent in from various home school authors to view. Also, door prizes, speakers on the Charlotte Mason Method of teaching, health foods. Used book sellers: Used books must be dropped off between 1:30pm and 3:00 pm. Folks who wish to sell their curriculum must sign a Guidelines Sheet available by emailing Charlene Kay Wirth at Kentucky@TOSMag.com. No commission is taken on sales. Note: This event is hosted by a group of Christians, so they will not accept books or other items which Christians might find offensive.

Location directions: The location is on 127 at the Anderson Dean Park in Harrodsburg (just off 68 to the right) at the Lion's Pavilion in the park. It is to the left of the Hitachi building, across from the ballpark. There is a brand new pool, Aquatic Center there, walking trails, swings, play area etc for the children.

June 22

10:00am - Noon

Paducah: Used Curriculum Fair sponsored by PATCH – Immanuel Baptist Church.

More info at: <http://www.kyhomeschooling.freesevers.com/>.

Various dates:

A Beka Book Presentations in KY: To find out when a presentation has been scheduled in your local community, call Steve Dean, ABB Representative, 800-613-3222 ext. 68.

TENNESSEE

April 19

1:00 – 7:00 p.m.

White House: 8th Annual Curriculum Sale sponsored by White House Home Educators - White House 7th Day Adventist Church, 3660 Hwy. 31 W. The public is welcomed to consign homeschool curriculum, toys, family oriented videos, etc. Contributors will be offered admission to the pre-sale from 10-12. Due to facility constraints, this year's sale will be ONE DAY ONLY! More info at: <http://www.tnhomeed.com/>.

May 1

Murfreesboro: Used Curriculum Sale sponsored by H.E.A.R.T. – Southeast Baptist Church gymnasium, 708 Minerva Drive. More info at: <http://www.tnhomeed.com/>.

May 1

9:00am -- 3:30pm

Dayton: Worldview Seminar for Homeschooling Students and Parents. Bryan College, Rudd Auditorium. Cost: \$10 per student for teens, \$5 per student ages 8 – 12, Parents attend FREE. Lunch: FREE. For more info contact: Pat Wesolowski at bisb@juno.com, 850-385-1958.

May 15

8:00 - Noon

Clarksville: New & Used Curriculum Sale sponsored by First Church of the Nazarene Homeschool Support Group - First Church of the Nazarene, 150 Richview Road More info at: <http://www.tnhomeed.com/>.

May 15

8:00am - Noon

Clarksville: New & Used Curriculum Sale sponsored by First Church of the Nazarene Homeschool Support Group - First Church of the Nazarene, 150 Richview Road More info at: <http://www.tnhomeed.com/>.

May 20 & 21

Thurs. 1-5, Fri. 9-11

White House: 6th Annual Used Curriculum Sale: More info at: <http://www.tnhomeed.com/>.

May 20-22

Fri. 9:00 - 6:00, Sat. 9:00 - 2:00

Hendersonville: MTHEA Curriculum Fair. First Baptist Church, Hendersonville, TN More info at: <http://www.mthea.org/>.

May 29

8:30 - Noon

Knoxville: SMHEA Used Curriculum Sale, Calvary Baptist Church, 3200 Kingston Pike. More info at: <http://www.smhea.org/>.

June 25 & 26

9:00am - 7:00pm

Knoxville: SMHEA Family Resource Fair, Farragut Middle School. More info at: <http://www.smhea.org/>.

OHIO

May 1

9:00am - 1:00pm

Cincinnati: 16th Annual Home Education Orientation Day, Sponsored by Christian Home Educators of Cincinnati - 1600 Glendale Milford Road, 45215 More info at: <http://www.tnhomeed.com/>

June 24-26

Columbus: The CHEO 20th Annual Convention for 2004 - Veterans Memorial Hall, 300 West Broad Street. More info at: http://www.cheohome.org/events/Convention%202004/convention_2004.htm.

INDIANA

April 23 – 24

Fri. 4:00 – 9:00,

Sat. 8:00 – 4:00

Evansville: SWIHE Annual Conference – Christian Fellowship Church More info at: <http://www.swihe.org/convention.html>.

ILLINOIS

June 4-5

Benton: ICHE annual Southern IL Convention and Curriculum Fair. More info at: <http://www.iche.org/>

Continued NEXT PAGE ► ► ►

Support Group Leaders: Join our First KHEA Live Chat



Support Group leaders: you are invited to KHEA's first on-line chat April 26th, 7 pm Central, 8 pm Eastern. KHEA board members will be available to host a discussion with support group leaders on how to recruit, train and recycle helpers for support groups. Jan Fletcher, secretary for KHEA, will host the chat, which will be private just for those invited.

Here's how to do it. If you don't already have an AOL Instant Messenger account, 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 (godloves@alltel.net) your screen name. She will add your name to her Buddy list, then invite you to the chat at 7 pm Central, 8 pm Eastern on April 26th. That's all there is to it.

Take advantage of this easy way to share tips, strategies and encouragement with one another, just at the time when you will be thinking of grooming and recruiting next year's helpers. Email Jan with questions and put the date and time on your calendar. We'll be chatting!



Field Trip Opportunities

Salato Homeschool Days: April 30 and May 26.

Kids do a great deal of classroom learning in the form of memorizing vocabulary lists and writing reports. So let's take a break and go outside where true appreciation of the environment takes place and see what we can learn on our own! These interpretive tours will be staff-led, but the learning will be student-directed with a focus on challenging elementary students to think conceptually and use their own reasoning skills. Concepts covered will include food chains, competition, habitat components, etc. Mixed age groups are okay! Please contact Marc Johnson at marca.johnson@ky.gov or 502-564-7863 to register. Times available in the morning and afternoon depending on your needs. Please dress appropriately for the weather!

Need to join HSLDA? (Home School Legal Defense Association) You can access an application online at <http://www.hslda.org/>. KHEA members may use the KHEA discount number, # 291057, to receive a 15% discount on HSLDA membership.

Websites of interest

For unschooling resources, visit <http://sandraddodd.com/unschooling.html>.

Home Education Magazine has a wealth of resources on their website at <http://www.home-ed-magazine.com/>.

This website offers a Raise-A-Butterfly Kit just in time for Earth Day. Visit <http://www2.carolina.com/>. This science and math learning products company has everything you need to raise your own painted lady butterflies—plus extensive background information, butterfly facts, and care instructions.

Elenco Electronics offers educational snap circuits for homeschoolers. <http://www.elenco.com/>.

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Mathematic video lessons for Grades 5-9 presented by a live National Certified teacher who explains lessons in real motion are available from <http://www.HomeWorkTV.com/>.

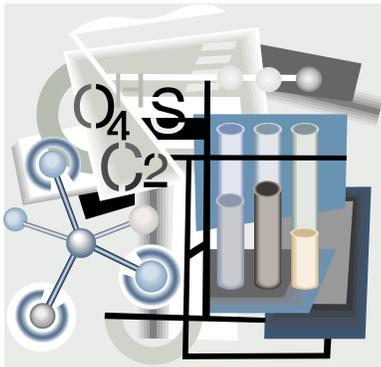
Visit <http://www.cardamompublishers.com/free-page.htm> for three new articles written by veteran homeschooler Barbara Frank, author of Life Prep for Home-schooled Teenagers.

For information on the Education Program for the 2004 Kentucky State Fair, visit <http://www.kystatefair.org/>. On-line booking is available.

CATHOLIC CONFERENCES

May 14 & 15 - begins Fri. 2:00 p.m. and closes Sat. 3:30 p.m. Memphis: Fifth Annual Catholic Curriculum Fair and Homeschooling Conference - St. Louis Church, 5192 Shady Grove Rd. More info at: <http://mywebpages.comcast.net/carolynrh/memphis.html>.

June 26
Hamilton Co.: Get The Faith Catholic 2004 Curriculum Fair And Conference, Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds in the Exhibition Center, 2003 E. Pleasant St., Noblesville, IN. More info at: <http://www.rchei.org/conference.htm>.



Lexington area classes for homeschoolers

A class in high school chemistry will be offered by Johnathan Barnes, Applied Research Engineer Lexmark International Inc., in the summer and again the next school year. Families may choose to participate in order to take care of a difficult requirement over the summer when more attention can be given to it, or they may just want to participate in the lab course. The lab is a safe, but robust chemistry lab that can be done in a church, or even in the home. Barnes would like to teach both over the internet or in an online classroom, but is open to a more conventional setting as well. This class is a college prep level course, and would be good preparation for the AP exam. The cost of the lecture learning materials is around \$65.00. The lab kit is around \$140.00, but 3 or 4 students can share a kit and work together. Students will need access to a computer and the internet.

The teaching fee is \$15.00 per week. This covers the lecture or the lab or both. (No extra for lab) For this fee, parents may enroll as many children as they wish. Call 859-626-3157, or email jjbarnes@lexmark.com.

Lexington artist Steven Shaw has recently announced that he will begin giving **art instruction** to individuals as well as in small group settings. He is focusing on, but not limited to, home-schooled children ranging from 1st to 12th grade. Days and times are available to fit most any schedule. You may obtain more information by contacting Steve at: shawartworx@aol.com or all (859)273-4761 9am – 10pm.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

KHEA is still looking for men and women who would be willing to serve on the KHEA Board of Directors. Our current Board members (all 3 of us) cannot possibly take care of the needs of this growing organization. We need some help! Can you help us?

We don't need just anyone. Board members need to have a proven record of service to and with the homeschoolers they live near. The KHEA Board makes numerous decisions which affect all of the homeschoolers in the Commonwealth. New Board members usually need some training in order to understand issues across the state. It takes a while, but we help them learn the information they need.

Board members are not super-human. We are normal people who hold down jobs and homeschool our children with diligence. We are just as busy as all of you. The difference is that we have chosen to devote some of our time to serve the homeschool community in KY. The Board responsibilities we carry are meant to mesh well with our personalities and our interests. We don't expect all Board members to be speech makers, love being involved in politics, or enjoy spending time with support group leaders. We need a wide diversity of people, talents, and interests.

The Board meets 4-5 times per year for about 3 hours on a Saturday. Some of our Board members travel 3 hours to attend the meeting which we try to hold in a centrally located place. Currently we are meeting in Elizabethtown, but the location of Board meetings is determined by the Board members attending. Between meetings, Board members communicate regularly by email and occasionally by phone. Currently, we need Board members who can help in the following areas:

We have people who love to speak and do all things political. We would welcome people with these interests and skills, but we need other folks to help with everyday tasks like answering email, communicating with support group leaders, keeping track of data, contributing to the newsletter, making arrangements for the Support Group Leader's Seminar..... We are hoping that some of you will take this request to heart. Your support group can do without your help. Someone else will take over that role. And KHEA Board membership will not take away all of your free time. We need your help! If you care about homeschooling in Kentucky, then give Board membership some serious consideration. You can contact any one of us with your questions. We'd enjoy talking with you.

Connie Laffin	270-782-7384	laffinatu2@hotmail.com
Bill Monroe	502-839-1960	wmmmonroe@wmmmonroe.com
Jan Fletcher	270-384-1728	godloves@alltel.net

Know Something Special?

If you know of other events and resources that you want to share with homeschoolers through the KHEA newsletter, please send your announcements to: kheanewseditor@hotmail.com. Our next deadline is July 1st!

Spring and Summer Events for Homeschooled Teens

Teen Camps

Camp Invention

St. Francis School, an independent school in Goshen, Ky. is hosting seven different camp and club offerings from Camp Invention, a non-profit educational outreach program created by the National Inventors, Hall of Fame. Last year, this national, science-based program had nearly 600 camps in 42 states involving nearly 36,000 elementary aged children. Camp and Club Invention encourage teamwork, creative problem solving, and inventive thinking for students entering grades 2 through 6. Its curriculum, which aligns with National Standards, mixes science, math, history, and the arts with hands-on creativity and lots of fun! To learn more about Camp Invention, you can visit <http://www.CampInvention.org/>.

HSLDA Teen Camp Discount

Patrick Henry College's Teen Leadership Camps are packed with exciting opportunities that are not only fun, but educational as well. Your teen could spend a week living the life of an intelligence officer, or as a reporter in a virtual media world. Their forensic skills could be put to the test in an intense debate tournament. Perhaps they could catch a glimpse into the lives of the leaders who established this nation, or rehearse scenes from professional theatre literature and perform in a theatrical play for the community. HSLDA is offering its members a \$20 discount per Teen Leadership Camp. Visit <http://www.hsl.org/>.

[//www.phc.edu/teencamps](http://www.phc.edu/teencamps) for further details.

Homeschool Christian Camp

White Mills Christian Camp is partnering with the Home School Communities of Kentucky and Southern Indiana to offer a full week of camp on August 8-13 at White Mills. This camp is exclusively for home schooled Jr. and Sr. high students. The cost is \$125.00 and this includes all lodging, meals, worship, entertainment Picture, and T-shirt. You can find out more about the camp at our web site - <http://www.whitemillschristiancamp.com/>.



Teen Cruise Reserve now

Marilyn McAloon is the contact for an organized homeschooled teen luncheon cruise on the Star of Louisville, Monday, May 17th (boarding will begin at 11:00am, the boat will actually cruise from 12:00pm-2:00pm)

The Star of Louisville is actually docked in Jeffersonville, IN. (For directions, go to: <http://www.staroflouisville.com/>.)

Dress: This is a dress up event. Not anything formal, just dresses for young ladies and moms, ties for young men and fathers.

Who: This cruise is for those who are 13 -19 years old. Teen

groups or “schools” who want to use this as an “End of the Year Event” are invited also. If your group has 12 year olds in it, they will be allowed to come if they have finished at least 6th grade. The group must send chaperones. Chaperones are needed, but younger siblings will not be allowed to accompany them. We want to keep this an event especially for the older students. We need to have a minimum of 150 people to retain the reservation for entire boat.

The cost of the cruise is \$21. This includes a buffet lunch and tea or coffee. (If you want to have soda, you can pay \$1.75 extra that day) The price is the same for students and chaperones.

How do I sign up and pay? Reservations need to be made with Marilyn McAloon. Checks should be written to her. Checks and a note as to how many are coming, ages, your group or area affiliation, and email address, need to be mailed to: Marilyn McAloon, 4115 Suwanee Dr., LaGrange, KY 40031.

She will then send an email confirmation. This is your receipt and should be kept until the day of the cruise.

When should I sign up? Registration has already begun. She really needs everyone to sign up before April 17th if possible. She has to pay 50% of the bill on that date. The other 50% is due by the beginning of May. If it ends up that you can not attend, you can sell your ticket.

If you have more questions, please email Marilyn McAloon at: marilyn.mac@iolky.com or call 502-241-1091.

Kentucky Home Education Association
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