



Nebraska Homeschool

The Home Educators Network, Inc.

February/March 2017

Volume 11, Issue 2



Adventures in Opportunities
Supporting Each Other
Legal to Homeschool

For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.
2 Timothy 1:7



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www.pinterest.com/nehomeschool/

Next Issue
**The Homeschool
Resource Edition**



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Scripture Version Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are from NIV.

Columnists The views of guest columnists do not necessarily reflect the views of NH-HEN.

Submissions to newsletter must be received by the 20th of each month via email at media@nebraskahomeschool.org.

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Notes from the Board...

So here we are again, with a slightly delayed newsletter from Nebraska Homeschool. One may ask “How does this keep happening?” Glad you asked. The truth of the matter is this, Nebraska Homeschool is an all-volunteer group. There’s no paid staff, no contract employees, but there are homeschooling parents – like you. That means everyone who is serving in this group is giving of his or her own time...time away from children, spouses, homeschooling, and the regular events of life – like the dog getting into the trash, eating the grease-soaked paper towel, and then presenting it to you as a gift the following morning. And then there are those unforeseen events, the ones that cause any person to pause and turn to the Lord to sustain them. Life happens everywhere – even inside the leadership of homeschool groups. It is for this very reason that we have chosen to focus this issue on serving with Nebraska Homeschool and discussing how we can support one another more effectively.

Resting in His Love,
Kathryn Dillow
President



Nebraska Homeschool
The Home Educators Network, Inc.

Network News

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Subscribe on our website Home Page.
www.nebraskahomeschool.org

Adventures in Opportunities

A Nebraska Homeschool Odyssey



In this issue we want to help you understand how Nebraska Homeschool functions. So join us on this Nebraska Homeschool odyssey, learn how things are currently run, and explore new and exciting opportunities for you to share your talents with fellow homeschoolers – all to the glory of Christ.

Nebraska Homeschool is a nonprofit organization that is governed by a **Board of Directors (BOD)**.

As a nonprofit, we are required to follow federal and state laws specific to nonprofit groups. At this time the BOD doubles as the Executive Committee, and the president wears the hat of the Executive Director for the nonprofit.

Any homeschool parent may volunteer to serve on our BOD, but the sitting BOD must vote on the new candidates as specified in our bylaws. Board terms are a minimum of two (2) years and board members may be re-elected to the BOD in subsequent years. At this time there are no term limits, but this may change as more members become involved. Each board member must sign an agreement to serve and other documents pertaining to the following items: board loyalty, conflict of interest, privacy and propriety protections, the vision, mission, core values, Statement of Faith, and Position Papers. NH-HEN requires these agreements from the BOD in order to maintain group integrity, a focus on vision, a unity in service, and to ensure consistency of message to the homeschool community that we serve.

At this time our BOD consists of four individuals, but *we would like to have six people serving on the board*. Having more board members generates more ideas and brings energy to the board, plus it helps share the workload. We meet an average of ten times per year and hold ad hoc meetings when necessary. Much work is conducted via email and telephone. ***We are seeking three (3) more members for the Board of Directors.***

What do board members do?

All board members attend board meetings and perform duties specific to their offices, participate in strategic planning, conference planning, board training, community engagement, fundraising, networking, and mentoring. These activities encompass many things, plus there are other key areas of operation that need our attention.

Chart A: Board of Directors (2017) for Nebraska Homeschool – Home Educators Network, Inc.

Board of Directors		
Office	Person	Term Ends
President	Kathryn Dillow	July 2018
Vice President	Debbie Nordstrom	OPEN JULY 2017
Secretary	Jessica Howell	July 2018
Treasurer	Tricia Croushorn	July 2018
Member-at-Large (1)	VACANT	OPEN
Member-at-Large (2)	VACANT	OPEN



To keep our group running smoothly, we find it works best when we have one person spearhead efforts related to a specific area. This helps prevent duplication of effort while attaining synergy of effect. Much of what the BOD does can be done by member volunteers. In fact, we'd love to see more members step into leadership roles. When volunteers are scarce, the board members' duties increase. If member

volunteers remain few, our board is forced with the decision of cutting programs and services. This is why it is so important for each member family to help out in some way. If you value our programs and services, please help us sustain them. When we all contribute in some way, no one family is over-taxed and our entire group benefits from robust programs and services—in fact, we actually thrive and can begin to entertain the idea of creating new programs for our members. **Chart B** (on next page) shows who is spearheading a key area, and it clearly highlights the areas where help is needed. *Items in blue show the transition plan for 2018. Members who are interested in spearheading a key area or assisting within a key area should contact the BOD at info@nebraskahomeschool.org.*

Does Nebraska Homeschool have any committees?

Nebraska Homeschool has one (new) committee – the **Governance Committee**. A minimum of two BOD members must serve on this committee along with members. Kevin and Tamara recently joined the committee and we'd love to have one more person join. The role of this committee is to research issues, develop products (forms, programs, etc.), develop proposals, and make recommendations to the BOD. The Governance Committee is accountable to the BOD and submits recommendations to the BOD for review and approval. The Governance Committee also offers members a



Chart B: Key Areas of Operation for Nebraska Homeschool – The Home Educators Network, Inc.

Key Areas			
Key Position	2017 Leader	2018 Leader	Shared Duty - With
Strategic Planning	K. Dillow (President)	Same	Yes – BOD & Governance
<i>- Define short-term and long-term goals for NH-HEN and develop plan of action.</i>			
Board Development	K. Dillow (President)	Same	Yes – BOD & Governance
<i>- Develop spiritual and professional leadership skills of BOD and all leaders in NH-HEN.</i>			
Development (Fundraising)	K. Dillow (President)	Vice President	Yes – BOD & Membership
<i>- Secure sponsors, donors, grants, and advertising for NH-HEN.</i>			
Community Engagement	K. Dillow (President)	Same	Yes – BOD
<i>- Network and collaborate with groups, businesses, industry, and agencies inside or outside of homeschool community.</i>			
Administration	J. Howell (Secretary)	Same	Yes – BOD
<i>- Prepare and maintain all records, documents, and files; maintain G Suites and other NH-HEN administrative platforms.</i>			
Fiscal Management	T. Croushorn (Treasurer)	Same	Yes – BOD assist as needed
<i>- Prepare and maintain financial reports, manage fiscal responsibilities (accounts, bills, invoices, taxes, and fees).</i>			
Volunteer Coordinator –New		Vice President	Yes – BOD & Membership
<i>- Recruit volunteers for programs, services, and events; help train volunteers in roles and use of NH-HEN resources.</i>			
Conference/Event Planner	BOD – Shared	Vice President	Yes – BOD
<i>- Plan NH-HEN conference and workshop events; coordinate all facets of each event.</i>			
Web Manager	K. Dillow (President)	BOD & Program Leaders	Yes – BOD & Membership
<i>- Oversight all aspects of NH-HEN domains and public and member website.</i>			
Digital Media Manager	K. Dillow (President)	Member-at-Large (1)	Yes – BOD & Membership
<i>- Coordinate digital media outlets, ensure consistency with NH-HEN mission and values, and verify accuracy of information.</i>			
Membership Coordinator	J. Howell (Secretary)	Member-at-Large (2)	Yes – BOD
<i>- Manage all membership applications, processing, renewals, campaigns, and maintains membership files.</i>			
Mentor Programs	D. Nordstrom (Vice President)	Member-at-Large (2)	Yes – BOD & Membership
<i>- Oversight new homeschool, high school & beyond, and online forums, and mentoring events for NH-HEN.</i>			
Programs & Services	BOD – Shared	Same	Yes – BOD & Membership
<i>- Oversight all programs and services provided by NH-HEN. [See Chart D]</i>			



place to serve when they can't quite commit to a BOD position. We ask committee members to serve a minimum of one (1) year for our mutual benefit. We also ask Governance Committee members to sign the same agreement and documents as our BOD. If you are a person who likes researching issues, figuring out the best way to accomplish something, and creating clear guidance that will help run programs and services – we invite you to serve with the Governance Committee members listed on **Chart C**. We will meet at least quarterly and try to conduct most work via email or telephone. **We are seeking one (1) more member for the Governance Committee.**

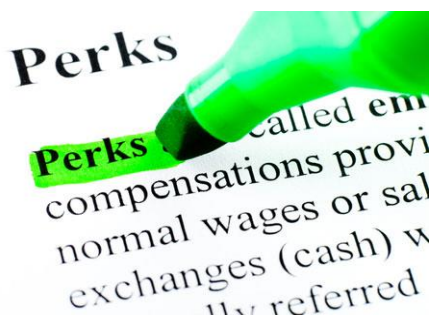
Chart C: Governance Committee (2017) Nebraska Homeschool – Home Educators Network, Inc.

Governance Committee		
Position	Person	Term Ends
Committee Chair	Kathryn Dillow	July 2018
Committee Secretary	Jessica Howell	July 2018
Member (1)	Tricia Croushorn	July 2018
Member (2)	Kevin Hood	March 2018
Member (3)	Tamara Hood	March 2018
Member (4)	VACANT	OPEN

What benefits come with serving?

As an all-volunteer organization, we don't have paid staff nor can we afford any at this time, but we do look for ways to show our appreciation to our volunteers. All BOD and Governance Committee members enjoy **waived membership fees** while serving. Individuals who serve a term as president are granted a lifetime membership. We try to compensate select program leaders when possible. Compensation of waived membership fees is determined in part by the level of commitment required for a program and by our annual budget.

We also strive to help our volunteers build individual knowledge and skills that can be used in a variety of settings and listed on professional resumes. All volunteers with NH-HEN can take advantage of **free (or discounted) nonprofit training**. Training is offered through the *Nonprofit Association of the Midlands (NAM)* and is applicable to a variety of work and nonprofit settings.



Nebraska Homeschool has qualified for *G Suites for Nonprofits* (part of Microsoft's Google platform). This is good for our group because we can accomplish many administrative functions within that platform. G Suites for Nonprofits resources offer NH-HEN many possibilities...ones that we're still exploring. One

huge advantage of our G Suites, we now have **organizational emails** at no cost to our group or to our volunteers. In the near future, all of our program leaders will have an email with the *@nebraskahomeschool.org* address. This keeps the homeschool group business in the group, retains a historical record, represents us to the public, and eases transition when leadership changes – PLUS it keeps group business out of personal email boxes. (Heaven knows we all get enough email at home!)

Nebraska Homeschool has also qualified for *TechSoup* –a discounted technology forum for nonprofits. We purchase **discounted software and hardware for our nonprofit use**. This frees up group funds for other programs and services. *We can extend this savings to our volunteers so they can enjoy the same discounts while they serve in NH-HEN programs.*

Are there other service opportunities?

Absolutely, yes! Every program and service we provide needs a leader and several need additional workers. This is where members (both old and new) can jump in and help. As we improve use of our website, G Suites platform, and TechSoup benefits, we will be seeking to automate as much of the workload as possible. We hope to lighten the workload for our volunteers. We want all of our volunteers to have the joy of serving and not feel burdened. **Chart D** provides a list of our current programs and services along with the current program leaders. ***Items in red show where we need volunteers. Please note time commitments are estimates. Needs are immediate unless otherwise stated.***

Opportunities to serve abound! We encourage each of our member families to adopt a bold spirit of adventure and jump in. Help us serve the Nebraska homeschool community.



Don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about these volunteer opportunities.

info@nebraskahomeschool.org

Chart D: Programs & Services for Nebraska Homeschool – The Home Educators Network, Inc.

Programs & Services		
Program	Leaders	Comments:
Box Tops for Education	L. Wendt	No help needed at this time
Digital Media Manager	K. Dillow	Need new board member to assume this role. Oversight 2 hrs/wk when volunteers help in subcategories.
- Newsletter	K. Dillow	1 co-editor; 5-10 hrs/mon
- Network News	K. Dillow	1 manager; 2-3 hrs/wk
- Facebook Page Manager	K. Dillow	1 manager; 1-2 hrs/wk
- Pinterest Boards Manager	K. Dillow	1 manager; 1-2 hrs/wk
ESA Homeschool Honor Society	J. Howell	No help needed at this time
Homeschool Picture Day Location #1: TBA	T. Kolar	Need 2-3 helpers on each day of event. Commit to 1 or 2 days in fall (on separate dates)
Homeschool Picture Days Location #2: OHLC	J. Knutson	Need 2-3 helpers on each day of event. Commit to 1 or 2 days in fall (on separate dates)
Legacy (Homeschool) Yearbook	T. Croushorn J. Knutson Yearbook Staff	No help needed at this time
Membership Coordinator	J. Howell	1 volunteer to assume duties; mentoring provided; 1-2 hrs/wk
Mentor Programs	K. Dillow	Need new board member to assume this role. Oversight 2 hrs/wk when volunteers help in subcategories.
- New Homeschool	D. Nordstrom	1 volunteer; varies , 2-4 hrs/mon
- High School & Beyond	L. Goodrich	1 volunteer; varies, 2-4 hrs/mon
- Mentor Forums	OPEN	2 volunteers to guide a secure online forum in NH-HEN member website, 2-4 hrs/wk
Metropolitan Area Homeschool Graduation	T. Croushorn J. Knutson	Participating seniors & parents help; other volunteers welcome (great way to see how this works)
NH-HEN Scholarship	J. Howell	No help needed at this time
Rose Theater Discount Tickets	J. Sather	No help needed at this time
Scripps (Homeschool) Spelling Bee	S. Larsen	Need 1 program leader to mentor in 2017-2018, assume program after completion of 2018 bee. Need 2 judges/helpers on day of event 1/19/2018.
Summer Conference Planner	K. Dillow	1 conf. planner for 2018,
- Speaker Coordinator	K. Dillow	1 volunteer to work with conf. planner on 2018 speakers
- Exhibit Coordinator	J. Howell	1 volunteer to work with conf. planner on 2018 exhibitors
- Exhibit Hall Planner	J. Knutson	Team of 2-4 to help with set-up/ take down on 8/5/2017
- Conference Day Workers	D. Carden R. Dunaway	1-2 more helpers on day of event 8/5/2017 1-2 A/V support also desired 8/5/2017
Used Curriculum & Book Sale	K. Dillow	Team of 4-6 to help with set-up/ take down; carry book boxes

in a
nutshell



We need:

- 3 board members
- 1 committee member
- 1 spelling bee leader
- 3-4 media helpers
- 2-4 conference helpers & more

Supporting Each Other

It is a goal of Nebraska Homeschool to create opportunities for member-to-member interaction. At present communication tends to be in one direction – *from* NH-HEN to individual member families through the website, newsletter, Network News, Facebook page, and Pinterest boards. But it would be nice if families could begin cross-talking with one another.

When it comes to homeschool experience, our members run the gamut from novice to expert. We're made up of families with new parents and well-seasoned ones, families with newborn babes and ones with grandchildren. We have many shared experiences, as well as some that are quite different. All of this makes our membership pool an excellent resource for support. We just need to tap into that well of support.

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

1 Peter 4:10

Social media does offer much in the way of interacting with other homeschool groups and families, but it is very public. Additionally, there are some families who don't have a social media account, nor do they desire one. NH-HEN's solution: secure member forums.

Member forums will automatically be available to all NH-HEN members starting in April 2017. The forums will be maintained inside the Nebraska Homeschool website and will be password accessible to NH-HEN members only. There is no need for a separate social media account. Each member family will be able to set personal preferences for forum participation in the Member Profile. Families who don't want to participate in forums may opt out in the Member Profile.

New forums will be added as the need dictates AND as moderators step up to assist. For starter, NH-HEN is seeking two (2) moderators for the Member Mentor forum...this first forum that will be rolled out in April and will focus on offering support to members with homeschool questions and concerns. All members are encouraged to participate in this first forum.

If you're interested in helping with this forum, please let us know and be sure to watch the Network News announcements about upcoming forums.



Legal to Homeschool in Nebraska

K. Dillow

It was in July 1977 when a period of great turmoil and persecution started for several Nebraska church schools and homeschooling families. It continued into 1984. Thanks to Lorraine Lostroh, Nebraska Christian Home Educators Association (NCHAEA) executive committee member, many important details have been recorded in a booklet entitled *Victory in Jesus: The Battle for Christian Educational Freedom in Nebraska 1977-1984* (2002). Her booklet provides an overview of key events by cataloging state actions and legal outcomes during that time. It also lists the names of many Christian parents who fought to educate their children according to Christian convictions. It was the faithfulness of these parents that won homeschooling freedom for all Nebraskans.

It was the faithfulness of these parents that won homeschooling freedom for all Nebraskans.

Many of the churches and families mentioned in the booklet encountered arrests, court proceedings, financial burden, loss of personal property, and loss of freedom when pastors or parents were jailed. Many families were threatened with the loss of their children and at least one family did experience placement of a child in foster care for a short period of time. Several families fled the state to ensure their children would not be taken away – all of this because they wanted to educate their own children. It's hard to fathom this happened right here in Nebraska in the late 1970s and early 1980s. It hits home even more when I realize that I had just completed my own home education right in the middle of this same timeframe. How blessed our family was to be living in a state where homeschooling was legal. *How blessed I am NOW to live in a state where it is legal to homeschool my own children!*

As a result of those brave and faithful families' actions, the Nebraska legislature passed LB 928 in the spring of 1984 making church schools and homeschools legal by allowing for an exemption from state requirements for approval or accreditation *for the sincerely held religious beliefs of the parents (or guardians)*. The following August the NE Department of Education published the first version of NDE Rule 13 defining how the law would be implemented through their agency. Even though Mrs. Lostroh's booklet ends at this point in Nebraska's homeschooling history, God continued to build upon the foundation that was set. Other parents began to ask if they could homeschool for other reasons. This eventually led to an amendment to the law in 1999 providing an alternate

reason for electing exemption—if the state's *requirements interfered with parental decisions in directing their child's education*. Another victory! Following that amendment, NDE Rule 12 was published. The two rules were virtually identical with the exception of the reason for electing exemption and some immunization requirements.

In reflection, I see God's hand at work over the past 40 years in Nebraska. He provided for us, even before we knew we had a need. Praise to God and much gratitude for the Christian families who carried the banner for us. If you attend the NCHEA conference this spring, be sure to look for Mrs. Lostroh's poster presentation of original newspaper articles displaying the stories of struggle and you can also pick up your own copy of her booklet. The booklet can also be obtained by sending a \$4.00 check to Lorraine Lostroh, 514 N. 1st St., Seward, NE 68434.

Tid Bits About NCHEA:

- The longest standing homeschool group in the state of Nebraska.
- Founded in 1986 by some of the pioneers of homeschooling in Nebraska.
- Headquartered in Lincoln, NE and perfectly poised to interact with the legislature and state agencies.
- Provides two registered lobbyists to monitor and respond to issues impacting Nebraska homeschooling freedom.
- Offers a large homeschool conference and curriculum fair, along with accompanying kid and teen events.

Nebraska Homeschool Field Trip at the Rose Theater

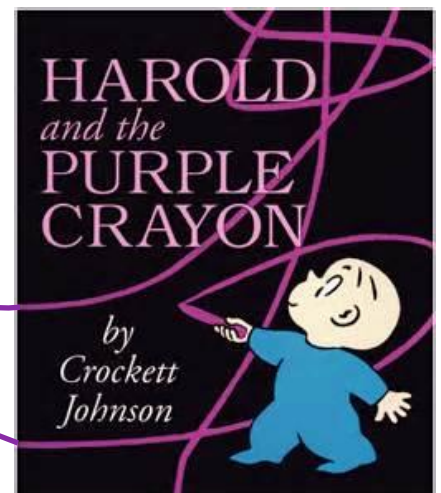
Harold and the Purple Crayon

(60 minutes, Main Stage)

Performance: Tuesday, April 4 at 10 a.m.

Reservation deadline: Tuesday, March 21

[Contact NH-HEN for ticket purchase](#)



NCHEA



Nebraska Christian Home Educators Association

Presents

30th Annual Home School Conference & Curriculum Fair
March 31 & April 1, 2017
Lincoln, NE

Education – Encouragement – Enrichment for Parents

Veteran, New, and Those Parents Just Considering Home Schooling

FEATURING | ***Steve & Megan Scheibner*** – CharacterHealth.com
 Joyce Blankenship - HSLDA – Special Needs Consultant
 Jake MacAulay – Institute of the Constitution

Two days of workshops presented by nationally known speakers and experts in home education. Exhibit halls packed with curriculum and materials for your homeschool.

GRADUATE RECOGNITION – Friday Evening

TEEN CONFERENCE: ***Meet the Skeptic***, with Pastor Timothy Schmidt and Deb Badeer

KIDS CONFERENCE (ages 5-12): ***Liberty, The Battle for Truth*** – A battle worth fighting.

Please encourage your fellow homeschoolers & those considering homeschooling to attend

REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.NCHEA.ORG

Walk-in registration welcome during the C&CF

Email nchea@nchea.org

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/NebraskaChristianHomeEducatorsAssociation>

We want YOUR stories!

We're asking you, our member families, to share a few lines about a funny or heart-warming episode from your homeschooling adventures.



We'll even take the anecdotal saying that your child offered up when you were quizzing them on some important educational fact. As they say, "out of the mouth of babes..."

Help us spread the joy of homeschooling as we jump into spring. Share in "For the L-O-V-E of Homeschooling" in our next newsletter.

Email your stories to media@nebraskahomeschool.org by **March 20th**.

We'll do our best to include your story.

DID YOU KNOW??

NH-HEN Members enjoy a \$20 savings on Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA) membership when they use our *Discount Group* number. Login to the member website or email us for the number at info@nebraskahomeschool.org.



Share Your Homeschool Events: Do you or your group want an event listed on our calendar? If so, just email info@nebraskahomeschool.org. Be sure to place "Calendar Submission" in your email subject line and include full details in the body of the email. We are interested in homeschool events, clubs, sports and arts activities. We also accept some community events as well. Please submit your item as early as possible so we have time to contact you if we have any questions. Submission is not a guarantee of posting. NH-HEN holds full discretion on which items to post.

Next Issue:

For the L-O-V-E of Homeschooling – sharing our homeschooling moments
Who's on First? – meet your Board of Directors