

Welcome !



Welcome Back !



*"The most important thing about education is appetite."
- Winston Churchill*

Welcome to the 2008-2009 school year with Nassau County Home Educators. We hope your summer was restful and a time of fun with your family. I've seen many of you during our time off this summer. Mom's Swim Night consisted of a small group this year, but we enjoyed the fellowship and peaceful swim. The HERI Convention was informative and full of useful tools for us to use and think about. The school year will be upon us soon and we'll be back in somewhat of a regular routine.

The leadership of NCHE had our semi-annual meeting in June. In going over the budget the decision was made to increase the yearly dues from \$15.00 to \$20.00. Increase in costs lead us to this decision. We hope this \$5.00 increase will not be too much of a burden on any family. A way to save is to send the newsletter by e-mail instead of mailing a hard copy to each member. Of course, we have mailed this issue to you, but the

newsletters for the rest of the year will be sent to you by e-mail or you can also see the newsletter on our website, gocities.com/nassaucountyhomeeducators. This will be a huge savings to the group in copying and mailing costs, and if successful we may be able to reduce dues next year. There are a few members that do not have e-mail capabilities and will continue to receive their newsletter by mail. We thank you for your support and cooperation in these changes.

Each member of the group is important to the group as a whole, and makes NCHE successful. It takes all of us working together to provide field trips and activities for our children. As this new school year begins be thinking about what contribution to the group you're going to make. The year goes by so quickly, so it is important to plan your event early. Please have your information to Janet by the deadline of the 20th of each month to get it in the newsletter. You did a great job last year with the opportunities that were provided and we had some awesome field trips and

activities. I'm sure this year will be just as great.

We would like to officially welcome Teresa Taylor as our Treasurer for the next two years (and hopefully longer). Thank you Teresa for taking on this important job for the group.

We look forward to the 2008-2009 school year and all the opportunities that we will provided for our children. We really have a wonderful group, and we are always grateful for you when we speak with other leaders and see the challenges that they face with their groups. We have so much to be thankful for, God continues to bless us year after year.

Continuing in God's grace,
Dick and Debbie Hopper

Welcome !

- Patrick & Laura Harwood
- Phil & Laurel Jubin
- Michael & Amy Miller

Yearbook Update

As I write this article we are close to having the yearbook printed. Hopefully today (14th) or tomorrow we will take it to the printer. I hope you will be pleased with this year's edition. It has expanded from 32 pages last year to 52 pages this year. Thank you for your prayers, God has been faithful to provide what was needed to get this book done and has paved

the way for its completion.

I will start on the 2008-2009 yearbook as soon as activities and field trips begin. Please take lots of pictures of all the children as you do your field trip or activity. I know I'll be taking pictures from a different perspective from now on (not just taking pictures of my child). Try to remember to take

a group shot during your event as well as candid shots.

Having the yearbook has been a rewarding experience for our family and I hope for yours too.

**“ Coming together
is a beginning,
staying together
is progress, and
working together
is success.”**

- Henry Ford

Nassau County Home Educators will hold its annual Orientation Night on **Tuesday, August 12, at Springhill Baptist Church, 7:00 p.m.** This event is held to help those home schooling families new to the area and to families that are beginning

to home school for the first time.

If you know of anyone who would benefit from this meeting please invite them to come. We need members from our group to attend the meeting to help encourage these new families and let them know

that if we can home school our children they can too.

Contact Debbie if you have any questions,

225-9160

or

ddhoper@bellsouth.net.

Up Coming Events



We will start off the 2008 – 2009 school year with our annual Beach Day. On **Friday, August 22** we will meet at main beach (main beach is at the foot of Atlantic Ave., there is a large parking lot for your use) at 10:00 am. If you like you can bring your lunch and stay as long as you want. Public school starts back on Aug. 20, so the beach will be less crowded. We look forward to seeing you there.

Contact Debbie if you have any questions,
225-9160 or ddhopper@bellsouth.net.



NCHE FAMILY COOK OUT

It will soon be time again for the annual Family Cook Out. We have set aside Saturday, September 6, from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. (eating around 6 p.m.). Please bring a **side dish and dessert** with you. NCHE will supply hot dogs, paper goods, and drinks. Come dressed in your most casual clothing for outside activities such as: 4 square, carpet ball, basketball, ping-pong, volleyball, croquet, trampoline, pre-school playground, and the pool. Bring your swim suit and a towel, and for the sake of modesty please have children 10 years and up wear a **dark colored** t-shirt over their swim suit (boys and girls alike). This is one of my favorite events of the year and I hope it is one of your favorites as well.

Please RSVP to Debbie Hopper at 225-9160 or ddhopper@bellsouth.net by Thursday, September 4, so we know how many to set up and prepare for.

Notes from the HERI Leadership RETREAT



“ One step must start each journey. “

- Unknown Author

Dick took some notes at the HERI Leadership Retreat we attended on Thursday, July 10. Debbie Strayer was the speaker and gave some words of encouragement to leaders of support groups. Below you will find a few of the points Debbie made that we thought might be helpful to you.

1. General insights:

- a. There are 10,000 families in the FPEA.
- b. FPEA & HERI are needed to show unity.
- c. Prayer is the key to all real success.
- d. Home school families today are not “pioneers” as in the past, but are “settlers”.

2. Home schooling:

- a. We are parents, not teachers.
- b. We operate in a home, not a school.
- c. We need to give honor to God for everything we do [boast in the Lord].
- d. Remember that God is completely able to handle any problem.
- e. The world’s standard is judgment; mercy is our response to our children [although they must know to always give their best effort].
- f. We must balance encouragement and correction.
- g. Always emphasize Character & Integrity above accomplishment & learning.

3. Support group leadership:

- a. We need fellowship in our support groups, not only organiza-

- tion.
- b. Support group leaders are ministers (servant leaders), not dictatorial leaders.
- c. Support group leaders need to be encouragers.
- d. We need to give honor to God for everything we do [boast in the Lord].
- e. Remember that God is completely able to handle any problem.
- f. Always share the credit.
- g. Always use teamwork.
- h. Be generous – focus on others – provide recognition.
- i. Always try to have 2 persons in charge of any task for mutual support.
- j. Need fellowship groups for moms to pray for each other [like Iron Sharpens Iron?].

Application Information

NCHE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please fill out your 2008-2009 NCHE Membership Application and return it with your dues by August 15, 2008.

HERI MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Again this year I ask you to consider being a member of HERI. Although we are growing in number each year and adding to our events, we still need to support the larger picture. Many people moving to this area find out about NCHE through HERI and FPEA. The fee for group memberships is \$35.00 – a savings of \$5. This price includes a \$10 savings on FPEA membership (Individual FPEA membership = \$28). We must have at least 50% of our membership registered as HERI members in order for our group to be considered a HERI group.

Benefits of HERI membership include:

HERI’s newsletter – The Home Forum (monthly) which list encouraging articles, field trips and activities, and legislative updates.

The HERI Library – Where HERI members can check out curriculum books, and science equipment.

You are an automatic member of FPEA, the state home schooling organization.

You receive the FPEA Almanac four times a year.

Discount to HERI and FPEA Conventions.

You can call Gary Weaver, our FPEA district director and FPEA President, if you are having a problem or need advise on County issues.

And much more.

I know an extra \$35.00 is hard to come by in the days of \$4.00 + gas prices, but I ask you to prayerfully consider this as a ministry to home schooling.

Please send in your application and \$35.00 by August 15, send to **Debbie Hopper, 86131 Hopper Lane, Yulee, FL 32097. Please make your check out to NCHE, as we will send one check to HERI.** Please let me know if you desire to join , but won’t have the money by August 15. We can work out payments.

HEF—Home Education Foundation

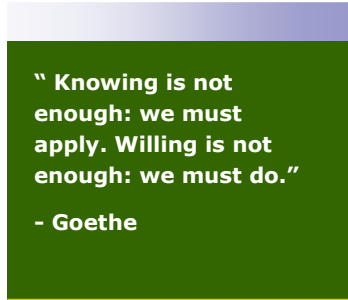
Please remember Brenda Dickson in your prayers and with your financial support throughout the year. The home school freedoms and advantages we enjoy in Florida are due to the sacrificial work Brenda does on your behalf.

When you send your donation let Brenda know you are a member of NCHE.

Home Education Foundation

P.O. Box 12563

Tallahassee, FL 32317-2653



Field Trip and Activities

Another year is starting and we are looking forward to all the activities and field trips that we will have the opportunity to attend. As you know the school year flies by and time can get away from us easily. Make plans now for your event, if you are

having trouble deciding on what to do please contact me, 225-9160 or ddhopper@bellsouth.net. Please remember to take along a camera and take lots of pictures of all the children attending your event. It will be a great help to me as I put the

yearbook together. I want pictures of all the children in the book and will only have them if you send them to me.



Budget

Due to increased costs, the NCHE Leadership has decided to increase the annual dues for the 2008 – 2009 year from \$15 to \$20 per year per family [\$0.42/month increase]. **This is the first dues increase since the initiation of NCHE.** Please find attached a handout providing the 2007 – 2008 costs and the 2008 – 2009 BUDGET. Also listed are the Self-Supporting activi-

ties of the group. In addition to the fee increase NCHE will be going to electronic [e-mail] delivery of our News Letter for the 2008 – 2009 year. The monthly newsletters will also be available on our website as in 2007-2008 [geocities.com/nassaucountyhomeeducators/]. These actions will bring our operating account back into a positive balance and may allow for

a return to a lower annual fee in the future. The present negative balance is being controlled by certain members holding back their reimbursements until the 2008 – 2009 fees begin to be deposited. If you have any questions about the 2007 – 2008 expenditures or 2008 – 2009 budget, please contact Dick or Debbie Hopper at 225-9160.

2007 - 2008 Expenditures [Rounded]		
Beginning Balance	\$300.00	Cost Per Family per Year
Membership Dues	\$930.00	\$15.00
News Letter	-\$560.00	-\$9.03
Field Day	-\$300.00	-\$4.84
Presentation Night *	-\$225.00	-\$3.63
Christmas Party *	-\$50.00	-\$0.81
Family Cookout *	-\$130.00	-\$2.10
Corporation Fees	-\$65.00	-\$1.05
All other minor costs	-\$25.00	-\$0.40
Ending Balance	-\$125.00	-\$2.02

2008-2009

Self-Supporting Activities
Information Packets
Standardized Testing *
Year Book
Book Sale *
Beach Day
HERI Memberships
Graduation Ceremony *
Formal Banquet [Prom] *
Field Trips

* Held at Churches or Homes at no cost to NCHE or the budget would need to be significantly higher.

2008 - 2009 Budget		
Beginning Balance	-\$125.00	Cost Per Family per Year
Membership Dues	\$1,200.00	\$20.00
News Letter	-\$60.00	-\$1.00
Field Day	-\$300.00	-\$5.00
Presentation Night *	-\$240.00	-\$4.00
Christmas Party *	-\$60.00	-\$1.00
Family Cookout *	-\$150.00	-\$2.50
Corporation Fees	-\$60.00	-\$1.00
All other minor costs	-\$60.00	-\$1.00
Ending Balance	\$145.00	

Nassau County Home Educators

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 717.572.6542

Pres.: Dick and Debbie Hopper 225.9160
 ddhopper@bellsouth.net

Vice President: Brett Whitaker 261.3954

Secretary: Michele Reuter 225.0707


Treasurer: Teresa Taylor 491.8513

Website: Pam Rushton: mrush78787@aol.com
 261.3689

Newsletter: Janet DiDonato

We Are on the Web!

geocities.com/nassaucountyhomeeducators

 <h2 style="text-align: center;">August 2008</h2>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
September Activities:	Family Cook Out	9-6 @ 4 p.m./			1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	Orientation Night @ 7 p.m.	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	Beach Day @ 10:00 a.m.	23
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30

