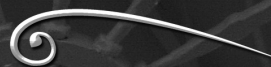


# FROM THE PRESIDENT



by **Ted Tederoff**

keep the organization strong and vibrant, and to encourage home educators through their difficult times.

It has been a privilege to serve another year with AHEA. The last year has been rewarding, especially with the exciting Convention 2010, an ever-improving HOME Matters magazine, and good news on the Home Education Regulation front after some surprising, yet only temporary, changes to the "funding manual." I look forward to continue serving AHEA, and to continue promoting the various benefits of home education. Although some of us on the board are too young to have graduated children, we can lean on other board members, as well as other parents in the home education community, to guide us about the high school years. That is the beauty of an organization like AHEA, where we can work as a team, learn from each other, exhort each other, and uplift each other, as we dedicate ourselves to the precious task of raising the next generation.

In this report, I will comment on our recent convention, update you on the new AHEA board, and mention a couple of articles that show how home education is still under attack on some fronts, and yet how it's gaining popularity in the wider media. I will close with reminding you whom to contact regarding your promotion of freedom-based home education as we keep in mind that the Home Education Regulation is soon up for review.

## AHEA Convention 2010

Thank you to the convention team, led by **Elizabeth McArthur**, to the exhibit hall team, led by **Catie Kopp** (didn't she do a great job populating the exhibit hall!), and to all of the other volunteers who helped make AHEA Convention 2010 a success. You'll see from the Elizabeth's Convention Report that we had a record attendance of around 1800 (not counting the children)! Thank you as well to the speakers, vendors, and all the attendees. We appreciate the feedback, both verbal and written (through the survey), that we received during the convention. If you have further suggestions on how we can serve you better, both in terms of the convention, HOME Matters, the web site, eAlerts, or by running a seminar in your location - and anything else - please let us know.

## The AHEA Board

We are welcoming two new people, well experienced with home education, to our board.

**Pat Brown**, from Penhold, and his wife Rosalyn, have completed home educating their two daughters. One daughter is attending Red Deer College and the other, the University of Lethbridge. They home-educated their children from day one as they planted churches in Edson, Alberta, and Nebraska, where Pat implemented his skills from his Bachelor of Science in Religious Education degree. Pat has volunteered at the AHEA convention for the last three years, both at the registration desk and in security. He also has board experience from non-profit groups. His initial goals with AHEA are to

**Linda Toews** and her husband Danny live on a farm near Bowden and have been homeschooling for 16 years. Her students include a son and niece with special needs. Linda's background is in senior management and communication. Often requested as an MC and meeting chair, Linda is a natural administrator, having organized and chaired conventions throughout Alberta, and many homeschool events. Linda is a writer, editor, and publisher, and has served on various professional, charitable, recreational, and political boards. She is also a vocal advocate for home education and home educators. As a willing volunteer at past AHEA conventions, she now wishes to share her skills on our board.

I wish to extend a special thank you, on behalf of the AHEA board and AHEA members, to **Lois Strom**, who is stepping down from the board after serving for several years, including in the pivotal role of volunteer coordinator. She was a pioneer home educator with AHEA in its early days and for that, we owe her our appreciation. On a personal note, my wife Shannon and I thank Lois, and her husband Ray, for inviting us to consider joining the AHEA board back in the summer of 2005 where we met them at the Creation Science Association of Alberta camp at Salem Acres Bible Camp. We are so thankful for this opportunity and can say that our time on the AHEA board has been very rewarding. We also thank Lois for her wisdom and positive outlook even during challenging times.

I also extend a big thank you to **Roxanne LaChance** for looking after the Westerner facility; to **Laura Witten** for her work with the youth; to **Bev Swalwell** and **the Wiens family** for organizing the sold-out children's conference; to **Winona Bowman**, our registrar and bookkeeper; to **Brenda Meers**, our new volunteer coordinator; to **Shannon Tederoff**, our speaker coordinator; **Juanita Rogers**, our assistant speaker coordinator; to **Layne Huber**, our talented web master and graphics specialist; and to **Craig Funston** and **Kendra Funston** for their professional work with HOME Matters, and the convention brochure, poster and guide. I appreciate the sacrifices they and their teams made to help promote the verse that was the theme of our convention: "*That the generation to come might know [the works of God], even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children*" (Psalms 78:6).

## Staying Aware of The Broader Home Education Movement

My daughter and wife suggested I stay positive in this report. However, I will take the liberty to mention a cautionary story. Back in January, **Tim Lambert**, President of **THSC (Texas Home School Coalition)**, <http://www.thsc.org/>, publishes an excellent newsletter) wrote this article "The People's Republic of New York" ([Home Matters Summer 2010](http://www.</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

[rightintexas.com/2010/01/peoples-republic-of-new-york.html](http://rightintexas.com/2010/01/peoples-republic-of-new-york.html)). Tim relates the following: "Just over three weeks ago Richard and Margie Cressey of Glen, New York, were arrested on charges of 'endangering a child.' What was their crime? They had been homeschooling their four boys for seven years ... and had not registered with the state! According to home school leaders in New York, the incident began with a visit from Child Protective Services, probably the result of an anonymous complaint. Shortly after that, the Sheriff's office investigated, and the parents were arrested."

Tim ends his article with an exhortation that is not just of value to Texans and Americans but also to Albertans: "Now is the time to talk to candidates who are running for local and state office about home schooling and to educate them on our issue and why we believe that parents deserve the freedom to direct the education and upbringing of their children without the heavy hand of government oversight and interference." AHEA, as can be seen from its founding principles, stands with THSC in terms of defending educational choice. This is apparent from AHEA's Schedule A to By-Laws of the Alberta Home Education Association:

"4. The association holds the right to home education includes not merely a right over the **place** in which education occurs, but a right to determine the very **content, process** and **timing** of this education."

If you wish the most freedom in terms of **where** (place), **what** (content), **how** (process) and **when** (timing) you train your children, under the current Alberta options for home schooling, you'll find that parking under the Home Education Regulation will give you the most freedom.

For more information about home education, AHEA provides a "Home Education In Alberta – An Information Packet." It is worth reviewing. As well, you can find the **Alberta Home Education Regulation** here: [http://www.qp.alberta.ca/574.cfm?page=2006\\_145.cfm&leg\\_type=Regs&isbncln=0779748387](http://www.qp.alberta.ca/574.cfm?page=2006_145.cfm&leg_type=Regs&isbncln=0779748387). Another way to get to this link is to search for the Alberta Queens Printer on the Internet. Then select "Law Online / Catalogue" and search by title for "Home Education Regulation" and click "View this document."

### An Endorsement of Looking Outside of Traditional Schools

In early March, **Glenn Beck** cautioned on the troubles with American public education (<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,588338,00.html>). At least in an indirect way, he promoted the option of home education via statements like the following:

"Most of us are so busy or we're so trusting that we don't even notice — we don't even notice these things. **We must get involved with the children's lives and our children's school. And you know what? If it's happening, sell a car if you have to. Get the kids out of this indoctrination** or our republic will be lost."

Now we all have various reasons for educating our children at home. And some of our schools may not be as bad as the American ones Glenn Beck refers to. However, we know that home education is not

just a way to escape something bad, but a way to embrace something that is beneficial in so many ways: academic, social, spiritual, relational, etc.

(Here's a transcript of the above video: <http://video.foxnews.com/v/4075917/indoctrination-in-america>.)

### Mention That College Populated by Homeschoolers May Lead to An American Supreme Court Judge

On May 10, 2010, **CNN** ran an article titled: "A Supreme Court without Protestants?" (<http://www.cnn.com/2010/POLITICS/05/03/supreme.court.protestants/index.html>) Notice this interesting quote about a college founded by homeschool advocate **Michael Farris** (he's a former AHEA keynote speaker and founder of the **HSLDA - Home School Legal Defense Association**):

"Rachel Heflin, a senior at **Patrick Henry College** -- a Virginia school whose students are mostly evangelicals from **homeschooling backgrounds** -- said many of her friends are heading to law school next year.

'When your circle of friends is comprised of aspiring lawyers, the joke is about who's going to make it to the high court first,' said Heflin, an evangelical Christian who will be attending George Washington University Law School on scholarship."

So, we continue to see the broader media, both politically "right" (Fox News) and "left" (CNN) are mentioning the merits and influence of home education.

### Informing Alberta Government Your Views on Education

As mentioned earlier, the **Alberta Home Education Regulation** is set to expire on **July 31, 2011**. We on the AHEA board will continue our work to be a key stakeholder in the regulation review process. You, too, should contact the Minister of Education, Dave Hancock, and your local MLA to express your desires for a favourable review and regulation.

### Summer's Coming

I hope you all end your school year well and that you find time to rest during the summer and at other times of the year. Don't hesitate to contact us with educational tips, with burdens you are suffering through, or with success stories that will motivate others to continue their home education journey. Thank you for your participation in the broader home education movement. We covet your prayers as we seek to serve you.