



## UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

### Monday, February 9<sup>th</sup> in Bismarck Legislative and Elected Officials Dinner

- exciting program and guests
- need volunteers
- table sponsorships available

### Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, in Fargo Faith, Family, and Freedom Banquet

- exciting program and guests
- awards presentation
- volunteers needed
- underwriting and table sponsorships available

As more detailed information is available, we will post it on our website, and share by e-mail and our January newsletter.  
**Save the dates!**

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION 2009

This 61st Legislative Assembly of ND will convene in Bismarck on January 6th. Normally 1000 bills and resolutions are introduced and acted upon during the 80 day session.

We at the NDFA, as we follow and seek to influence the bills of interest to the family, will do our best to keep you informed. The most efficient and timely method of communication is electronically. On our website, [www.ndfa.org](http://www.ndfa.org), we will post legislative news and a list of the bills. For those registered to receive e-alerts, you can follow the legislation on a daily basis, which provides an opportunity to contact your legislators in a timely manner. You CAN make a difference.

Other than electronically, we will send a printed newsletter, do weekly updates via radio, and submit press releases as appropriate. Please know that you can always contact us by telephone with any questions or comments.

**UPDATE: Christina Rondeau, a former NDFA Executive Director, will be helping NDFA on a part-time basis during the upcoming legislative session in Bismarck.**

## FREEDOM OF CHOICE ACT

The Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA), if passed, would in essence codify Roe vWade. The federal legislation would invalidate existing state laws dealing with abortion. Specifically, it would overturn state abortion reporting requirements, provide for taxpayer funded abortions on demand, allow discretion to perform abortions on minors without parental notification, and even provide for partial birth abortions.

"Passage of FOCA would set back the sanctity of life cause back 35 years" states Tom Freier, "we need to contact our North Dakota congressional delegation requesting their opposition to this federal legislation. If we remain silent, we concede defeat, and we fail to honor the passionate efforts of so many who have for years worked tirelessly. And most of all we turn our backs on those least able to protect themselves—the unborn."

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

We need your financial support—especially during the upcoming legislative session as we concentrate on representing you in the public policy arena working to impact our legacy.

### Year End Giving

If you have not partnered with us financially with a year end contribution, please consider doing so. Remember to apply to taxable year 2008, your tax deductible contribution must be postmarked on or before December 31, 2008. Thank you.

### IRA Mandatory Distribution Directly to Charities (including NDFA)

Congress recently extended to December 31, 2009 the ability to make qualified distributions from a traditional or Roth IRA to qualifying charities.

For eligibility, and more information about the provision giving you an opportunity to make these contributions, please contact your tax advisor or estate planner.

## BREAKING NEWS

**North Dakota ranks #1 in a national study of children living with both parents, and ranks 9<sup>th</sup> nationally regarding children attending religious services regularly.**

The study found that children not living with both parents and not attending regular church services were 5 times more likely to repeat a grade in school. The intact 2 parent family and regular church attendees resulted in the most favorable environment of children having fewer behavior problems, more positive social development, and fewer parental concerns about the child's learning and achievement.

The study interviewed parents of 102,353 children in all 50 states, and almost 70,000 of the children were between the ages of 6-17. Nationally, the study reports 57% of children between the ages of 6-17 live with both parents, while in North Dakota that number is 69%. Great news for North Dakota.

The full study can be accessed by going to our website at [www.ndfa.org](http://www.ndfa.org). You may also call us at 701-364-0676.

## WELCOME MICHELLE STRINDEN

Michelle Strinden has volunteered to assist the NDFA in the Fargo area with membership development, friend-raising, and fundraising activities. Initially her time will be focused on coordinating the upcoming February 10<sup>th</sup> banquet in Fargo. In addition, she will schedule seminars, meetings and presentations, and work on cultivating and nurturing relationships with current area constituents.

Asked what prompted her to volunteer, Michelle responded, "Now more than ever the mission of the NDFA, to strengthen families and protect our religious freedoms, is vital to the future of North Dakota. Utilizing my faith in Jesus Christ, I consider it a privilege to help impact issues such as the sanctity of life, marriage, and faith—as we work to raise the level of awareness, educate, and eventually influence public policy in our great state of North Dakota."

"We are so grateful to Michelle for sharing her time and talent" states Tom Freier, "and it is our hope others will follow her lead in places like Bismarck, Minot, Grand Forks, and other locations."

## CELEBRATE FAMILY WEEK...EVERYDAY!

The 2nd Annual ND Family Week, November 16-22, initiated by the NDFA was a strong success.

Governor Hoeven proclaimed it and First Lady Hoeven created Public Service Announcements. Family Week posters were sent to every church and school in the state and volunteers helped distribute flyers to businesses. The Scott Hennen show aired two hour-long live radio remote broadcasts with representatives from business, education, the military, and religious sectors revealing that family values greatly affect the functions of this state and its people.

**The NDFA promotes strong family values because we know they strengthen every aspect of society, and we want to keep North Dakota and our nation strong.** As the well-being of the family goes, so goes the health of almost everything else. The most valuable commodity provided to us by our Creator is time. Let's share it with those we love most—our family.

## FACE THE FALL WITHOUT ALCOHOL

Despite treacherous weather in Minot, over 40 volunteers and 145 people attended the 2nd Annual event on November 7th to empower parents and teens to prevent underage drinking. Jeff Warner, a professional athlete and Guinness World Record Holder shared how "alcohol doesn't solve problems, it creates problems." Thanks to Arlene Castleman and Virginia Dohms for co-chairing the planning committee and to the many other volunteers.



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you are interested in volunteering to help the NDFA, we have opportunities in Bismarck, Fargo, and elsewhere. These opportunities are limited only by your time, talents, and interests. They include things like envelope stuffing, attending legislative committee hearings, and to help organize meetings and events... Our success is greatly dependent on the help of volunteers. To find out more, please call us at 701-364-0676, or email us at [admin@ndfa.org](mailto:admin@ndfa.org).

## MEET A MEMBER OF THE BOARD



Suzanne Bowman of Jamestown has been the Secretary for the North Dakota Family Alliance (NDFA) Board of Directors since 2006. She was raised in Casselton, ND by her parents, LeRoy and Dora Spilde. She graduated from Moorhead State with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. She is married to Shawn Bowman, the senior pastor of Victory Lutheran Brethren, and they have 4 boys ranging in age from 10 years to 15 months.

As Miss North Dakota in 1993, she traveled the state. You may remember the story in the news of when she experienced censorship while speaking to a group of students. A principal unlawfully cut her off midstream and went over the top making a huge issue of it in the district. The principal wrote a frantic letter to parents apologizing for intrusion in people's religious rights. The Rutherford Institute became involved to protect religious freedom. The Christian audience appreciated someone who was willing to take the heat. Suzanne was an innocent person that suffered. She relates to "Joe the Plumber" and his experience in the recent election.

Suzanne has come to understand that "there needs to be a watchdog organization to lobby for and stand in defense of what we think are impenetrable issues (such as marriage and religious freedom) and to affect the legislative and judicial processes. It is worthy of our time and financial investment." She offers her assistance to the NDFA at the state board level because she believes the NDFA serves this critical function in the state of North Dakota.

Suzanne adds, "the end of everything we do is to glorify God. We must serve Him with our whole life. Any success is unto Him and for Him."



May God Bless you richly as you spend time with family and friends celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

...NDFA Board & Staff

12/08

**I want to help NDFA promote and uphold family policies and values with my tax-deductible gift of:**

\$2,500 \_\_\_\_\_ \$1,000 \_\_\_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_\_\_ \$250 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ Membership \$60/ yr. \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly pledge \_\_\_\_\_ (Make checks payable to: NDFA)

This gift is given: In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_ In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Please print clearly or affix your return address label.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Register my e-mail address for the most timely information.

\_\_\_\_\_ To save on postage costs, please remove my name from the mailing list and add it to the e-mail list.

\_\_\_\_\_ I'm interested in volunteering. The best number to reach me is \_\_\_\_\_.

The best time is (please circle) DAYTIME EVENINGS WEEKENDS

Contributions to the North Dakota Family Alliance are tax-deductible as stated under IRS code, 501 (c) (3).

### NDFA

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NDFA is a non-profit organization. All gifts are tax-deductible. Stocks, bonds, and other assets are welcome. Please contact our office for more information.