



THSC April Leader Letter

April 7, 2011

Visionary Leadership

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Share the Vision? Why?

Tim Lambert, THSC President

Although Tim wrote this article in 2005, I feel the message is still very relevant today. ~ Sheila

I have noticed that home school conferences, support groups, newsletters, and other support functions for home schoolers today are very different from those of 20 years ago, when we began our journey. Today there are a tremendous number of choices that families have concerning curricula, home school cooperatives, support groups, and tutoring services--not to mention books and publications that address virtually every practical aspect of home education. Numerous speakers and authors are veteran home schoolers, with years of experience, who are eager to share their insights and opinions about the best methods and materials.

Twenty years ago there was little information and only a few books on the subject. Home school conferences focused primarily on the concepts and vision of home education, and leaders in the movement were visionaries who had decided to homeschool out of conviction. They had determined that it was not only a way they could educate their children successfully but also a manner in which they could protect their children from the negative influences of our culture while imparting their spiritual and philosophical values in the process.

While these events were meager in terms of the number of offerings presented at today's conferences, they focused on the vision of how home schooling could benefit our families and our culture. The tone of most of these events was almost evangelistic, seeking converts to the concept of home education. We came away from them inspired and committed to teach our children at home, regardless of the cost or opposition, because we had been convinced that the spiritual, educational, and personal fruit was worth any price we had to pay.

[Read on.](#)

Get Connected in YOUR Region



Christian Home Education Association of Central Texas (CHEACT)
Austin, Central Texas Region

Family Educators Alliance of South Texas (FEAST)
San Antonio, South Central Texas Region

Home Educators Alliance for Resources and Training (HEART) of Texas
Greater Dallas/Fort Worth Region

Southeast Texas Home School Association (SETHSA)
Houston Region

Other Sites of Interest



Need a new website? Try [Homeschool-Life.com](#),

THSC 2010 LTC Lone Star Sponsor!

Keep your group informed on current issues at [Right in Texas](#).

Join the [Yahoo! group](#) for Texas support group leaders.

[We want to hear from you!](#)

Find archived issues of THSC's [Leader Letter](#).

Wise Words

"To the person who does not know where he wants to go, there is no favorable wind." ~ Seneca

Join Our Mailing List!

[thsc.org](#)

806-744-4441

Don't Miss the Last THSC Capitol Day!

"Governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed." *Declaration of Independence*, July 4, 1776

Don't miss the last THSC Capitol Day on May 3

The Texas legislature only meets during odd-numbered years, so this is your last chance to get hands-on experience and learn how home schoolers can make a difference. Make it a political science field trip, and [register as a group!](#) Deadline is April 26!

[Get more details.](#)



Show Appreciation for Your Fellow Leaders

As the school year begins to wind down and co-ops and groups prepare for those end-of-school parties and special events, don't forget to recognize those who have planned those parties and coordinated those events!



Request [certificates of appreciation](#) for your support group leaders, and let them know they are appreciated! THSC will print beautiful certificates on behalf of your group, FREE upon request.

Let your fellow leaders know how much they are appreciated. Order [Certificates of Appreciation](#) for your group leaders today!

Have You Had a Change in Leadership?

Has your group recently experienced a change in leadership, or will spring elections bring new leaders onboard? Now is the time to [drop us a line](#) to update your support group information or fill out our [organization questionnaire](#) and make sure your new leaders are getting the monthly THSC Leader Letter in their inboxes.



One of the most difficult jobs we have here at THSC is keeping support group information up-to-date. Every day we receive calls from home school families all across the state looking to connect with other home school families. It makes our job much easier when we know that the information we are giving them is current and accurate.

Also, the THSC REVIEW magazine is free upon request to all Texas home school families, so take a [THSC sign-up sheet](#) to your next support group meeting, and add those new home school families to the THSC mailing list.

[We look forward to hearing from you!](#)

We Want to Hear From You!

Those who have attended THSC's Leadership Training Conference (LTC) know how much valuable wisdom and advice leaders



can glean from other leaders. This is one reason the LTC is such an extraordinary event, but unfortunately, the LTC only comes once a year.

Therefore, in the meantime, we hope to provide some of the encouragement, assistance, and advice you need each month in this THSC monthly leader e-newsletter, but we want to hear from you as well.

How has your group adjusted to the changes and challenges of an expanding home school community? How has the growth of the virtual community (social networking) changed the way your group communicates? Do you have something that has worked well in your group--either an event, a fun activity, a method to improve communication and promote goodwill, a solution to a difficult problem, or perhaps just a word of encouragement and inspiration? Please share it! We want to hear from you!

Leaders have so much to offer to other leaders. Won't you take a minute to [drop us a line](#)? We'd love to share your wisdom!

Mark Your Calendars!

Here are some great events you won't want to miss, so mark your calendars today!

THSC Annual Awards Gala and Fundraiser -April 15, 2011 ~ Austin

THSC Leader Appreciation Week

April 10-16, 2011 ~ Wherever you live in Texas, honor your leaders with a [Certificate of Appreciation](#)!

ARCH Book Fair and Speakers Conference - April 29-30, 2011 ~ Houston

THSC Capitol Days - May 3, 2011 ~ Austin

Hearth and Home Ministries Annual Book Fair

May 6-7, 2011 ~ Arlington

FEAST Convention and Curriculum Fair

May 20-21, 2011 ~ San Antonio

Concho Valley Homeschool Conference

May 20-21, 2011 ~ San Angelo

Gulf Coast Home Education Conference

June 3-4, 2011 ~ Houston

CHEACT Conference and Book Fair

June 24-25, 2011 ~ Austin

THSC State Convention and Family Conference

July 28-30, 2011 ~ The Woodlands

Leadership Training Conference

November 11-13, 2011 ~ Waxahachie



A Note from THSC



The world has changed considerably since I began homeschooling in the early '90s. I still don't know whether the virtual world that has now become a daily reality for most of us--especially those of a younger generation--has expanded our world or shrunk it. Facebook, social media, iPhones, and the Internet have changed the world and expanded our

choices in many areas as home school parents. Curriculum options are now inexhaustible, and there is a wealth of places for today's home school mom to connect with other home school moms within a virtual community. Those of us who once had to seek out other home school families and build our relationships on a park bench or with direct conversation over the phone may sometimes wonder at the depth of those virtual relationships, but perhaps ours is just the perspective of a different generation.

As the world has changed, so has the home school community, and many support group leaders have struggled to keep up and adjust to those changes. For some groups, change has threatened to dissipate the group, and for others, the mobile and virtual connections have built a bigger and better group. As the face of home schooling changes and group leaders struggle to keep up, I wonder if the vision of home schooling has changed? Have we communicated a vision for home schooling to those who have followed us, and if so, what is the vision we have passed on?

Last week I was looking over a discussion on the Alpha Omega Facebook page that asked the question, "Would you still homeschool if it were illegal?" It generated quite a bit of discussion and stirred up some strong, heartfelt convictions within many, but it made me wonder, "What exactly is the vision that these young home school parents have for their families?" What motivates them to homeschool? As a leader, do you know?

Sheila Campbell

THSC Leader Liaison

Send your newsletters and comments to [leaders@thsc.org](#).