



## Telling Homeschooling Groups About WPA

*Please mention WPA at your next support group meeting. Here are ideas you or someone else may want to use. (Reading this page aloud takes about four minutes.) Thank you.*

**I'd like to tell you about WPA. Since 1984, WPA has been providing families with the information, answers to questions, encouragement, and support they need to homeschool.** WPA's 286-page handbook covers how to begin homeschooling, choose a curriculum, homeschool inexpensively using the public library, comply with Wisconsin's homeschooling law, file the form with the DPI, homeschool for high school, deal with school officials, socialization, and much more. For answers to specific questions, you can call your Regional Coordinator or the WPA voice mail. The WPA conference each spring has over 80 workshops for beginning and experienced homeschoolers, a large curriculum fair, a used book sale, a special CONNECTIONS area for families, and affordable onsite housing.

In addition, as you may already know, **Wisconsin has one of the best homeschooling laws in the country.** Half the other states require that homeschoolers take state-mandated tests. In Wisconsin, we can give our children standardized tests if we want to, but we are not required to have them tested and send their scores to the state. We are not required to submit to the state our curriculum or evidence of what our children have learned, as are homeschoolers in some other states. We can homeschool our children the way we choose, instead of having to do it the way the government tells us to.

**We have such a reasonable law because homeschoolers have worked very hard to get it and keep it.** Before the law was passed in 1984, the Department of Public Instruction (also called the DPI) was arbitrary and unfair in its dealings with homeschoolers. Late in 1983, the DPI introduced legislation that would have required homeschoolers to get approval from the DPI to homeschool each year. WPA was founded in response to this legislation. Homeschoolers working together through WPA succeeded in having it amended so it became the reasonable law we now have. Every year since 1984, homeschoolers working through WPA have successfully countered attempts to increase state regulation of homeschooling.

**To continue this work, WPA needs support.** If you are already a member, please renew your membership when it expires. If you are not yet a member, please join now. As a member, you receive WPA newsletters and special bulletins and discounts on the handbook and the conference. It is much better to be a member and have newsletters and special bulletins mailed directly to you than to have to rely on getting information from other homeschoolers. Also, your membership helps WPA continue its work and helps ensure that WPA will be there when you need support, encouragement, or the answer to a tough question. The more homeschoolers who belong to WPA, the better able we are to counter the continuing challenges to our homeschooling freedoms.

**You can support both our support group and WPA** by joining WPA or renewing your membership through our group. You pay \$30, which is the regular WPA membership fee. Our group keeps \$5 and sends the remaining \$25 to WPA.

**Please consider joining WPA and buying a handbook** if you don't already have one. And plan now to attend the WPA Conference on May 1-2, 2009, at the University of Wisconsin in Oshkosh. You will be part of the work we must do to maintain our homeschooling freedoms.

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