



Who is Vermont Home Education Network (VHEN)?

www.vhen.org

VHEN was started back in 2005 as a container for legislative and administrative activities by Retta Dunlap. The organization has remained this way since then but now needs to grow. This growth is in response to the change in the home study law. Homeschoolers in Vermont need to be more organized at a statewide level to protect homeschooling freedoms going forward.

Retta a retired homeschooling mom who, in 1996, decided that she was going to watch what the legislature does to make sure they do not change the home study law without homeschooler input. What prompted this decision in 1996 was a change in the compulsory attendance law where the legislature lowered the starting age from 7 to 6 and homeschoolers did not know they now had to start enrolling their children a year earlier. Retta's life was now mapped out for her! She has been watching ever since.

Over the years she found things being talked about at the legislature where there was no homeschooler input. Topics such as mandatory testing, back ground checks for parents, home inspections of parents wishing to homeschool. All of these things Retta addressed as they popped up and none of which were acted upon by the legislature.

Retta's 4 children are grown with the youngest now 34 years old. Retta has talked to hundreds of homeschoolers over the years. Both parents who had questions and parents who were facing issues with the Agency of Education or with Department of Children and Families but once lawyers are involved Retta tends to pull back as she is not a lawyer, just an advocate for homeschooling as one of those options that parents can choose from.

VHEN will continue to watch over the statute. Consider joining the VHEN email list. It does not send out very many emails. Also, consider working with VHEN to grow the network. VHEN is not a local homeschool group. It does not do local things. Homeschooling in Vermont needs its local support groups to exist but is also needs them to be able to connect through a central entity. VHEN is ready and willing to fill that position.

Some ideas that we are working on are a state wide event calendar that local home school support groups can post too. Perhaps outside entities can submit their events as well. Many would like to have a state wide high school graduation program. And of course, further legislation like a state approved driver education course for home study students to use to learn to drive and get their license at age 16. And advocacy concerning dual enrollment, early college, and the personal learning plans required for those programs.

There will also be future monthly or bi-monthly Zoom calls on all things homeschooling including the above-mentioned topics. This is way that homeschoolers can connect state wide.

So you can receive timely information about these activities and more, please consider joining us through our email list <https://vhen.org/email-list>. VHEN does not send out very many emails unless it is working on legislation.

Feel free to contact Retta directly at:

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