

BUILDING &

Battling

A quarterly publication of the



Spring 2022 - Vol. 34, Issue 3

BCSO Elementary Speech & Spelling Competition

May 6
Carrollton

BCSO Fine Arts Review Meeting

May 12
Mansfield
10 a.m.

BCSO Board of Directors' Meeting

May 12
Mansfield
Noon

AACS Youth Legislative Training Conference

July 11-15
Washington, D.C.

A full, downloadable 2-year calendar of events is available on our website.

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From the Director...

The Backpack Bill (HB 290) and SAFE Act (HB 454)

Keith Hamblen, *BCSO Executive Director*

Before the Lord gave us the SGO (Scholarship Granting Organizations) and tuition scholarship programs at the end of last year, at-the-time Senate Vice President Matt Huffman said, "Pastor Hamblen, there are many good legislators here in Columbus who are sympathetic to your Christian concerns, but they have so much on their plates—you must keep talking to them and reminding them of your concerns, or these concerns will be pushed out of the way to make room for other concerns about which they continually are being reminded." I am personally not a fan of "the squeaky wheel gets the grease," but I am also familiar with the story of the importunate widow of Luke 18! We have two bills right now of supreme importance, and I pray that we as Christians will be able to keep them before our legislators. My primary calling is pastoring Calvary Bible Church and being involved in the Lima Christian Academy, and I am not able to give the time to some of these things

that I'd like. I recently heard that the expansion of gambling has sailed through the General Assembly with little opposition from the churches or others, and I hate that. "Ohio is currently in the process of legalizing online and retail sports gambling. The bills have already been signed by Governor Mike DeWine, and all that is left is to establish the regulatory framework before the January 2023 deadline" (*New Year Post*, 4/1/22). Even though the Ohio group Citizens for Christian Virtues (CCV) is not a group that practices II Corinthians 6:14-7:1 as we understand it, they have been a great help in keeping before legislators "conservative moral issues," and I am personally grateful and very much consider them co-belligerents and friends. Again, if I had more time, I would like to get to know some of them on a more personal level.

See 'Director' on pg 2

"If we work upon marble, it will perish; if we work upon brass, time will efface it; if we rear temples, they will crumble into dust; but if we work upon immortal minds and instill into them just principles, we are then engraving that upon tablets which no time will efface, but will brighten and brighten to all eternity."

~ Daniel Webster



The intent of the **Backpack Bill** (HB 290) is for funding (tax dollars designated for education) to follow the student to the legally operating school of the child's (that is, the parent's) choice. This includes non-chartered, non-tax supported schools. This bill (HB 290) has been assigned to the House Finance Committee but appears to be stalled there. Rep Scott Oelslager (District 48, Republican) chairs this committee, and it is his responsibility to schedule hearings.

The **SAFE (Save Adolescents from Experimentation) Act** (HB 454) is for requiring parental permission before children (under eighteen) can begin sex-change procedures. Representative (Pastor) Gary Click is the primary sponsor of this bill and gave masterful testimony at the initial primary sponsor testimony time. The SAFE Act is assigned to the Families, Aging, and Human Services Committee chaired by Rep. Susan Manchester (District 84, Republican) who has not scheduled further hearings on this obvious and most important bill. These important bills will go nowhere until further hearings are scheduled (by the respective chairmen).

Buckeye Christian Scholarship Granting Organization Now Functioning

Keith Hamblen, BCSO Executive Director



Tuition tax credits and Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGOs) are available to those enrolling their children in Ohio's non-

chartered, non-tax supported schools (08 schools). The tuition tax credit will allow families who enroll their children in non-chartered schools to claim up to \$1,000 tax credit against their state tax liability (to be subtracted from any state income tax otherwise to be sent to the state of Ohio). Much greater help will be available to families enrolling their children in 08 schools through SGOs properly set up (which is the case with our SGO, named BCSGO). Tax credit contributions of up to

\$750 (\$1,500 if filing jointly) can be made by any Ohio individual or pass-through entity (a business structure in which business income is treated as personal income of the owners) to an Ohio SGO and the funds can be directed toward a specific school and even to a specific student. (Each SGO's own committee makes final determination but will heavily weigh donor requests.) Mr. Josh Lynn has a wonderful plan soon to be announced to help us spread the word among people most likely to help. This program along with the Backpack Bill do much to begin reversing the monopoly of the "largest engine of atheism this world has ever seen" (public schools). Jason L. Riley said in the March 2022 edition of *Imprimis*, "Bad schools stay open because those schools still provide good jobs for adults. Whether or not the children are learning is a secondary concern at best."



EVENT update:

Winter Basketball Tournament Results from February 18-19

Junior High Boys

- 1st place—Temple Christian School (Dayton)
- 2nd place—High Street Christian Academy
- 3rd place—Licking County Christian Academy
- Sportsmanship—Licking County Christian Academy

Varsity Boys

- 1st place—Fayette Christian School
- 2nd place—High Street Christian Academy
- 3rd place—Temple Christian School (Dayton)
- Sportsmanship—Fayette Christian School

A special 'thanks' to our host school!

All-Tournament Team

- Gabe Prisel – Heritage Christian School (Brooklyn)
- Robert Dell'Aria – TCS (Dayton)
- Brady Bumpus – FCS
- Devon Sides – HSBA
- Logan McGraw – HSBA
- Nate Crichton – FCS

Most Outstanding Player –

- Kaleb Bauman – FCS



The *Building & Battling* newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Buckeye Christian School Organization. Its purpose is to disseminate information pertinent to our member schools in efforts to "build" a good work, as well as to serve as a tool for "battling" the secular worldview that our culture impresses upon our students. Articles may be submitted for publication, but they will be subject to editing and approval. All submissions can be sent in MS Word (.doc) or PDF format to: keithhamblen@gmail.com

Is There a Need for BCSO?

Keith Hamblen, BCSO Executive Director

The Lord has used BCSO mightily in recent months (as a tool in the hands of our local churches), and we are grateful for the key people leading us to these "promised lands" of this life! **Mr. Joshua Lynn** (LCCA Administrator, greatly supported by **Pastor Mark Falls** and the Newark Baptist Temple) has led in the development of the amazing SGO and tuition tax credit programs; **Mr. Paul Shaver** (Zanesville Administrator) directed the so-needing-flexibility-and-the-amazing Fine Arts competition, hosted by **Mr. Luke Brown** and **Pastor Pete Folger** at the Cleveland Baptist Church; **Pastor Chris Brown** (Maranatha Bible Church) coordinates and leads in organizing our sports tournaments (so important in the growth and development of our young people), **Mr. Josh Blankenship** (Dayton Cornerstone Baptist) hosted and

directed this year's well-run basketball tournament; **Pastor Rob Kurtz** (BCSO President and Mansfield Baptist pastor) stays in touch with what is happening and makes himself readily available; **Pastor Gary Click** who continues to pastor one of our BCSO schools but who has stepped back from his BCSO responsibilities (Board Member and National Legislative Director) to serve as an Ohio State Representative—he is the primary sponsor of the SAFE Act (see preceding article), and he credits BCSO with being used of the Lord to show him the need to serve in this state rep role; and the, and numerous others, including the faithful and indispensable **pastors-principals and people who maintain the quality churches and schools** that make our organization possible! As we know each of these godly individuals, each would say, "Praise the Lord for anything good done through me as an instrument in His hands!"

BCSO schools urged to participate in 2022 Great Lakes Christian Educators' Convention

All BCSO member schools are encouraged to attend the Great Lakes Christian Educators' Convention on Sept. 29-30.

Every three years, Christian educators from all over the Great Lakes region will assemble in Kalamazoo for a two-day convention that is geared to challenge and edify those who have surrendered to Christian education.

We are currently looking for workshop presenters and exhibitors. If you are willing or interested in conducting a workshop or exhibiting, or if you know someone who would like this opportunity, please contact Mr. Rick Ash at rick.ash@tcafreemont.org or visit www.glcec.net. Registration will be open this spring, but workshop and speaker suggestions are now being taken.

Save the date! Let's make Ohio well-represented this fall at the 2022 GLCEC.



Paul Shaver, BCSO Fine Arts Director

Even though competition was not fully back to the way it was in years past, we were thrilled to hold an in-person competition this year. There were a couple of changes to the competition this year. One change that was made was a one-day event with no awards ceremony due to fewer schools and fewer students participating. There was a PowerPoint sent to the various schools to use in their own awards assembly. The second change was that all art was judged virtually. A special thank you goes to Eric Leszkowicz for facilitating that for us. Lord willing, we will be back to a two-day competition next year with most of the artwork on display and judged in-person.

Competing this year were Carroll County Christian Academy, Fayette Christian School, Heritage Christian School (Brooklyn), Licking County Christian Academy, Lima Christian Academy, Ottawa County Christian Academy, Temple Christian Academy (Fremont), Temple Christian School (Mansfield), Temple Christian Academy (Howard), and Zanesville Christian School. Just over two hundred fifty students were involved in the newfangled competition. After all the judging forms were tallied, Heritage Christian School (Brooklyn) earned the

Outstanding School Total Points while Zanesville Christian School earned the *Outstanding School Highest Average*. Sarah Fickel of Lima Christian Academy was named the outstanding female competitor, while Truett Howell of Zanesville Christian was named the outstanding male competitor. Awards, ratings, test results, and a school summary may be viewed the BCSO website.

Thank you to all who used their God-given abilities for God's glory in helping with competition. Thank you goes to Pastor Rob Kurtz, BCSO President, who delivered an excellent message about potential, using the story about Peter walking on the water as a text. A huge thank you goes to those students and adults from the participating BCSO schools for their tremendous help in helping the competition run smoothly. A special thank you goes to each judge who helped make the competition a huge success. A thank you goes to Principal Luke Brown, the HCS staff, students, and volunteers for their excellent work in hosting great competition. Thank you also goes to the control staff for the efficient work. Words cannot fully express the deep sense of gratitude to all who helped with competition. You all are greatly appreciated! Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

BCSO students represented at AACCS National Competition

Paul Shaver, BCSO Fine Arts Director

Students from Buckeye Christian School Organization (BCSO) competed in the 44th annual American Association of Christian Schools National Competition held at Bob Jones University in Greenville, S.C. on April 5-7, 2022. Schools representing BCSO were Heritage Christian School and Zanesville Christian School.

Approximately 1,800 students and sponsors from 28 states participated in the AACCS National Competition, after having captured top honors in their state competitions. The students representing 172 Christian high schools—competed in 76

categories in the five basic areas of Bible, music, speech, art, and academics.

The Bible competition included Bible quiz teams, preaching, and teaching. Academic competition included academic testing and a science fair. Music students challenged each other in solo and group competitions for both vocal and instrumental music. Speech contestants participated in such categories and debate, dramatic interpretation, original oratory, acting, plus other categories. Art students displayed their pieces for the art contest.

Congratulations to each student for a job well done!



National Fine Arts Competition - Individual Results

Truett Howell	Zanesville Christian School	Chemistry Testing	2nd
Truett Howell	Zanesville Christian School	Expository Preaching	2nd
Truett Howell	Zanesville Christian School	Spelling Bee	1st
Truett Howell	Zanesville Christian School	Classical Piano Solo	1st