



Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

July 2015

Editor: Jim Burke

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**We welcome newcomers
to our meetings and
events**

July Changes Things

The end of June brought so many court decisions and laws passing into law. But July is keeping pace with June.

Viral videos online have drawn attention to things Planned Parenthood has done. Whether or not they are legal, the actions are not popular.

Within our organization, elections changed things up a bit. Our board has solidified some goals that should result in great things in the years to come.

As we've done throughout the summer, we are planning our activities for fall. We want to reach many more people than in the past. We could use your help in promoting our activities and planning them. This is the best time of year to join us in planning activities.

We continue to implement proven methods of achieving that mission as effectively as possible.

- Coalition for Life of Iowa Board

Upcoming Events

TUE
Aug 11

7 p.m. – 8 p.m.

CFLI Board Meeting

Get involved in the decisions that guide our organization!

Where: St. Patrick's Common Grounds Coffee Shop
120 5th St NW, Cedar Rapids, IA

More information: coalitionforlife@gmail.com

TUE
Aug 25

7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

CFLI Working Meeting

Get involved in planning the activities for our organization!

Where: St. Patrick's Common Grounds Coffee Shop
120 5th St NW, Cedar Rapids, IA

More info: coalitionforlife@gmail.com

TUE
Sep 8

7 p.m. – 8 p.m.

CFLI Board Meeting

Get involved in the decisions that guide our organization!

Where: St. Patrick's Common Grounds Coffee Shop
120 5th St NW, Cedar Rapids, IA

More information: coalitionforlife@gmail.com

TUE
Sep 22

7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

CFLI Working Meeting

Get involved in planning the activities for our organization!

Where: St. Patrick's Common Grounds Coffee Shop
120 5th St NW, Cedar Rapids, IA

More info: coalitionforlife@gmail.com

WED
Sep 23

SUN
Nov 1

7 a.m. – 7 p.m. daily

40 Days for Life Prayer Vigil

Join us in praying for an end to abortion!

Where: Sidewalk outside of Planned Parenthood
3425 First Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA

More information: http://lifeiowa.org/40_Days_for_Life.html

Pres	Tim Mason	Board Members
VP	Jim Burke	Sue Martinek
Tres	Russell Yount	Jim Burke
Sec	Bonnie Yount	Rich Brandt

Election Results

We elect board members and executive board members each July. The board remains unchanged, retaining Sue Martinek, Jim Burke, and Rich Brandt. Bonnie Yount remains our secretary. Russell Yount remains our Treasurer.

Two people swapped offices. Tim Mason will lead the Coalition for Life of Iowa as its president. Jim Burke will return to the position of vice president.

Tim has been on our board for a few years, and his leadership skills should help our organization grow in

effectiveness. He cares deeply about the range of life issues that face us.

Jim wanted to return focus on our various activities, rather than lead the organization as a whole. He tried to guide the organization in a way that sets a clear path forward.

The staggered terms of office for our board members makes it so we don't elect the entire board each year. Six member of our board were not up for election this year. Tim, Russell, and Bonnie were already mentioned. The other

three members are: Mary Cherion, Pat Semelroth, and Steve Spears.

Organizations depend on everyone, not just their board members. Please consider what more you can do. We can plan more and accomplish more when everyone helps.

The year ahead should be one of great opportunity. The Coalition for Life defends the sanctity of human life from conception throughout all stages with prayer, education, and raising awareness.

Goals

The board of directors for the Coalition for Life of Iowa has developed goals for the years ahead. We aimed to cover a range of things to make sure we are effective.

We made sure to address things that lead to abortion, things that help women who are in the midst of a webcam abortion, and making sure we have the people it takes to accomplish all of this.

It's good to stop abortions at the last minute, but it's far better to help women avoid that dilemma. It's also easier when society isn't conditioned to accept the culture of death's views.



Updates on Court Cases & Bills

Last month was a busy month for legal activity regarding life issues. This month still offered new bills and activity.

Iowa Ultrasounds

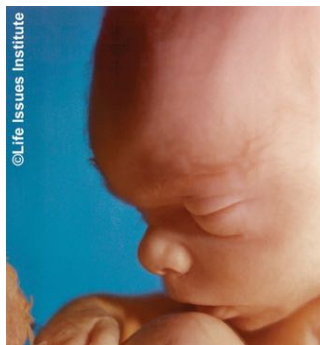
The ultrasound bill (part of SF505) was signed into law. Since it was signed into law after July 1st, it will take effect on August 16th. It's unlikely this law will be challenged.

Federal Bills

HR7 (**No Taxpayer Funding for Abortions Act**) and HR36 (**Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act**) still sit, waiting for the Senate to act upon them.

After the videos were released that suggest that Planned Parenthood may engage in illegal activities, lawmakers across the nation started to take action. Some lawmakers

propose investigations, both at state and federal levels. Iowa is among the states where investigations will occur. Other lawmakers seek to eliminate government funding for Planned Parenthood until investigations are complete.



Pain Capable Acts

We hear about Pain Capable Acts when states pass them or when the federal government considers them. What's involved? Some people believe children feel pain by the 20th week of pregnancy. Other people suggest that's too early. When nerves are newly formed, the perception of pain is more

intense than later. If pain is felt by 20 weeks, the normal pain involved with being torn apart would be even more intense than if an adult was drawn and quartered! Being drawn and quartered is considered cruel and unusual punishment, and children aren't committing crimes, yet they suffer more.

Pro-life concerns about the bills include the following. When focusing on pain, people might think it's okay to kill, as long as we can ensure that the victim feels no pain. Anesthesia could enable unimaginable killing. Few children are aborted in the latter half of pregnancy, yet every child matters.

When addressing the destruction of something, it's important to know what you're dealing with. This month's Stages of Life article shows pictures of children at 20 weeks of pregnancy. That is whom we are dealing with.



Selling What?

The Internet buzzed with activity when an undercover video caught a high-ranking Planned Parenthood executive describing things the organization does. The media mostly ignored the story. The producers of the video said they have a dozen videos, and they plan to release one per week.

The first two videos focused on the selling of body parts of the children they abort. It drew national attention to something that's been done for a long time within the abortion industry. Many people suspect that it was the motivation behind developing partial-birth abortion.

Partial-birth abortion keeps organs intact, while avoiding exposure to harmful chemicals. In one of the videos, an executive described a procedure

that sounded eerily like partial-birth abortion, which is illegal.

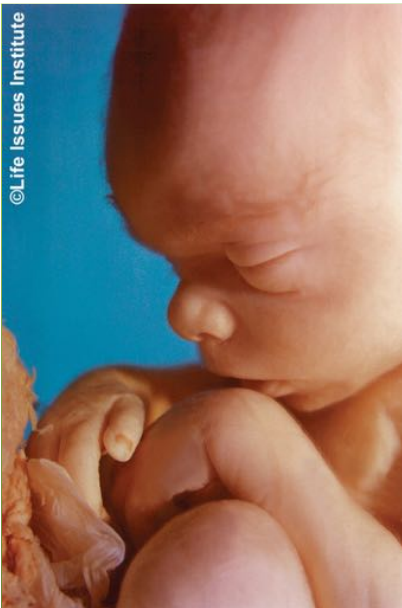
Another clip made it clear they would willingly offer organs from children that were between eight and nine weeks gestation. The executive admits that they make intact organs available from abortions at that stage of development. This is the most common stage of pregnancy when abortions occur. Abortion promoters like to diminish the humanity of children by saying they are just clumps of cells or tissue. But this video makes it clear that they know better.

Some people have asked me what is done with the organs. Many industries make use of such organs and the tissues and cells they contain. They are used in cosmetics, medical research, fertilizer, and were even considered for use in the

development of more flavorful foods and drinks for human consumption (although not in the final product). Bone marrow offers stem cells that have many uses in research.

Advances in science continue to reveal new ways to accomplish things. But being able to do something doesn't mean we should do such things. Good solutions always have good, ethical solutions. One doesn't need to resort to evil to achieve good. The ends don't justify the means.

Iowa has fewer opportunities for this. The use of webcam abortions leaves many of the bodies of children in the sewers under homes or in the water treatment plants. That's a tragedy we've already described in the past.



Author: Dr. Monica Minjeur

Stages of Life: Weeks 17 - 20

Weeks 17-20 of growth and development are an exciting time as many parents have a follow-up ultrasound to evaluate anatomy and possibly find out the gender of their growing baby. Reproductive organs are fully in place by this time. If the baby is a girl, the vagina, uterus and fallopian tubes as well as ovaries are already in place. If it is a boy, the genitals are distinctly recognizable and sometimes able to be seen on this early ultrasound.

Tiny blood vessels are now visible through baby's thin skin. The skin is covered with a slick substance called the vernix caseosa, which protects it from the surrounding amniotic fluid.

Hair on the scalp is starting to grow and sweat glands are starting to develop all over the body.

Internal organs continue development as baby practices swallowing the amniotic fluid and the kidneys continue to make urine. A sticky black substance called meconium begins to accumulate in the gastrointestinal tract which is made up of the swallowed amniotic fluid and other digestive secretions. This meconium will show up for the first few days in baby's diapers after birth.

This is a crucial time for continued sensory

development for sight, smell, taste, touch and sound. The ears are at their final location, but stand out from the side of the head a bit more than usual. A protective covering called myelin continues to enclose the spinal cord and existing nerves make more complex connections.

Baby's arms and legs are in the right proportions compared to the rest of the body and are busy flexing throughout the day. Many women feel their baby move for the first time during this period of time, especially if it is not their first pregnancy.

Pro-Life Challenge



Seek Pro-Life Knowledge

Dedicate some time each week to learn about one or more life issues. It doesn't take long to learn things that make a difference.

It makes it easier to discuss life matters, and you may find the moral lessons useful.



Ask Questions

While learning about pro-life matters, you may have questions. Ask us! We learn by asking each other questions.



Generous Donors

Memorial Gifts



We lost some dedicated pro-lifers late last year. We have been overwhelmed with the generosity of donors who gave money in memory of them. The amount of money donated roughly doubled what we usually raise in a normal year.

The Coalition for Life of Iowa offers many ways to donate. You can always donate money at any of our events. You can send money to the address on the last page of this newsletter. We have a faithful donor that sends money every month, which we appreciate greatly.

Sometimes people like to give larger amounts. If you wish to donate stock, contact us to learn how to do so. This option makes more sense for donations above \$1,000, since the additional tax savings aren't as noticeable below that amount.

In my own journey toward giving financially, it was a fellow pro-lifer that started me down the path of giving more to good causes in general. With Planned Parenthood receiving funds from so many sources, we need to do what we can to counter their messages.

The Coalition for Life of Iowa came about when Sue Martinek and Mary Daley saw a gap in our area. Many of you have helped us reach others. We have seen great results, including lives saved.

There are simple ways to benefit us, such as using the goodsearch.com website for searches. Our July 2012 issue of the Life Matters newsletter contains more details. We hope to add more ways to help us in the near future. Thanks for all of your help!

CFLI Board

Rich Brandt
Jim Burke (Vice President)
Mary Cherion
Sue Martinek
Tim Mason (President)
Pat Semelroth
Steve Speirs
Bonnie Yount (Secretary)
Russell Yount (Treasurer)



Spread the Word!

Do you know other pro-life people who might like to subscribe to this newsletter?

- Tell them about it
- Forward a copy to them
- Print a copy to hand to friends

Do you have ideas you want discussed in future issues? Contact us with your suggestion. We may consider including your article if you prefer to write your own.

Did you spot some issues with this newsletter that really bug you? Then perhaps you'd like to help edit it. Contact us to see how you can help.

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Coalition for Life of Iowa

P.O. Box 864
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406