



# Life Matters

Discussing life matters,  
because life matters

February 2016

Editor: Jim Burke

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

## Keep the Momentum!

We are done with the busy week in January that contained various marches for life. February began 40 Days for Life. March brings with it the end of 40 Days for Life. April and May still keep us busy before summer gives us a chance to catch our breath.

We're seeing a great boost of energy in our 40 Days for Life. We have lots of signs to share with our members. We have new churches getting involved. We have more resources to help people who wish they knew how to make a better argument when confronted with the abortion issue.

This year is starting with some great energy, and we want to keep the momentum going! This issue focuses a little more on health than usual, since it tries to address some of the things that lead to immoral approaches to challenges, such as abortion, in-vitro fertilization, embryonic stem-cell research, etc. It's important to get to the roots of problems.

- Coalition for Life of Iowa Board

## Upcoming Events

**Feb 10 – Mar 20**

7 a.m. – 7 p.m. daily

### 40 Days for Life Starts

Join us in prayer!

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

**More info:** [http://lifeiowa.org/40\\_Days\\_for\\_Life.html](http://lifeiowa.org/40_Days_for_Life.html)

**Tue, Mar 15**

7 p.m. – 8:30 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 info:** [coalitionforlife@gmail.com](mailto:coalitionforlife@gmail.com)

**Sun, Mar 20**

5 p.m. – 6 p.m.

6 p.m. – 7 p.m.

### 40 Days for Life Closing Rally

Join us in prayer!

**Where:** Sidewalk near Planned Parenthood from 5 – 6 pm  
3425 First Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA

Then Godfather's Pizza  
3647 1st Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA

**More info:** [http://lifeiowa.org/40\\_Days\\_for\\_Life.html](http://lifeiowa.org/40_Days_for_Life.html)

**Tue, Mar 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](mailto:coalitionforlife@gmail.com)

**Sat, Apr 2**

6 p.m. – 10 p.m.

### Dance for Life

Come to the Knights of Columbus's annual benefit for Birthright!

**Where:** St. Pius X Church Parish Hall  
4949 Council St NE, Cedar Rapids, IA

**More info:** [coalitionforlife@gmail.com](mailto:coalitionforlife@gmail.com)

**Tue, Apr 12**

7 p.m. – 8:30 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 info:** [coalitionforlife@gmail.com](mailto:coalitionforlife@gmail.com)

**Fri, Apr 15**

9 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

4 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

### Going Natural: A Healthy Choice

A scientific analysis of the chemistry of sex, fertility and relationships

**Where:** Mount Mercy University, Betty Cherry Heritage Hall  
1330 Elmhurst Dr. NE, Cedar Rapids, IA

**More info:** [coalitionforlife@gmail.com](mailto:coalitionforlife@gmail.com)

Free open panel discussion from 4-6 p.m.



## Ethics in Rare Diseases

Dr. Alan Moy founded the John Paul II Medical Research Institute (JP2MRI) to focus on ethical medical research. He spoke at the Midwest March for Life in January and another event in early February. He promoted the programs many people don't know about.

The rare genetic disease research projects were of particular interest. A rare disease is any disease where there are no more than 200,000 people in the world with the disease. You'd think the people who could participate in such a program would be very limited, due to the rarity of people with such diseases. Oddly enough 1 in 10 people have a rare disease! There are so many rare diseases that the odds are higher than most people would imagine.

JP2MRI possesses the world's largest supply of adult stem cells, which provide the basis of much of their research. Many other

organizations in the field make at least some use of embryonic stem cells, which leads to moral concerns.

JP2MRI fills some critical spots in the development of treatments and cures. Most diseases go without research due to a lack of financial incentive or the lack of organizations like JP2MRI being there to do the work that needs to occur before drug trials. They also seek real solutions, rather than merely some academic insight for a master's thesis.

The most touching story of success involved children with a disease that has been 100% fatal to anyone who had it in the past. The disease was a death sentence, with many children dead by age 10, and all of them dead by age 20. It can take many years to diagnose a disease. But when the medical community attempts to find treatments, they can easily spend

billions of dollars during a roughly 13-year development cycle. For children with this disease, that doesn't do them any good.

JP2MRI got involved and found a treatment within 2 years that they were able to apply to the children of one family. The older of the two saw no further advancement of the disease. The younger of the two saw no remaining signs of the disease!

Such success cannot always be guaranteed, but one of our members who learned about this opportunity when they went to the Midwest March on our bus has already signed up for the program. An entire family will likely benefit, since the disease is genetic, and since it's considered "low hanging fruit" that should be easy to treat. For more info, go to: <http://www.jp2mri.org>



## Government Update

### Iowa

Iowa is in the midst of the 2016 legislative session, and threats to life have already begun. It's our civil duty to communicate with our lawmakers, and the first amendment acknowledges the right to petition our leaders.

We predicted that a lawmaker would introduce a bill regarding assisted suicide. Sen. Bolckom has introduced such a bill.

We should strive to protect the right to life. We should value the dignity of human life at all stages, rather than deny dignity by intentionally taking it. It is not good to send mixed messages, where the lives of suicidal teens are valued, but not the lives of people at most other stages of life. Life is not ours to take. Seek non-lethal solutions.

The legislature filtered out several bills when the first funnel of the session removed them from consideration.

The Iowa Caucuses have passed, so our mailboxes and phones will get a much-needed rest.

The caucuses had record attendance. We hope each party adopts more life-affirming planks and adheres to them as they build their respective platforms.

### Federal Actions

The Supreme Court will hear a challenge of a Texas abortion law that requires abortion doctors to have admitting privileges at nearby hospitals, and for abortion clinics to meet the standards of ambulatory surgical centers. The court will hear the **Whole Woman's Health v. Cole** case on March 2.

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia died unexpectedly in mid-February. This will complicate the cases brought before the court, since many cases are more likely to

end with a 4-4 vote. A tie vote means the ruling of the last court that ruled on a case will prevail, but the case will only apply to the region of the nation served by that court.

This means there is a good chance that the Texas case will not be the landmark case people thought it would be. Time will tell.

**HR7 (No Taxpayer Funding for Abortions Act)** still sits, waiting for the Senate to act.

The Senate voted to cut funding from Planned Parenthood in a different bill. The President vetoed the bill.

### Texas

Texas will draw attention with the cases involving the videos that captured Planned Parenthood employees negotiating the prices for baby body parts.



## Reproductive Health

We normally want to stay focused on life, and the advocates for abortion focus on women's health to draw attention away from the unborn. But we recognize how reproductive health leads to many of the ethical issues regarding life.

Last fall we banded together with other pro-life organizations to educate people about NaProTECHNOLOGY and other reproductive topics. The event was so successful in the Iowa City area that we are bringing it to Cedar Rapids on Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. With a powerful combination of five speakers, we get a range of various doctors and practitioners with information that will help

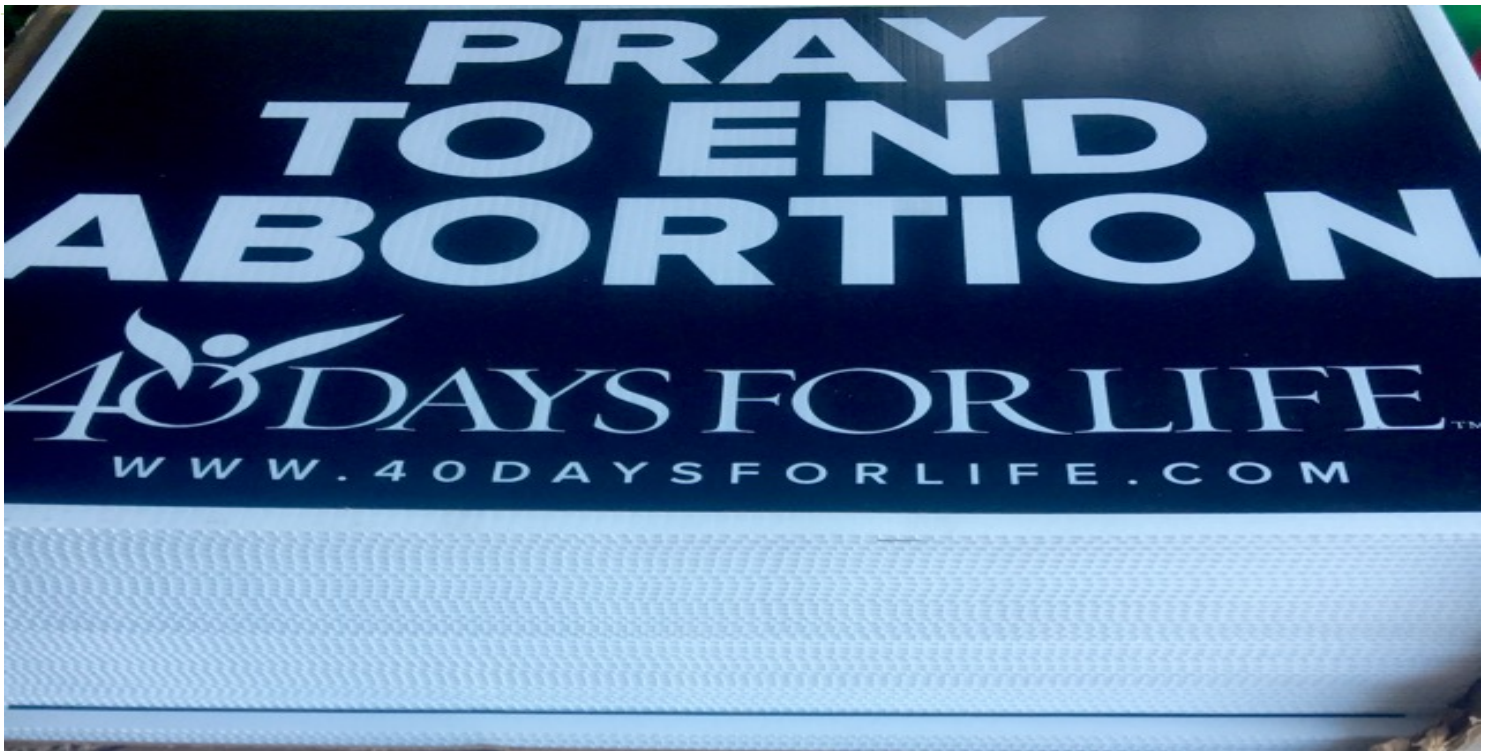
bring true health to our community. We offer continuing education credits/hours for social workers, therapists, and counselors, and clock hours for department heads and residential administrators. But people of all walks of life are invited.

Imagine realizing that there are advancements in reproductive health that most of the medical community ignores! If couples want children and struggle to achieve pregnancy there is a high success rate in helping to achieve pregnancy. For women who have recurring miscarriages there is a 75% chance that it can be avoided/treated. Post-partum depression, severe PMS, and many other issues are easily treated, but usually go untreated.

Doctors rarely learn about these advances. Some might ignore it because they don't realize medical advances have sprung from natural family planning. They hear natural family planning (NFP) and think of an outdated, ineffective method of avoiding pregnancy, instead of modern methods that are extremely effective. But this isn't as much about NFP as it is the health indicators discovered as a result of NFP that helped identify ways to treat common reproductive issues.

We need more people to know about these advances, and we especially need people in the medical professions to know. Share this with people you know, and come to our event!

For more information, go to: [http://lifeiowa.org/Natural\\_Plans.html](http://lifeiowa.org/Natural_Plans.html)



40 Days for Life began on Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>. Planned Parenthood shifted their hours of operation around a little bit, and increased their open hours by 2 hours per week.

Last fall we put up with lots of road and sewer construction. The construction projects were part of a multi-year project. The mild weather will allow the city to start construction in the area between 34<sup>th</sup> and 36<sup>th</sup> Streets in a matter of weeks. We hope it won't affect us, but we always adapt to challenges.

We ordered many more 40 Days for Life signs, so more

of our members will be able to bring home with you and return with them the next time you pray on the sidewalks. We continue to equip people with methods of discussing the pro-life issues in a respectful and persuasive way.

Please hold signs if you have them, but don't put them on the ground. We were told a few years ago that having them on the ground was fine, but were more recently told not to do so.

We have had people hand us gift cards for Casey's, in case they needed something to warm them up. In addition to such kind gestures we

have heard many people stop and say good things to us. We still get negative messages from people driving by, and that picks up when the weather warms up. That's when people roll down their windows and yell what's been built up all winter.

Please continue praying. Please continue fasting. At the end of the 40 days, we will have our closing rally. We join in a final hour of prayer from 5-6 p.m. on Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. After the hour of prayer, join us at Godfather's Pizza for pizza and drinks starting at 6 p.m. It's my favorite part!

## Pro-Life Challenge



## Pray & Fast!

Join us in prayer and fasting for 40 Days for Life from February 10 through March 20!



## Help Us Recruit!

If you can help us recruit more members during 40 Days for Life, it would help us help women and children, while standing up to Planned Parenthood's attempt to grow!



# PP Corporate Boycott List

A list of corporate supporters of Planned Parenthood showed up on the internet last year. Such lists help people apply pressure on companies to stop funding the nation's largest abortion provider. The bad news was that there were errors in the list. The source was not widely known as a maintainer of such a list, so the errors could have been anticipated.

We know an organization with an impeccable list of Planned Parenthood supporters. Life Decisions International (LDI) knows the seriousness of a boycott. They only add companies to their list when they have adequate proof that a business contributes to Planned Parenthood. Big businesses would sue them and win if they didn't have adequate proof, so they get it right.

We want our members to have the

best and most reliable information. The lists aren't free, since abortion supporters requested thousands upon thousands of lists a few decades ago. It nearly bankrupted the LDI. We bought some lists, and we will make them available for \$5.

We will have lists available at our upcoming events. I was personally surprised at how much the list has changed in the past few years. I bought a list at a much higher price several years ago. I remember wondering if there was anything I could buy at the grocery store that wasn't on the list. But LDI's boycott list has led to more than 300 companies to stop donating to Planned Parenthood! I can buy things again! But companies like Starbucks, Wells Fargo, and others remain on that list. Get your list now! We have plenty and can always get more.

**CFLI Board**

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## 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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**Remember, Life Matters!**

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Coalition for Life of Iowa

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