



# Life Matters

Discussing life matters,  
because life matters

September 2016

Editor: Jim Burke

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We welcome newcomers  
to our meetings and  
events

## Respect Life Month!

October is Respect Life Month. Most pro-life organizations plan pro-life activities in October, so it's time to save the dates and get ready for a busy month next month! There are so many events that we had to choose between having two pages of upcoming events or removing the events that were more than a half-hour drive away.

Our 40 Days for Life Kick-off Rally is Tuesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, starting at 5 p.m. We have many things to say at our rally. We have a few surprises. So you won't want to miss it!

Get ready to transform the culture to become a culture of life!

- Coalition for Life of Iowa Board

# Upcoming Events

<p><b>Tue, Sep 27</b> 5 p.m. – 6 p.m.</p>	<p><b>40 Days for Life Kick-off Rally</b> Join us to kick off what we hope will be our biggest prayer activity! <b>Where:</b> Sidewalk outside Planned Parenthood 3425 First Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA <b>More info:</b> <a href="https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/cedar-rapids/">https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/cedar-rapids/</a></p>
<p><b>Sep 28 – Nov 6</b> 24 hours / day</p>	<p><b>40 Days for Life Prayer Vigil</b> Join us in praying for an end to abortion in a peaceful prayer vigil! <b>Where:</b> Sidewalk outside Planned Parenthood 3425 First Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA <b>More info:</b> <a href="https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/cedar-rapids/">https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/cedar-rapids/</a></p>
<p><b>Sat, Oct 1</b> 8 a.m. Registration 9 a.m. Start</p>	<p><b>Bridgehaven's 5K Fun Run &amp; Walk</b> Raise money for a local pregnancy support center! Walk "In Her Shoes!" <b>Where:</b> From <a href="#">Bridgehaven</a> to <a href="#">Treasures Quality Resale Shoppe</a> 701 Center Point Rd NE to 405 8th Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA <b>More info:</b> <a href="http://bridgehavencr.org/events/walk-for-life">http://bridgehavencr.org/events/walk-for-life</a></p>
<p><b>Sun, Oct 2</b> 2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>National Life Chain</b> Spread the pro-life message in as long of a chain as possible! <b>Where:</b> Sidewalk along First Ave, starting outside Planned Parenthood 3425 First Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA <b>More info:</b> <a href="http://lifechain.net">http://lifechain.net</a></p>
<p><b>Fri, Oct 7</b> 9 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Register by Sept 30</p>	<p><b>Going Natural Conference</b> Learn about the most innovative advancements in reproductive health! <b>Where:</b> St. Patrick Church – Iowa City 4330 Saint Patrick Drive, <b>Iowa City</b>, IA 52240 <b>More info:</b> <a href="http://www.jcrtl.org/going-natural-conference.html">http://www.jcrtl.org/going-natural-conference.html</a></p>
<p><b>Sat, Oct 8</b> 8:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m. RSVP by Oct 1</p>	<p><b>God's Plan for Marriage and Sexuality</b> Learn about a mix of reproductive health, theology, etc.! <b>Where:</b> St. Patrick Church – Iowa City 4330 Saint Patrick Drive, <b>Iowa City</b>, IA 52240 <b>More info:</b> <a href="http://www.jcrtl.org/invitation-to-love--gods-plan-for-marriage-and-sexuality.html">http://www.jcrtl.org/invitation-to-love--gods-plan-for-marriage-and-sexuality.html</a></p>
<p><b>Tue, Oct 11</b> 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Tue, Nov 8 Tue, Dec 13 (tentative)</p>	<p><b>CFLI Board Meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays)</b> Get involved in the decisions that guide our organization! <b>Where:</b> St. Patrick's Common Grounds Coffee Shop 120 5th St NW, Cedar Rapids, IA <b>More info:</b> <a href="mailto:coalitionforlife@gmail.com">coalitionforlife@gmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>Tue, Oct 25</b> 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Tue, Nov 22 Tue, Dec 27 (tentative)</p>	<p><b>CFLI Working Meeting (4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays)</b> Get involved in planning the activities for our organization! <b>Where:</b> St. Patrick's Common Grounds Coffee Shop 120 5th St NW, Cedar Rapids, IA <b>More info:</b> <a href="mailto:coalitionforlife@gmail.com">coalitionforlife@gmail.com</a></p>



## Planned Parenthood Handoff

Planned Parenthood of the Heartland spent several years trying to consume many affiliates in the Midwest. At one point they acquired facilities in Oklahoma and Arkansas. It was an unusual move, unless they intended to acquire the affiliates in Missouri and Kansas.

Planned Parenthood was rather fragmented in Missouri compared to similar operations in Iowa. The affiliate to our South has begun similar consolidations. Planned Parenthood of the Heartland will give up all of their operations in Arkansas and Oklahoma to Planned Parenthood of the Great Plains. This will form a 4-state affiliate spanning: Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. It reduces Planned Parenthood of the Heartland to just two states.

This simplifies the geography for Planned Parenthood of the Heartland, since it reduces coverage to just Iowa and Nebraska. The facilities in Nebraska are all within 50 miles of the Iowa border.

These plans have been underway for several months. Early leaks of the handoff make it clear in early summer that such a thing was coming up. This will allow them to remain more focused on Iowa operations. The other states had frequent political struggles for Planned Parenthood.

Each time Planned Parenthood of the Heartland downsizes it reveals their weaknesses. But it also allows them to concentrate more of their focus and resources on the Cedar Rapids facility. We keep stepping up our efforts.

The map at the top of this page shows the entire territory of Planned Parenthood of the Heartland. To show their coverage a few months ago, we would have had to show all of Arkansas and part of Oklahoma in addition to the map above.

The red markers on the map indicate surgical abortion facilities. Yellow markers indicate medical abortion facilities. Blue markers indicate chemical abortion or abortion referral facilities, such as the one in Cedar Rapids.

Planned Parenthood continues to lose facilities in Iowa. Their facility in Dubuque closed earlier this year. But they still get into the schools to promote their agenda, even where they lack facilities.



## Government Update

The elections are coming up in November.

Candidates start to make their final push for votes at this time. They know some people vote early. They also know people pay more attention as election day nears, since voters need to finalize their decisions regarding how they will cast their votes.

Many people have shown dissatisfaction with the choices of presidential candidates. But don't forget to look for sample ballots, which are available online for Linn County starting September 29<sup>th</sup>. A link with more information appears at the bottom of this page.

Once you find out what's on your ballot, don't forget to learn the stances of each candidate! People often overlook the judicial retention candidates on the back. Just like with abortion, an uninformed choice is not a free choice. We speak more and more about converting the culture. Yes, much can be done outside the political realm. But we need to work on all fronts. If pro-life lawmakers are not in place to enact pro-life legislation, it makes other activities much more difficult. We also need to consider if existing lawmakers made pro-life promises they haven't kept. Some candidates claim to be pro-

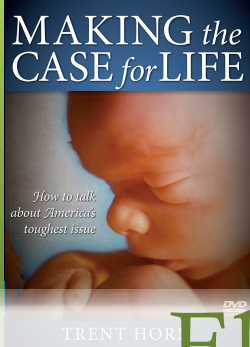
life, but lack follow-through. Also consider how some candidates are pro-life, but they may not articulate the pro-life perspective in a way that's compelling. Some lawmakers have caused setbacks in the pro-life movement simply by saying the wrong thing with regards to the issue or related issues.

Pro-life issues seem to have taken a back seat in this election. If life issues get set aside, you can count on there being more and more abortions in the future. Laws will get even more relaxed than they are today. We can't afford to do nothing. Your vote matters!

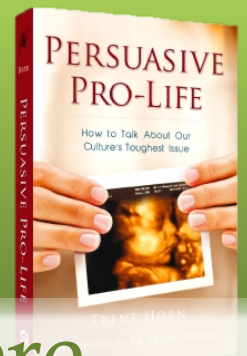
Linn County Election Information:

<http://www.linncounty.org/801/November-8-2016-Presidential-General-Ele>





40 DAYS FOR LIFE™



## Eliminating Abortion Here

Sometimes I find myself thinking about how it might be easier to end abortion in certain parts of the country. It's often easier to point out the splinter in the eyes of others than to deal with the log in our own eyes. It's also easy to sit back and let others do the heavy lifting. But inaction leads to no progress. Be assured that abortion advocates continue to work to promote abortion.

The Coalition for Life of Iowa looks for proven methods of advancing the cause for life. It helps when abortion-related businesses close down. But we need people who are willing to convert the culture. If Planned Parenthood closes but a large demand for abortion remains, our job won't be complete. Planned Parenthood and other abortion businesses usually close when the local culture shifts.

One of the most powerful movements is 40 Days for Life. Praying and fasting for 40 days with a visible,

peaceful presence has closed dozens of facilities.

Many people aren't comfortable talking about abortion, but even fewer people can make a good argument against abortion. Even fewer people can argue in an effective way, aside from the strength of the arguments themselves.

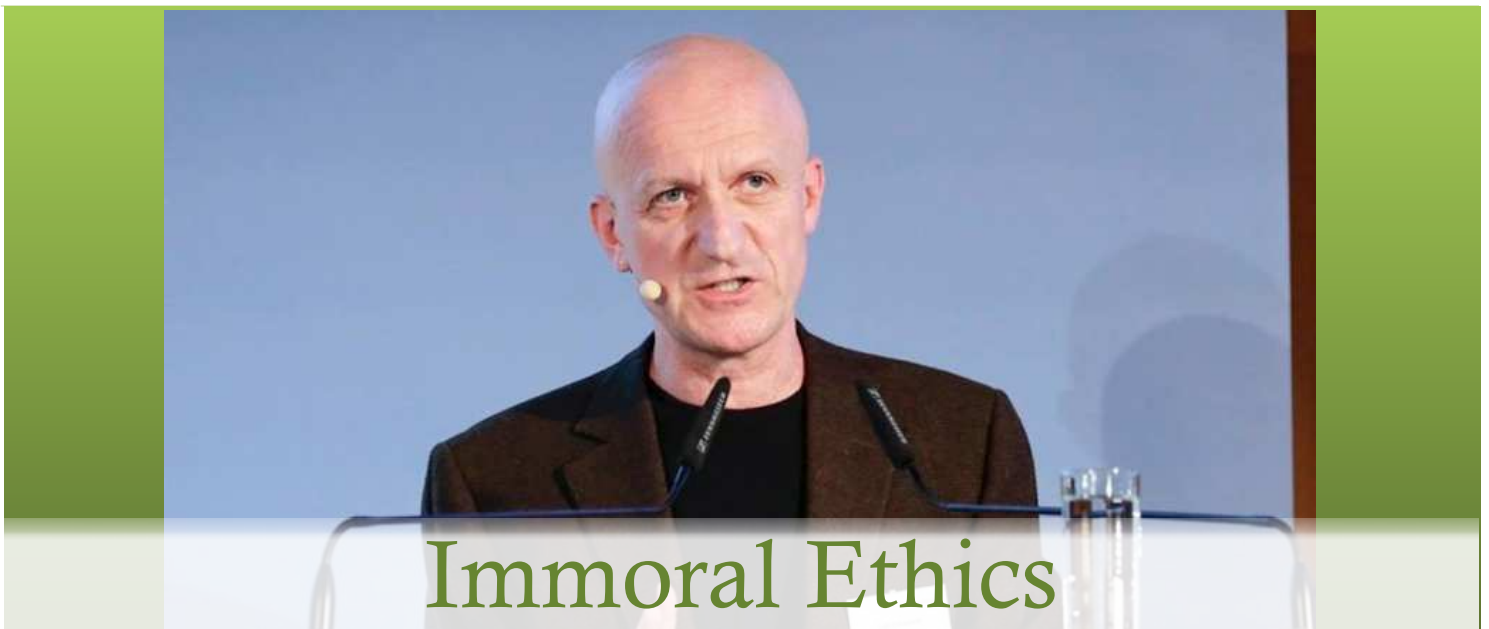
Several of our members have watched the DVD entitled, *Making the Case for Life* by Trent Horn. It provides a rather simple set of approaches to arguing on behalf of life more effectively. A few members have received copies of Trent Horn's book entitled, *Persuasive Pro-Life*. The book dives deeper into the arguments and approaches. These resources communicate what worked best in thousands of conversations on college campuses.

A new online training resource is available. As good as the book and DVD are, they don't address one of the most common arguments. When someone says, "My body, my

choice," they rarely mean what you think they mean. They could mean any of at least four things. You will frustrate or anger people if you don't understand what they mean, and you'll talk past each other if you aren't careful. The online training addresses this argument better than anything else we've encountered.

We will offer more information about the online training at our 40 Days for Life Kick-off Rally on Tuesday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. If you talk to people about abortion regularly, please help us connect you to this very effective training.

Perhaps you aren't comfortable arguing the pro-life view. That's okay. Most people aren't comfortable. But if a situation arises unexpectedly, it helps to learn how to make solid points effectively. If you know how to argue for life, you can play a part in converting the culture. You will get more comfortable with time.



## Immoral Ethics

There is a disturbing trend in the field of ethics. Fortunately there are still a large number of ethicists who affirm moral positions. But two ethicists argue for a ban of doctors' rights to conscientious objection in their recent paper. The ethicists are Udo Schuklenk (pictured above) from Queen's University and Julian Savulescu from Oxford.

They wrote in a September article in *Bioethics*, "Doctors must put patients' interest ahead of their own integrity." Their stance argues that doctors have no right to refuse to provide abortions, contraceptives, or euthanasia on moral grounds when patients request such services. There are a growing number of people pushing for such things, but it's disturbing when ethicists push for them.

Our nation has a long-standing respect for religious liberty and protections of conscience. The military allows conscientious objectors to serve without the expectation of killing. This is depicted in movie called [Hacksaw Ridge](#) that comes out this November.

Let us get back to that statement about the interests of the patients. They seem to suggest that anything a patient requests must be granted. But if a patient requests antibiotics for a viral condition, it's not proper to prescribe antibiotics. Doing so does nothing for the patient, and it increases the chance of antibiotic-resistant bacteria emerging. Some people have disorders that cause them to think they should have limbs amputated for no good reason. Should

doctors be forced to disfigure patients on demand?

There are countless examples that make it clear that people don't always request what's in their best interests. But it is good to seek their best interests. But many people in the medical profession recognize that abortion is not in the best interest of their patients, especially for the children. There are better alternatives to contraception that meet more of the needs of patients. And we should seek ways to treat pain and love people nearing death, rather than killing them.

We cannot retract ourselves from important sectors of society. We need people with a solid moral foundation making decisions and guiding various fields of work and study.

## Pro-Life Challenge



## Participate in 40 Days for Life!

Join us for our 40 Days for Life activities! We can't do it without you. We have more events planned than usual. Stayed tuned for more!



## Invite Friends!

Invite friends and family to any of the many pro-life activities in the month ahead!



## United

40 Days for Life will have prayer campaigns in all 50 states at the same time! They have been in all 50 states, but never at the same time before.

The national team plans to visit each state and have at least one rally per state.

**There will be a rally in Iowa City on Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>!** The event will start at 6:30 p.m.

If you've never heard the national team speak, you really need to check this out. If you have heard them speak, you can come and hear them in person. They are so inspiring!

We are really fortunate that they are coming as near to us as Iowa City. They originally planned to have the event in Des Moines, but they brought it closer to us. Considering the fact that they were coming from South Dakota to get to Iowa, and they were

heading to Nebraska afterwards, it seemed very unlikely that we could get them in Eastern Iowa.

I wish I could convey the energy that the national team projects when they have a rally. It will be a great boost of energy in the middle of our prayer campaign.

The rally will occur in the parking lot of St. Mary's Church, which is located at 228 E. Jefferson Street in Iowa City. More information is available at the link at the bottom of this page.

I hope lots of people can make it from Cedar Rapids. It would be a shame for them to come this far just to have people only show up from Iowa City. Please consider riding together in carpools.

I'll see you on the sidewalk, and hopefully in Iowa City. Let's get this 40 Days for Life off to a great start!

<https://40daysforlife.com/united/iowa>

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

- Tell them about it
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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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