



# Life Matters

Discussing life matters,  
because life matters

October 2017

Editor: Jim Burke

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We welcome newcomers  
to our meetings and  
events

## Busy Season

It's been a busy month, as October often is. Respect Life Month tends to have all sorts of activities hosted by numerous pro-life organizations. We aimed to keep it simple to allow people to attend other events, and to keep the focus on 40 Days for Life.

But we made our members aware of certain other opportunities that arose in the midst of the month. After the 40 Days for Life finale rally, there could be another opportunity to get involved within that same week. But after that, we ramp down for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's. But January gets extremely busy quickly, followed by any of our springtime activities.

Let's finish strong for the 40 Days for Life, get some rest while we (and any of you willing to help) plan for next year's activities, and then come back refreshed in January!

- Jim Burke

# Upcoming Events

<p><b>Second Tuesdays</b> 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.</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>Fourth Tuesdays</b> 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.</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>
<p><b>Sep 27 – Nov 5</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>Sun, Nov 5</b> 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.</p>	<p><b>40 Days for Life Finale Rally</b> Join us to conclude our 40 days of prayer and fasting! <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>~ 2018 ~</p>	
<p><b>January 21</b> (tentative)</p>	<p><b>Cedar Rapids March for Life</b></p>
<p><b>January 19</b> (Trip Jan 17 – 21)</p>	<p><b>National March for Life (March is Jan 19)</b> Deadline is November 1<sup>st</sup></p>



## Peaceful & Reasoned Approaches

The pro-life movement has spent many years trying to get people at the grassroots...at the personal level to learn how to effectively communicate the pro-life position. We recognize both good and tragic situations and their outcomes. But we also make sure we approach an argument peacefully, and with good reasoning. It brings people to mutual understanding, whether or not they ever agree fully on a matter.

As we watch the trends in our country, we see people trying to express their views on other matters in ways that are not only ineffective, but also damaging. We've seen riots resulting from court rulings. We've seen people vandalize statues that are by their nature inanimate, and thus couldn't harm anyone physically if left standing. People who oppose pro-lifers increasingly shout to drown out the voices, even

when the person speaking is a woman who had an abortion. They often chant catchy phrases that require little thought.

It makes it clear that they fear the truth pro-lifers speak. If they spout off such phrases, they also focus the minds of their supporters on synchronizing with them. They are far less likely to hear the truth, even if they aren't very solid in their views. They tend to stop when truth goes silent.

Now there are groups who wear black and hide their identities. They are more common in headlines and larger cities. We don't tend to find them around here. They seek total chaos. If people like this ever appear outside PP, they'd be fools, because no one would want to make PP look like a place of riots and violence, nor do people like

when police are present.

But this sad approach involves going up to people and trying to provoke peaceful people to react in any physical way. At that point, they feel justified in committing any level of violence. They hate to be photographed or recorded on video. The best approach, which we don't believe should ever be needed here is to call 911 and describe the situation while they are at a distance. If possible, covertly take photos/video, but walk away before they get anywhere near you. Take the most direct path to your vehicle.

40 Days for Life stresses peace. Pro-life apologists stress peace, compassion, and reason. It's one of many things I love about being part of the pro-life movement.



## Government Update

### **Abortion Law Upheld**

The 72-hour waiting period has been upheld in court. Planned Parenthood plans to appeal further. The ruling focused on the constitutionality of the law. Most states now have waiting periods ranging from 18 to 72 hours. It would have been surprising if it had turned out any other way.

### **No Longer a Navigator**

The federal government greatly reduced the compensation for health care navigators, which are the businesses and organizations that help people find health care insurance using the state

exchanges. Planned Parenthood was the largest navigator in Iowa. Like the many other things they claim they do for the good of others, they discontinued being a navigator promptly upon being informed of the decrease in compensation.

### **PP Funding**

The federal government continues to fund Planned Parenthood, regardless of the massive Medicaid fraud and other concerns. Within Iowa the state discontinued funding abortion providers when it comes to reproductive health back in July. But they still receive funds to spread their form of sexual education.

### **Communicate**

This is a great time of year to contact lawmakers about issues that matter to you.

The Iowa legislative session doesn't begin until January. Lawmakers get more mail, calls, and other forms of communication during the session.

Lawmakers who approve laws you approve of often don't hear from their supporters and mostly hear from their opposition.

They remain active throughout the year. But this is the time of year your messages could have greater influence.

At the federal level, they work year-round, with a few weeks off here and there. Anytime is good.



## Stewardship & Activism

Some people think of stewardship as another name for fundraising. But it's a way of life. When recognizing the blessings we have received, we give back and make use of our gifts. I prefer to talk about stewardship when we don't have urgent needs, since it goes beyond us. Although we could always use funds and volunteers, it looks like we may have a candidate for our open board position. So it seems like a good time to promote stewardship.

When I considered the causes I like to support, two of the top three categories of causes (pro-life and education) aligned with the work of the Coalition for Life of Iowa.

The pro-life movement in particular is of interest. It's a cause where people can save lives without great risk

to one's own life or significant medical training. Matters of life and death also lead to moral and legal issues. And it's so easy to twist logic to justify death.

But what did I have to offer?

One of the easier things to consider was financial. One can give money and the board of directors determines how best to use the funds received to accomplish the mission of the organization. So I have given money at times.

Assessing one's spiritual gifts doesn't take long, and I had done that before. It helped me identify ways to use my gifts. This newsletter is one of the primary ways I use those gifts. But I'm also capable of doing many other things.

For instance, I've been able to lead 40 Days for Life for several years. Some aspects

of it energize me the way writing the newsletter energizes me. But some aspects of it are not as in line with my gifts and drain my energy.

I love to see people use their gifts in ways that lead to fulfilling and meaningful lives. It's also rewarding to help people meet needs where there are significant needs.

Although the pro-life movement has great needs and is a worthy cause, I hope everyone finds what fulfills them. Nothing is as rewarding or energizing for me than when I use my gifts and time to achieve good results in causes that matter.

We could always use additional help and money. But find what fulfills you. If it's the pro-life movement, please contact us about it.



## 40 Days for Life

40 Days for Life is nearing the end. We will have our closing/finale rally on Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup> starting at 5 p.m. outside of the Cedar Rapids Planned Parenthood.

The weather has dropped and the wind has increased as it always does during the fall 40 Days for Life. It's easy to stand for life when the weather is nice. People take the most notice when they see us out there when the weather is not nice. Let's finish strong! Can everyone take an extra one-hour time slot in the final week?

After writing the article about stewardship, I considered the things I'm able to do for the pro-life movement that energize me and yield good results. I've hoped to have someone

replace me as the leader of 40 Days for Life for a few years. During the past week or two, it became clear to me that I need to step aside as the leader of the local 40 Days for Life.

If someone steps up to lead the next 40 Days for Life in the next few weeks, then we can continue it in both spring and fall. If not, then we may miss the deadline for being an official campaign. If that happens, people could still pray and fast for the 40 days during Lent, but it wouldn't be a nationally recognized site, and we wouldn't have some of the resources that the national team make available to help make it a success.

It's been a wonderful experience. But I find my

gifts in writing and educating people. Leading 40 Days for Life has energized me in some ways, but it can take up enough of my energy that I don't always find myself able to put enough into the newsletter and other activities the Coalition for Life could be doing.

I also prefer to do things that help others more than doing things on my own. So oddly enough, if someone else steps up to leading that needs lots of help, it's quite possible I might put more time and energy into 40 Days for Life than I do today, because I'd be in that supportive role that I love.

Please consider helping us out. Regardless, I hope to see you at the finale rally!

## Pro-Life Challenge

### VOLUNTEER



### Help us out!

The pro-life movement is experiencing greater success than we've seen in the past several decades. But with success comes an even greater need for help. Please help us build a culture of life!  
Volunteer!



### Invite Friends!

Invite friends and family to attend our events. Invite them to help us out. There are many needs. The harvest is plenty; harvesters are few. Many hands make for light work!



## March for Life

The annual marches for life occur in January. But if you are interested in attending the National March for Life, you should try to register by November 1<sup>st</sup>. After that, seats on the bus and rooms in the hotel are only available until they run out.

Iowans for Life has more [information on their site](#) and online registration. They depart two days before the national march, and get back two days after it. The bus leaves from various places in Iowa, including Cedar Rapids in the latter part of the day. The bus rides through the night to reach Washington D.C. by Thursday afternoon. It makes occasional stops on the way out and back.

There are opportunities to

have some free time and/or worship in the afternoon and evening.

The next morning is Friday January 19<sup>th</sup>, which is the day of the march this year. The march fills the late morning and early afternoon. People on the march typically visit with lawmakers after the march and hear messages from them. After that, there's more free time in our nation's capitol. Many people choose to enjoy a night tour of the monuments on the national mall.

The day after the march is a free day. Students and many adults tend to go to the National Holocaust Museum in the morning. They split up in the afternoon. Then board the bus back before evening.

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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!**

Request electronic copies by email: [coalitionforlife@gmail.com](mailto:coalitionforlife@gmail.com)

Coalition for Life of Iowa

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