



# Life Matters

Discussing life matters,  
because life matters

November 2017

Editor: Jim Burke

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We welcome newcomers  
to our meetings and  
events

## Times of Change

We welcome Jean Biermann to our board of directors. She's been active in our organization, and we were excited to see her join our board.

It's great to see people step up to help the pro-life cause. If you are interested in helping with the spring 40 Days for Life campaign, please let us know. We have someone willing to lead it, but as we all know, it helps to have people supporting our leaders.

We recognize how busy people get during the holidays. Take some time to relax, spend time with family and friends, and remember what's important. We take a break from pre-planned activities through the rest of this year. We are making plans for the months ahead, though.

- Jim Burke

# Upcoming Events

<b>Second Tuesdays</b> 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	<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>
<b>Fourth Tuesdays</b> 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	<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>
<b>Holidays</b>	Enjoy the holidays! Merry Christmas!
~ 2018 ~	
<b>January 21</b>	Cedar Rapids March for Life
<b>January</b>	National March for Life (March is Jan 19)



## Avoid Spiteful Giving

The Bible speaks about giving in several places. 2 Cor 9:6-7 says, “Consider this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

There’s been a growing trend to engage in bitter giving, and I don’t like it. When the abortion industry wanted to discourage pro-lifers from picketing outside the abortion facilities, they started Pledge a Picketer programs. They mostly shifted the timing of when people gave, and didn’t really change the levels of giving much, if at all.

We have seen a bit of this locally. At least 2-3 women have historically gone in on multiple occasions, then would announce to us that they donate whenever they see us. Whether they just go through the motions or actually give, we again don’t believe Planned Parenthood gets much more money, if any, as a result.

Mila Kunis drew attention lately when she admitted to giving to Planned Parenthood using automated payments on a monthly basis in the name of Vice President Mike Pence.

In all of these cases, people are giving in the name of someone they know opposes

the cause or are using their giving to try to intimidate others. This is NOT charity.

I’ve seen reaction to Mila’s donations. Some people are boycotting Jack Daniel’s Whiskey because of Mila’s significant involvement in ads and promotion of their products. But I’ve also seen pro-lifers suggest donating to pro-life organizations in Mila’s name. I discourage this. One can give as one sees greater needs or to further build momentum. But trying to convince someone to stop giving to a bad cause or to change their views, communicate more directly.

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## Government Update: California

California is drawing some attention this month.

Multiple legal battles are ensuing.

After the federal government updated the guidelines and rules for health insurance, the Little Sisters of the Poor were exempted from being forced to pay for contraceptive health insurance. But the states of California and Pennsylvania are suing to force them to pay for what is no longer required by the federal government, for what goes against their conscience/ religion/ morals, and for what they should not even need.

California is also fighting to make sure that pregnancy resource centers

will have to meet their state law requiring them to promote abortion providers. They have to make it clear that abortion and similar things are available for little to no cost. They are given phone numbers to get more information.

I've often likened this to having people who work at a suicide hotline have to provide a list of ways to kill oneself, and possibly even include a map to nearby bridges or tall buildings.

The government cannot compel people to say things they don't believe.

Organizations trying to protect life should not have to become abortion referral centers.

People used to debate serious issues. But as time

has gone on, some people try to silence others. This led to people being surprised when militant groups or groups that opposed what is thought to be public consensus on various matters. By feeling intimidated to speak freely, people they remain silent publicly, but not privately. Evil goes underground.

Things grew worse when reporting on controversial matters either ignored views the media opposed or they twisted stories to say the opposite. Now, laws try to compel people to do evil, or inflict punishments that ruin lives and prevent good people from doing good in the world. We need free speech!



## Studies and Statistics

Studies and statistics can provide great insights into things, but they can also mislead people in many ways. It's critically important to use reputable sources of unbiased data, and to interpret the data fairly.

We live in a world where many studies find benefits to things we assumed were not healthy for us...only to find out many years later that the studies were funded by the industries that made those products. It's easy to accept studies that support our point of view or studies that make what we do look good or beneficial.

Someone who lives near Planned Parenthood and is supportive of them was present at one of our events this fall. The most recent newsletter we published before the event provided contradictory evidence to what was on his sign.

I pointed that out to a few of our members. I did say it close enough to him and at a volume that was loud enough that I believe he heard what I was saying. I wasn't in the best mood to interact directly with him, and this was not the best way to address the situation.

After the event, he talked to me for a short time. I mostly listened. He acknowledged the good conversations he has had with Ron in the past. He pointed out how he doesn't like how so many vehicles park on his street when we have events outside of Planned Parenthood. He wished we would carpool. He also acknowledged the times he saw me bike there instead of driving, which he appreciated. It was nice to see some attempts to connect, which we really try to encourage among our own members.

When I indicated that there

were studies that countered his claims, he pointed out that the studies tend to depend on who funded them. I'm not sure if he knows anything about the UK study that I mentioned and cited in a recent newsletter. But he pointed out the obvious point that it wasn't a study in the US, and he rattled off a few states where he believes things have gotten worse as state governments scaled back programs that benefitted the abortion industry.

I believe the UK study is one of the best studies on the effects of comprehensive sex ed on abortion rates. But what he pointed out is also one of the driving arguments behind Planned Parenthood when they fight for things pro-lifers tend to oppose. The problems that arise from changes in policies, if ignored or downplayed can make us

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## Studies and Statistics (Continued)

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appear uncaring, no matter how much we care about people and their best interests.

Regarding the UK study, it was the largest study on the matter. It used data spanning many years. It was also easier to isolate regional differences, because each school system could choose whether to continue the sex ed programs or to discontinue them. In the US, we tend to have changes at the state and federal level, and there are interactions between enough factors that it becomes difficult to isolate results to the extent the UK study was able. If rates in a broad region went down for some other reason, it would affect multiple school systems. As a result, even the control data would drop in rate. Since that didn't happen, and the rates

dropped so dramatically in the school systems that discontinued comprehensive sex ed, the study makes clear something that's very hard to isolate in the US.

What about the counter-claims? For one, my primary argument was focused on education, rather than access. His sign mentioned both, and "access" was vague. It could mean access to abortion, contraception, the services Planned Parenthood provides, or Planned Parenthood itself. I did not ask for clarification before the conversation ended.

I believe the counter-claims address the short-term effects that result from changes in access to the provider of reproductive services. Some people don't

seek other providers right away. Some people's mindset doesn't change fast enough to avoid unanticipated challenges, and thus there are often short-term difficulties that diminish with time.

It's often wise to figure out how best to avoid those problems before they happen to smooth the transition. The studies offer good data that should be considered in the future.

We may consider showing the Hush documentary in the future. Three people created it. One was pro-life, one was pro-choice, and one was undecided. They looked into the claims that abortion leads to increased risk of breast cancer, premature birth, and psychological effects. It's quite eye opening.

## 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 brings 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!



## Spiteful Giving (Cont'd)

Continued from page 3

While our members prayed outside of the Auction for Access at Temple Judah back in October, a woman going in counted us. At the time there were only seven of us outside. She concluded her counting by saying that she will give \$35 more than she would have otherwise given because of our presence.

I had no intention of preaching about joyful giving instead of spiteful giving. But it did cause me to reflect a little on what just happened. Keep in mind that the fundraiser is not for Planned Parenthood to perform non-abortion services, but for abortion providers to provide abortions.

Although I recognize that the

woman may not have had as much to give, it was disturbing that she only valued each of us enough to donate \$5 per person. She didn't seem to place much value on us. But then I recognized the way the abortion industry undervalues life. I also wasn't going to shout out my concern about how little they valued us. We weren't there to harass. But she did not see the larger number of people we had onsite earlier, nor did she see the many people that were praying at an offsite location.

We are entering a season known for giving. Don't let people anger you while shopping for Christmas. Don't donate in the names of opponents. Please give joyfully from your heart.

**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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