



Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

June 2018

Editor: Jim Burke

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We welcome newcomers
to our meetings and
events

So Much Going On!

So much happened in the past month or two that I almost wrote a very large newsletter last month. But I realized I was better off trying to figure out what all I wanted to write about and then prioritize them across May and June issues of the newsletter.

It led to this month's newsletter coming out much earlier than usual. This is closer to the time of month I'd prefer to get newsletters out, though. I already have tons to put into the July newsletter.

The same week this newsletter comes out, there are political primaries. Such elections are important. Read page 7 for more about that subject.

- Jim Burke

Upcoming Events



Father's Day Family Bike Ride

Sunday June 17 2 PM - 5 PM

Cedar Lake Trail

Free Food and Water by Pavilion on Shaver Rd.



Sponsored by Coalition for Life of Iowa

HUMANAE VITAE

50th Anniversary



Archdiocese of Dubuque Celebration & Dinner

Sunday, July 22, 2018 – 5:00-7:30 PM

St. Pius X Catholic Church – Cedar Rapids

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Janet E. Smith

Second Tuesdays
7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

CFLI Board Meeting (2nd Tuesdays)

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

Fourth Tuesdays
7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

CFLI Working Meeting (4th Tuesdays)

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

Sun, Jun 17
2 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Father's Day Bike Ride

Go biking with your dad or husband! Bring the family!

Where: Pavilion on Shaver Road near Cedar Lake

Cedar Rapids, IA

More info: http://lifeiowa.org/Fathers_Day.html

Sun, Jul 22
5 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Humanae Vitae 50th Anniversary

Learn beautiful teachings about marriage and sexuality from experts!

Learn of accurate predictions of what results when society ignores it.

Where: St. Pius X Catholic Church

4949 Council St NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

More info: <http://www.dbqarch.org/humanae-vitae>



Arkansas Law Upheld

On May 29th, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear an appeal of the Arkansas law that effectively prohibited medication (but not surgical) abortions. Planned Parenthood fought hard to prevent the 2015 law from taking effect. But the Supreme Court's declining of the case means the district court's ruling to uphold the law stands.

The map at the top of this page shows Planned Parenthood sites and abortion providers. Yellow indicates medication abortion facilities run by Planned Parenthood. Red indicates surgical abortion Planned Parenthood sites. Orange indicates abortion providers other than Planned Parenthood. There have been three abortion providers in Arkansas, but two only provide the medication abortions that are now illegal.

Planned Parenthood had much to lose here. They operate the two facilities that won't be allowed to perform medication abortions, and they don't operate the only other facility. So this pushes Planned Parenthood out of the abortion business in Arkansas, unless they expand their services.

In their appeal, they tried to point out how this law reduces the abortion providers to a single site. They thought that was an undue burden, since that approach worked to undermine a Texas law. But Arkansas is smaller, and there are several states now that only have one facility where abortions are available. This one is centrally located in the state, and there are abortion providers just across the state borders, such as in Memphis, TN.

The Supreme Court's rejection of the case was noteworthy, since none of the justices indicated interest in hearing the case. This makes it less likely future cases will try to build from the Texas claim of an undue burden.

Facilities in Arkansas had been part of Planned Parenthood of the Heartland for a few years. But they were spun off a few years ago and merged with Planned Parenthood of the Great Plains. That affiliate spans Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and parts of Missouri.

So what had been Planned Parenthood of the Heartland continues to experience major strain in their struggle to survive. It's as if Planned Parenthood is being aborted little by little.



Government Update: Federal PP Funds

President Trump authorized states to prohibit the use of Title X funds for abortion providers. This would include Planned Parenthood. But it is left up to the states. Iowa already created their own state-run program last year that prevents funding abortion providers. So this doesn't affect Iowa directly. Iowa was just ahead of the nation. Since the federal program rules can change from one administration to the next, Iowa may be better positioned than the rest of the nation to prevent a rapid reversal of this policy.

Nebraska is working to remove such funding. We often care about what happens in Nebraska, since it's paired with Iowa in the Planned Parenthood of the Heartland affiliate.

As an article later in this newsletter points out, we've grown more interested in what happens in Minnesota and the Dakotas.

North Dakota has one abortion provider, and it's not Planned Parenthood. South Dakota has only one abortion provider that is Planned Parenthood. Minnesota has several abortion providers throughout the state. Their governor supports policies that benefit abortion providers. So they will probably remain unaffected by this policy change, at least in the near future.

Pro-lifers have waited for a long time for the U.S. Senate and U.S. House to officially prohibit funds to abortion providers and those who refer for abortions. But such bills have not passed Congress.

There are some things the President can do when it comes to matters like this. It's best to allow the normal legislative process to occur. When that fails, that's when executive action tends to occur. After more than a year of the current administration seeing no results from the legislative branch, action was taken.

Several states will benefit from this action. But we should always strive to approach issues from a variety of angles. Laws make a huge difference. Executive orders make a difference that's often of shorter duration. But it's the grassroots efforts of pregnancy resource centers and of people standing up for life that helps make a lasting movement in the pro-life direction.



THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

University of Iowa's Accreditation

One of the disturbing aspects of the debate regarding Iowa's heartbeat law involved the University of Iowa (UI). Claims were made that UI OB-GYN residency would lose their accreditation if they couldn't perform abortions. I even heard this confirmed by one of my lawmakers when I contacted him in support of the bill. I wished he wasn't so gullible and had listened to the counter-argument in the debate.

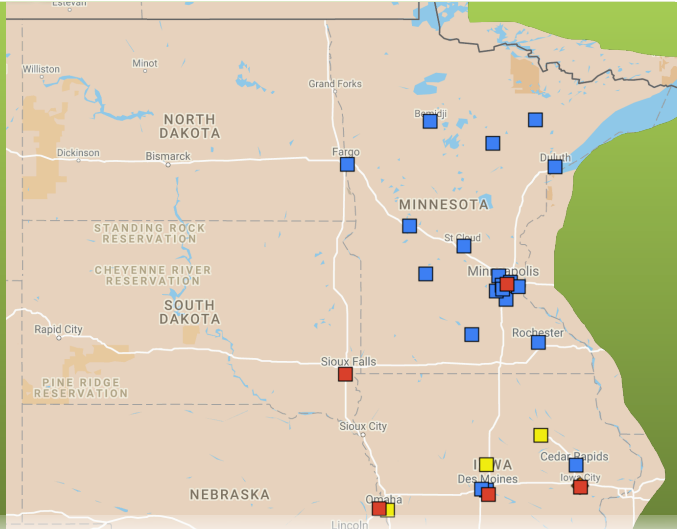
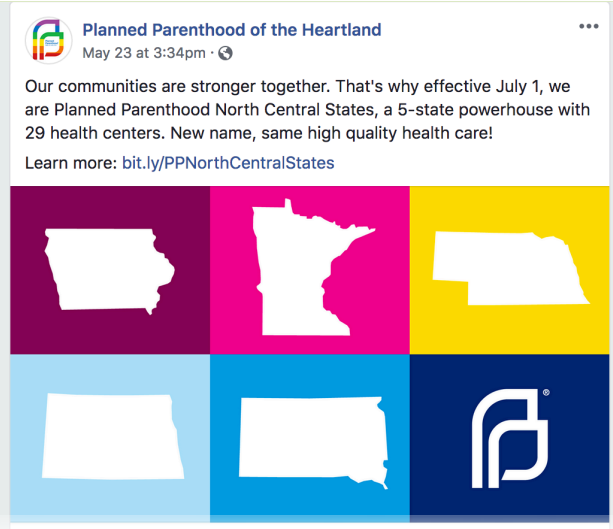
During the floor debate on the bill, this matter was addressed in at least two ways. One cited examples of accredited universities who do not perform abortions, thus proving it's possible. The other stepped through the accreditation requirements, including the options available.

The examples of other universities focused on Catholic universities and colleges. Knowing the Catholic stance on abortion, people should recognize that the universities identified do not provide abortions. Enough reputable institutions were listed that it proved by example that the UI's concerns were invalid.

If anyone still wanted to trust the UI claims, then it was important to understand what was required to achieve or maintain accreditation. There are a list of things the university needs to teach/do. But rather than requiring 100% of the items on the list to be achieved, a smaller percentage that's still a majority of the items must be fulfilled in order to receive accreditation. This is how so many other universities received their accreditation.

So anyone who heard the claims from the UI and listened to both sides of the debate with an open mind should have recognized that there was no concern for the UI program. But what's really troubling is the claim made by UI staff.

If the process of maintaining accreditation allows a university to avoid being involved with direct abortions, one would expect the people who run such programs to know this. If they knew and claimed they needed to perform direct abortions, then they are lying about a grave matter involving both public policy and ethics. But if they didn't know they could avoid abortions, then there was ignorance about the options. Ignorance is usually better than lying, but not for educational institutions.



Planned Parenthood Merger

Planned Parenthood of the Heartland (PPH) recently announced their plans to merge with Planned Parenthood Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota. At first it sounded like they would merge this fall. But now it's clear they will merge by the start of July. The new name of the affiliate that will span five states is: Planned Parenthood North Central States.

This news shows the relative weakness in the PPH affiliate. The legislative actions in both Iowa and Nebraska have seriously strained PPH. The non-profit organization is starved of most government funding now, and needs to depend on payments from clients and donations from their supporters (the way most non-profits work).

They spared themselves similar hardship by spinning off the Arkansas affiliate, as mentioned in a separate article. But they may have had to close a few more facilities without this merger.

The merger wasn't a total surprise. The current head of PPH used to have a position with the affiliate in MN. There have also been a significant number of things going on internally to the PPH affiliate that involved people from the MN affiliate. They even used people in MN to handle some of their financial matters in recent years. Throughout the years, we try to learn what we can from people on the inside and make the best observations we can with the information we gather.

Although it seems like PPH is on the decline, this merger was arranged in order to strengthen

them and make them viable as a business. The new affiliate will operate out of Minneapolis. They aren't dumb. They use telemedicine in ways that has helped them keep facilities open just one or two days a week for a total of 6-12 hours per week.

Around the time the undercover videos came out in 2015, the MN affiliate stashed away nearly \$50 million into a tightly associated non-profit fund. The returns from investments are paid back to Planned Parenthood. It's as if they thought they were going to be sued for all they were worth, and needed to keep some money hidden away for tough times.

I personally reached out to a pro-life leader in MN several months ago, recognizing the need to strengthen efforts where it can be the most useful. I see great potential ahead. It helps to be strategic and plan ahead.

Pro-Life Challenge



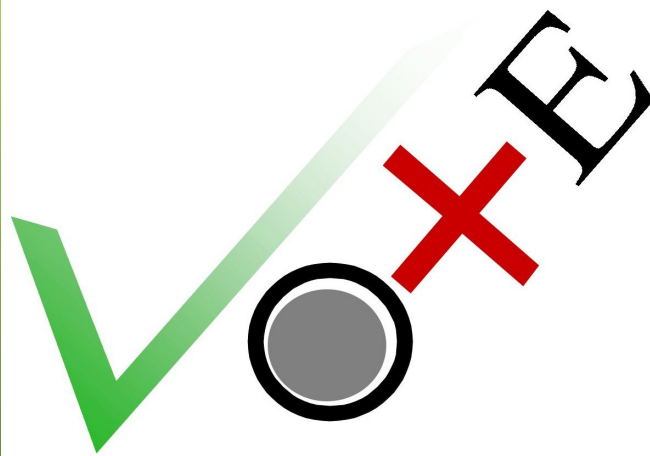
Help us out!

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!



Primary Elections

Iowa's primary elections take place this Tuesday, June 5th. The results determine who will be on ballots in November.

Some people think of some pro-lifers as single-issue voters. But few people think of themselves that way. It becomes the most obvious when more than one candidate is pro-life. When that happens, we look at the other issues and weigh them according to our individual perspectives.

Rather than single-issue voting, it seems like the more accurate way to view it is to say we disqualify candidates from receiving our vote if they support intrinsic evils like abortion.

After disqualifying candidates who support such evils, there is often only one candidate

remaining. Sometimes there are none, and in some rare cases, there are more than one. But with most instances involving just one, that is what leads people to assume we are single-issue voters.

Political parties may have differences in their platforms. But candidates don't always align perfectly with their parties. Even the [votes on the Heartbeat and Fetal Body Parts bill](#) didn't split perfectly on party lines, even among lawmakers who represent Linn County.

It's important to do your homework before any vote. Don't wait until the ballot is in your hand. If candidates failed to oppose abortion or supported it in some way, it's good to find out why. We don't endorse candidates. But we encourage you to take part in your civic duty.

CFLI Board

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Jim Burke (Vice President)
Mary Cherion
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Tim Mason (President)
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Bonnie Yount (Secretary)
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- 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

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