



Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

November 2018

Editor: Jim Burke

Contents

- Page 2 Upcoming Events
- Page 3 A Day to Give
- Page 4 Government Update:
Elections
- Page 5 #2 PP Executive
Leaves
- Page 6 40 Days for Life
- Page 7 Love Will End
Abortion

We welcome newcomers
to our meetings and
events

Grateful & Thankful

We are so grateful for the people who have turned out in defense of life this year! We saw so many of you at the National Life Chain and 40 Days for Life.

We are grateful to see a few new faces at our last board meeting. We see some really positive things that could result from the additional help.

We are grateful for the significant decline in abortions nationally, across the state, and especially in Linn County. We've seen a nearly 60% drop in abortions in the past decade.

We are grateful for the way the Gosnell movie has brought many people to the pro-life stance, and eagerly look forward to the 40 Days for Life movie coming out in March!

We are grateful for all of you who stand up for life and support us in any way!

- Coalition for Life of Iowa's Board of Directors

Upcoming Events

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
Sat, Dec 8 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.	Pray for Life Saturdays Kick-off Pray for the total victory of the culture of life over the culture of death! Where: Sidewalk outside Planned Parenthood 3425 First Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA More info: coalitionforlife@gmail.com or the Facebook Event
Wed, Dec 12 All Day	Coalition for Life ~ Day of Giving Help fund life-saving and life-affirming programs! Where: Online or mail donations to: P.O. Box 864, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406 To Donate: https://squareup.com/store/coalition-for-life-of-iowa
~ 2019 ~	
Fri, Jan 18	National March for Life
Sun, Jan 20 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. (plus other activities)	Cedar Rapids March for Life Bring the pro-life message to Cedar Rapids this January! Where: St. Matthew's Church to Planned Parenthood and back 2310 First Ave NE to 3425 First Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA More info: http://lifeiowa.org/March_for_Life.html

A Day to Give: Wed, Dec. 12

It's that time of year when non-profit organizations often ask for financial donations. We have traditionally gotten by from the generosity of our members giving through free will donations at some of our events. Those freewill donations often cover the cost of the events as we go along.

Making enough to get by allows us to do quite a bit. But more money will allow us to do much more. We made special appeals to secure funding for the pro-life billboards, which have been credited in saving lives in many places where billboards have been used throughout the country.

We've seen the number of abortions here drop by nearly **60%** in the past decade thanks to your help. We know there are many other things that can help reduce abortions and convert the culture on the issue of abortion. And there are other pro-life topics to educate people about to prevent having issues from becoming as big of a problem as abortion—topics like assisted suicide or euthanasia.

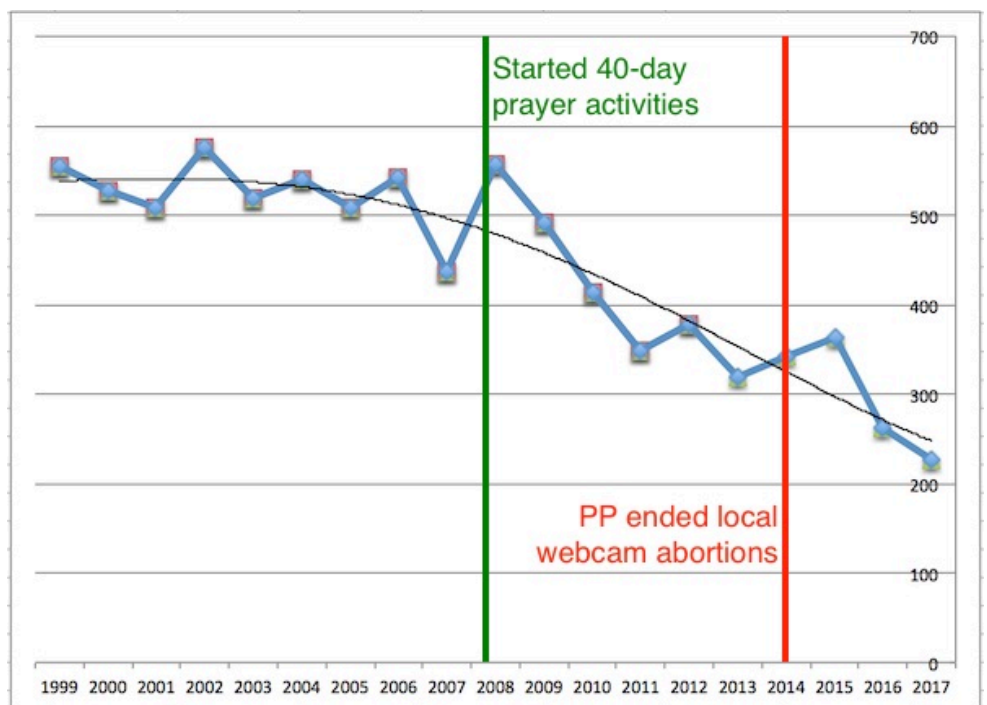
On **Wednesday, December 12**, we will offer you a chance to help us in our **Day of Giving**.

I'm personally very selective in the causes I support. But I also see the value in giving charitably. My journey of giving has led me to support the pro-life cause more than most, and the Coalition for Life of Iowa in particular. One of the next steps I see in my journey of giving is to give beyond what is comfortable. One of the best ways I know to do that is to offer a matching donation. I know matching

donations encourage others to give that might not have otherwise given; and matches challenge people to give more. But for the person giving the match, it puts the decision of the amount I will give into YOUR hands. Don't be afraid of giving any amount.

Help us save lives. Help us reveal the value of each human life. I'd love to see how much money we can raise! The more we raise, the more we can do to convert the culture on life matters!

Linn County Abortions per Year





Government Update: Elections

Federal Government

This year's election included the open seats in the Senate and all of the House seats in the federal government. Roughly 1/3 of the seats in the Senate are up for election every two years, since the terms last six years. Iowa's Senate seats were not up for a vote in this election this time. It was a mid-term election, so the office of President was not up for election.

The Senate experienced some victories for the pro-life movement, which provided what is seen as a pro-life majority. The Senate lacked this, despite having a Republican majority, since two Republicans tended to vote against the pro-life position on most bills. This will make it easier to get good judges appointed to the many openings in the courts.

The House had passed several pro-life bills in the last few years, but the bills kept getting held up in the Senate. So it was great to see the Senate gain a pro-life majority. However, the House lost its pro-life majority. Iowa flipped from 3-1 favoring life to 1-3, which is disheartening. It will be hard to pass pro-life bills.

Losing the House could be the best option long-term. The House members are up for election every two years. So these losses aren't as long lasting. If there was one party or ideology in control of the Presidency, Senate, House, and presumably the Supreme Court, then the next election would have almost certainly flipped in an unfavorable way. But with a House in contention with the Senate, it creates a balance that should make the next election better.

Iowa Government

The news at the state level is great. It appears there remains a pro-life majority in the state house and senate. Linn County continues to lack much pro-life representation, however. The only pro-life candidates who were elected were running for re-election; so no new gains were made in Linn County.

The Governor was re-elected, which kept a strong pro-life leader in that office, while keeping out a former Chairman of the Board of Planned Parenthood. This should prevent any legislative attempts to reverse previously passed pro-life legislation from happening.

So we saw mixed results. But overall, it looks better for the pro-life cause than some people feared.



#2 PP Executive Leaves

Earlier this year, we reported on the resignation of Planned Parenthood's CEO Cecile Richards. It took them months to find a replacement for her. She had built Planned Parenthood (PP) into a moneymaking machine. But scandal and legal issues plagued PP by the end of her time there. The timing of her departure made it look like she didn't want to be at the head of an organization during the time it might lose legal cases that revealed the terrible

things PP does. It would have looked worse if multiple top people left at the same time. It's also harder to fill multiple vacancies at the same time.

We know PP filled her spot as CEO two months ago. Apparently that's the right amount of time to leave between the filling of the CEO position and the resignation of PP's number two in command, Dawn Laguens.

Dawn has served as their executive vice president

and chief brand officer. Planned Parenthood continues to face some major challenges. But to see their top two executives resign in such rapid succession is very telling.

It's not clear how long it will take to replace Dawn. It's also not clear who might resign next. Who would step into such roles for a business that has such potentially career destroying circumstances plaguing it?



40 Days for Life

We wrapped up our fall 40 Days for Life campaign. We loved seeing some new faces out there this fall. We are always trying to reach new people to get them involved. We know it's hard to change the culture if we just had half a dozen people out there.

We plan to reach out to many more churches in the year ahead to get many more involved. We hope to grow the effects of our prayers, and bring more people into this effort that really does build us in the virtue of fortitude (courage).

So many people are afraid to pray on the sidewalks. Some people fear what others might think of them if they are recognized. Some people fear what happens if they are asked

questions and don't have the right answers. Fear gets in the way for many people. But God tells us "be not afraid!" We are grateful for those of you who join us in such a public way and grow in courage. But we need more people out there praying to have a real effect!

But we also have several people who pray offsite in churches and homes. Some people can't pray onsite because of their health, physical condition, or because they volunteer at pregnancy resource centers that know they are more effective if they aren't seen at abortion providers or Planned Parenthood.

We had an amazing turnout at our Finale Rally. We focused on prayer and then shared a meal together. We didn't take

much time to speak or give announcements. During our final hour of prayer, people kept showing up. We love seeing so many faces of those who stand up for life and commit some of their time and prayers for such a worthy cause.

We know prayer makes a difference. Share your experiences with others and invite them to join us in March, when we start up again. Or come pray during the winter. Some people pray year-round, and your efforts are really appreciated. 40 Days for Life is great when introducing people to pro-life advocacy, but we can always do more. Thanks for what all of you have accomplished!

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!

LOVE WILL END ABORTION

Love Will End Abortion

Many people listen to podcasts, and there are some great pro-life podcasts out there. I hope to draw focus to other podcasts I like even more than this one in the next few months.

This month's podcast is called "**Love Will End Abortion**". It's based out of Rochester, New York. Many resources come from Catholics, and this is one that often begins with prayers that are very Catholic in nature. Most of our members are Catholic or don't allow religion to divide us. But I want people to know if they aren't comfortable with certain religious content, I want it stated up front.

This podcast has some great guests and addresses topics some of the others don't dig into very much.

There is a particular episode that caught my ear after this year's National Right to Life Convention. The host included the audio from a speaker at the event that has a rather amazing story. The link at the bottom of this page brings you to that episode, and the story starts around time mark 24:45.

The story is yet another that helps us realize that even the people who do some very evil things also do some good things. We should never demonize people or assume there is no good in a person. I will let him tell the story, though.

I first heard of the speaker who spoke in Iowa City about Bernard Nathanson through this podcast. I prefer others, but I never miss an episode.

<http://lovewillendabortion.com/dan-compton-pro-life-witness/>

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