



# Life Matters

Discussing life matters,  
because life matters

December 2018

Editor: Jim Burke

## Contents

- Page 2 Upcoming Events
- Page 3 Year in Review
- Page 4 Government Update:  
Upcoming Session
- Page 5 “Reversing Roe”
- Page 6 Genetically Modified  
Babies in China?
- Page 7 40 Days for Life  
Podcast

We welcome newcomers  
to our meetings and  
events

## The End of Another Year

We are grateful for all of you who stand up for life and support us in any way! Another year is coming to a close, and another year is about to begin.

Thanks for the financial contributions. We’ve raised more in our end-of-year financial appeal than we ever have in the past.

We’ve had an interesting year, and we hope to do even more in the year ahead.

- Coalition for Life of Iowa’s Board of Directors

# Upcoming Events

~ 2019 ~

**Second Tuesdays**  
7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

## CFLI Board Meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:coalitionforlife@gmail.com)

**Fourth Tuesdays**  
7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

## CFLI Working Meeting (4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:coalitionforlife@gmail.com)

**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](http://lifeiowa.org/March_for_Life.html)

2018

## Year in Review

2018

We started our year with a billboard from last year's billboard contest winner. That was up during our annual Cedar Rapids March for Life, which continues to have great turnout. We saw reports of abortion numbers dropping at all levels, whether local, state, or national.

After several years of leading 40 Days for Life here in Cedar Rapids, Jim passed the leadership role to Pat. This brought some new energy into our local campaign. We honored mothers on Mother's Day with roses again this year. We had our first-ever Father's Day Bike Ride.

In July we marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Humanae Vitae*, which contained a combination of the long-standing and consistent Christian teaching on sexuality and human life, but also predicted many of the problems we now face in a world that has chosen to attack life on so many fronts.

Former Planned Parenthood CEO Cecile Richards visited Cedar Rapids to promote her book. We had pro-lifers outside

the event, and even engaged in some discussion with some of the people who attended her event. Cecile resigned her position at Planned Parenthood earlier in the year and has since been replaced by the first doctor to assume that role in roughly half a century. Soon after that role was filled, another top executive at Planned Parenthood chose to resign.

The Planned Parenthood affiliate that spans Iowa and Nebraska indicated their intention to merge with the affiliate in Minnesota and the Dakotas. This was announced in the first half of summer, and it was supposed to occur by July 1<sup>st</sup>. But the merger does not appear to have occurred as of the time of this newsletter being issued. We have witnessed some changes inside of the local Planned Parenthood. After years of storing stuff in the northern half of the building in Cedar Rapids that they received from various facilities that closed in Eastern Iowa, it seems like they have been busy cleaning up

that space. They tossed many things out in a dumpster a few months ago. They have been doing many other things. With roughly 40% of the building not having been used by them in the past for clinic functions, they could do just about anything they want in the section they have been cleaning up. Please pray that they don't start abortions again in Cedar Rapids.

The Gosnell movie came out in fall. It revealed the horrors that go unchecked when abortionists avoid inspections and everyone who knows something is wrong remain silent, including the media. The media remained relatively silent about the film's release, especially in Philadelphia, where Gosnell operated.

The National Life Chain was a success. Elections offered mixed results, but generally favorable.

The people of Ireland voted to repeal the 8<sup>th</sup> Amendment. Now doctors will be forced to perform abortions, which are now legal there.



## Government Update: Upcoming Session

### Federal Government

The federal government was partially shut down starting a few days before Christmas. The election will lead to a flip of both the House and the Senate from a pro-life perspective. That's great news for the U.S. Senate. But it's bad news for the U.S. House of Representatives.

The losses in the U.S. House could make it the chamber that will prevent pro-life legislation from getting through in the future, rather than the U.S. Senate. But the gains in the Senate will allow the appointment of more judges who recognize that there is no so-called "right to abortion." The "Reversing Roe" article in this newsletter would make this out to being part of a long-term strategy to overturn Roe v. Wade.

### Iowa Government

The Heartbeat Law is going through the courts. A few other states have taken Iowa's lead in trying to pass similar laws. It's great to live in a state that's leading the way in some pro-life laws. One year before the Heartbeat Law was passed, the 20-week abortion ban went into effect in Iowa. This ensured that we made some progress in Iowa prior to the legal battles of the Heartbeat Law.

What else might get passed in the session ahead? That's hard to know for certain.

We still live in a state where NONE of the abortion providers are inspected. Imagine going to the Emma Goldman Clinic or the Planned Parenthood sites that provide surgical abortions and not realize that the state has no inspections on file for

them! That's the kind of thing that allowed Kermit Gosnell to commit so many murders and serious medical violations. Abortion advocates claim we need legal abortion so there are "safe" abortions. But women still get harmed and die from abortions. That may increase with mail-order abortions that are in pilot programs in some states. But how can we know how safe any abortion provider is for women if they aren't inspected, and if the complications aren't typically reported as abortion complications? We know each successful abortion is always fatal to the child in the womb.

There are always threats to life of adults near the end of life. We don't want to overlook opportunities to bolster laws to protect all lives.





Netflix released the Reversing Roe documentary in September. Some people think it's not biased, since it conveys viewpoints from both sides of the abortion issue. But it's very biased.

There are numerous editing tricks to make people uncomfortable with pro-lifers that required extra work to inject into the film. The pro-choice side drives the narrative, and a small subset of the pro-life side gets to respond a few times. They don't interview 40 Days for Life or many of the other peaceful efforts to affirm life.

The film also plants a few words in the minds of viewers through repeated use. It focuses on how pro-lifers clearly have a "strategy" to overturn Roe through the passage of laws and appointment of judges. It makes it a "power" struggle, making pro-choice people want to acquire power, rather than balance or fairness.

Despite the bias, there were things that pro-lifers often don't know. The documentary points out how before Roe v. Wade, some women had to go before a panel to get

permission for abortions in the limited cases it was allowed. To get an abortion, women often had to agree to be sterilized. This obviously outrages pro-choice people. Pro-life people should also be outraged at the sterilization requirement, while still opposing abortion. Amazingly, in order to have one evil committed, a second evil had to be authorized.

For a [more comprehensive analysis](#), check out the response from the Equal Rights Institute. We just provided a hint of the bias.



## Genetically Modified Babies in China?

A Chinese researcher released a video where he claimed to have modified the genes of embryos that were recently born. This led to questions about whether the claims were true, and it drew concerns from multiple communities.

The scientific community voiced concerns about the rogue nature of the team. They acted without approval. They undertook actions that scientists had previously avoided on purpose. Moral ethicists are concerned, since it messes with the DNA that constitutes a person. Scientists were okay with clinical trials of people who would not have any more children. That way,

any genetic alteration was limited to the individual on which they experimented. By performing research on embryos, the genetic alteration will get passed on to their children.

The video uses words of compassion to build sympathy for the immoral actions. The researcher tries to assure people that this is not going to lead to “designer babies.” He points out that this was done to allow a set of parents to have children in a case where one of the parents was HIV positive. The CRISPR technology was used to alter the CCR5 gene to match the mutation that protected the survivors of the black plague

from dying of the plague. That same genetic mutation protects against HIV/AIDs.

His claim that this won’t be used for designer babies lacks anything to back that claim up. If anyone could protect their children from disease, wouldn’t they do it? It may start with people who have the disease, but it will spread to people who do not. Then they will expand to other genetic benefits. Pretty soon, people want a certain set of genes by default. Sure, they may not mess with hair color or certain cosmetic traits. But there aren’t many clear boundaries to prevent abuse of this technology.



## 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!



**SUE THAYER**  
FORMER PLANNED PARENTHOOD MANAGER

## 40 Days for Life Podcast

As we continue to point our members to pro-life podcasts, we want to draw attention to the 40 Days for Life podcast. Iowa's Sue Thayer informs listeners about webcam abortions in episode 152.

40 Days for Life added Sue Thayer to their national team as Director of Outreach. This is great news. The communities she visits that have abortion sites tend to see their abortion sites shut down after Sue reveals what Planned Parenthood has done.

In **episode 152**, she explains the origins of Planned Parenthood's webcam abortions, which originated here in Iowa. She goes on to point out how non-medical personnel perform the procedures. Sue also explains how Planned Parenthood sells abortions to women who weren't even considering them.

Beyond webcam abortions, she warns about Planned Parenthood's new mail-order abortion program. It's a pilot project, intended to bring abortions to states that outlawed webcam abortions. As Planned Parenthood pushes the act of abortion into the hands of women and out of the hands of their abortionists, and the less human contact and oversight they end up providing, the more they become the largest provider of the modern "back-alley abortions."

Sue goes on to explain how women are told to hide the fact that they took the abortion pills. They are told they might get substandard care if a doctor opposes abortion and finds out. But in reality, it hides Planned Parenthood's involvement in botched abortions. They keep claiming webcam abortions are safe. But they coach women to hide the real statistics.

<https://40daysforlife.com/category/podcast/>

**CFLI Board**

Jean Biermann  
Jim Burke (Vice President)  
Mary Cherion  
Lisa Gignac  
Sue Martinek (President)  
Marianne Riester  
Pat Semelroth  
Bonnie Yount (Secretary)  
Russell Yount (Treasurer)



## 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.

We welcome advertisers for a reasonable price.

**Remember, Life Matters!**

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

Coalition for Life of Iowa

P.O. Box 864  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406