



Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

March 2019

Editor: Jim Burke

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We welcome newcomers to
our meetings and events

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So Much Going On!

This month has been so busy for us. We've started 40 Days for Life. We arranged to have Sue Thayer come and talk. We arranged for a free showing of the Unplanned film the night before the official opening night. And on the last Saturday of the month, we helped put on an event in Marshalltown that helps educate people about NaProTechnology, which is a medical model for reproductive health that we've mentioned in several past episodes.

In the month ahead, we have the closing rally for 40 Days for Life. And there's a Culture of Life Dinner in Iowa City near the end of April that helps raise funds for people who take the 13-month training to become a NaProTechnology practitioner. This year, they have some amazing people taking the course who live in Iowa City. We know that area could really use life-affirming, ethical reproductive health options.

We'd love to help figure out how to incorporate your skills in making a difference in pro-life efforts! There's plenty to do!

- Coalition for Life of Iowa's Board of Directors

Upcoming Events

<p>Second Tuesdays 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.</p> <hr/> <p>Fourth Tuesdays 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.</p>	<p>CFLI Board Meetings (2nd Tuesdays) & CFLI Working Meetings (4th Tuesdays) Get involved in our organization! Where: St. Patrick's Common Grounds Coffee Shop 120 5th St NW, Cedar Rapids, IA More info: coalitionforlife@gmail.com</p>
<p>Limited Time Varies</p>	<p>Unplanned Movie in Theaters Check local listings! Marcus Cedar Rapids on Council</p>
<p>Mar 6 – Apr 14 1-hour time slots 24 hours/day</p>	<p>40 Days for Life Prayer Vigil Join us in praying for an end to abortion in a peaceful prayer vigil! Where: Sidewalk outside Planned Parenthood 3425 First Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA More info: https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/cedar-rapids/</p>
<p>Sun, Apr 14 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.</p>	<p>40 Days for Life Finale Rally Come help us finish strong with 40 Days for Life! Pizza afterward! Where: Sidewalk outside Planned Parenthood 3425 First Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA More info: coalitionforlife@gmail.com</p>
<p>Sat, Apr 27 5:15 p.m.</p>	<p>Culture of Life Dinner This dinner raises funds for NaProTechnology medical training Where: St. Wenceslaus Parish Hall 623 Fairchild St, Iowa City, IA More info: http://stwenc-ic.com/kofc/culture-of-life</p>
<p>Fri, May 10 7:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.</p>	<p>Bridgehaven Dessert Gala This year's benefit for Bridgehaven has Care Net CEO Roland Warren! Where: Cedar Rapids Marriott 1200 Collins Rd NE, Cedar Rapids, IA More info: https://secure.ministrysync.com/ministrysync/event/home.php?e=12446</p>



Sue Thayer

On March 18th, we were honored to have Sue Thayer in Cedar Rapids. Many people have now heard Abby Johnson's story, especially with the Unplanned book and movie. Sue spent at least twice as much time at Planned Parenthood (PP) than Abby. She began by speaking on 88.7 FM KMMK radio. Many of us joined her in prayer outside of the local PP. Even more came to listen to her talk afterward.

Sue told us how she got involved with PP, and what it was like on the inside. The more former PP managers speak out, the more consistent the picture forms regarding how PP operates.

She described how she admitted that she didn't agree with abortion when they interviewed her for the job. But they hired her anyway!

She witnessed some abortions in Des Moines. The abortionist, like many others didn't like being recognized. So abortionists tend to slip and out of the procedure rooms without showing their face, if they can avoid it.

Many years later, Iowa PP sites began trials of the RU-486 abortion pills. They experimented with different dosages. With PP's experience with RU-486, it just took another step to dispense the pills remotely. Thus began webcam abortions.

Sue made it clear they intended to spread webcam abortions to each of their facilities. Storm Lake was going to be one of the early sites to include webcam abortions. She was not okay with that.

Her employment with PP ended.

Then she told a pro-life organization about webcam abortions. It was hard for them to believe. But it provided some early notice of the future of abortion in Iowa.

Like Abby, Sue regrets the part she played in helping PP over the years. Each of us makes mistakes or are led down some path that isn't the righteous path. God can still do great things and use our failings to bring even greater good. It would be wrong to help the abortion industry. But these women helped bring to light the terrible things going on in the nation's largest and most powerful abortion corporation. The pro-life movement has benefitted greatly from abortion industry insiders.





Government Update

Federal Government

The President continues to defund the abortion industry and close loopholes they used to thwart some earlier rules that kept them from receiving funds. There is little expectation that Congress will pass any laws protecting life.

This is especially true considering that the United States House of Representatives has had roughly two dozen attempts to advance the bill that would protect the lives of children who are born, surviving an attempted abortion. All of those attempts have been held up, thus blocking any attempts to pass the bill.

Lawmakers in the House need to hear from you to know you will hold them accountable for inaction and allowing leadership to ignore providing equal protection for newborns.

Iowa Government

Abortion-related Constitutional Amendment (SJR 9)

Lawmakers have proposed an amendment to the Iowa Constitution. SJR9 states, “The constitution does not secure or protect a right to abortion or require the funding of abortion.”

Fetal Homicide (SF 523)

The Iowa Senate has passed a bill that is now in the Iowa House. It uses phrases like “death of an unborn person” rather than merely “terminates a human pregnancy”. It addresses situations where unborn lives are intentionally taken without the permission of the child’s mother.

Death Penalty (SF 296)

The Iowa Senate proposed the reintroduction of the death penalty in Iowa. It passed through committee, but hasn’t been brought up in the Senate, or the Iowa House.

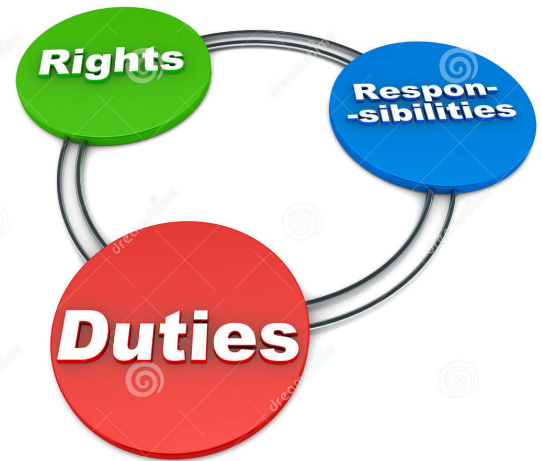
Heartbeat Bills in Other States

Several other states have passed Heartbeat Laws similar to what Iowa passed last year. While a judge struck down our law, the growing number of states could lead to meaningful legal challenges.

Judicial Appointment Process Changes (HSB110, SSB1101)

Iowa has been a state of choice to drastically change the meaning of laws through the courts. Things that contradict our laws and have never been considered law in the past are becoming “law” through judges in our courts. While some people claim we have a superior model for appointing judges today, the way Iowa is repeated the target of radical changes in law before spreading out nationally, this Constitutional Amendment aims to bring back balance and remove the bias from our courts.

Rights, Responsibilities, and Duties



In last month's issue of our newsletter, I pointed out how abortion advocates try to claim abortion is a "fundamental" right. But it quickly became clear that life is a fundamental right, while abortion is not. But is abortion even a right?

Rights naturally pair with duties or responsibilities. A good example is the right to bear arms, enumerated in the second amendment to the United States Constitution. It fits within the category of self-defense or the defense of others. The duty associated with this right is that one uses weapons responsibly and to protect people. The irresponsible or careless use of weapons goes against the right. If someone starts killing innocent people, one fails to fulfill one's duties.

The right to free speech and the right to free press are similar to one another. Both of them require truthfulness. If people slander one another, that's an abuse of the right.

So what about abortion? There is no additional duty one needs to do when having an abortion. But people have also referred to "reproductive rights", under which they put abortion. Again, abortion doesn't belong in a category of rights. But reproductive rights do make sense.

Reproduction brings new life into this world. Most people recognize the numerous duties that come with the responsibilities of

raising children well. One must look out for the best interests of the child. Even if parents entrust their children to adoptive parents, they fulfill the responsibility to look out for the best interests of the child. If a child dies beyond one's ability to prevent it, there is no blame. But when life is taken intentionally, as abortion does, that works against authentic reproductive rights.

So it appears that not only are so-called "abortion rights" not fundamental, but they aren't rights, either.



This long-awaited film is in theaters! It steps through the experiences of Abby Johnson as she was introduced to Planned Parenthood (PP), started as a volunteer, worked her way up to director. But an experience in the procedure room let her see very plainly what abortion really does and thus what it really is.

The movie leads with a scene that conveys what she saw that changed her forever. It jumps back to the start of everything and then steps forward in time. It eventually repeats that pivotal experience, but with a different focus. The first time, we focus on the experience of the child in the womb during the abortion. The second time, the film focuses on Abby's character.

While so many Christian and pro-life films were plagued with bad acting, bad storylines, bad cinematography, etc., this film is much better. The camera work is

much more professional and intentional. Like I said, the same scene was presented in two ways, and guides your focus.

One of my favored movie critics is Steven Greydanus from Decent Films. After I saw pro-lifers praise the film, and some secular critics trash it, I wanted to see what he had to say. I link to his review at the bottom of this page. When it comes to films like this, one really wants to consider how people will take it in. Steven makes a good point that the opening can cause people who support abortion to recognize up front the destination the film is heading toward. This can make it harder for them to get into the film, perhaps not trusting it as much as if they saw the very next scenes without it. The other scenes near the beginning show pro-lifers who didn't have effective methods, and also revealed the humanity of people on the other side. There's a trade-

off between reaching people on the other side of such an issue, and having the desired effect of conveying two perspectives on the same scene.

It's usually best to try to reach people who otherwise might not be reached. But some may reject the message anyway. After all, the story shows how Abby was led to believe she was doing something good, only to realize the opposite was true.

The film stuck more closely with truth and facts than most stories based on real events. If it deviated very far, people would attack it for making things up.

By showing the humanity of both sides of the issue and the children in the womb, and by showing faults on both sides, this is an important film for everyone to see. So go see this film! Invite friends to see it while it's in theaters!

Pro-Life Challenge



Prayers

Please pray for God to work in the lives of people inside the abortion industry.

In particular:

Maddie;
Cedar Falls, IA PP;
Council Bluffs, IA PP;
Grand Rapids, MN PP

VOLUNTEER



Invite Friends!

Use your skills to help pro-life efforts, and invite friends and family to attend our events. Invite them to help us out. Many hands make for light work!

Planting Seeds

When we were leaving PP and about to head to Sue Thayer's speaking event, a woman drove by and had a few things to say. Something about what we were doing rubbed her the wrong way. I wanted to hear more. She saw us out there in larger numbers than usual and taking photos, and it just seemed a bit odd. I explained about how we had a former PP manager speaking, so it was a special event.

She also pointed out that she had gone to the local PP a few years ago and was harassed by people on the sidewalk. I'm always concerned about how people treat others on the sidewalk, so this peaked my interest. People who watched how this discussion was going noticed that this was a valuable moment where I was able to show that I cared about how they were treated. I made it clear that I was concerned about how she was treated, and asked for more details. She said that she wasn't getting an abortion, but someone on the sidewalk handed her information about alternatives.

I could have pointed out how I would not consider that harassment, but that wasn't likely to provide much value. She had previously said something about how they don't perform abortions at this PP, and they do other good things. I hadn't gotten a chance to respond to that, and I wanted to do so. But traffic was building up behind her, so she continued on her way.

A moment later, I found out she turned around. So we picked up where we left off. But traffic again piled up, even more. So I suggested she pull up and to the side of the road. This allowed a little more time to talk.

I made an analogy to address the balance of the things PP does. If a pet shop took even 3% of their little puppies and ripped them apart, limb from limb, would you recommend that shop to others? Would you bring your own pet there? Would you do nothing about it?

It turns out she has a dog. She realized she wouldn't use or point people to such a shop. And she also acknowledged that people are more valuable than pets. She was talking through it without me having to chime in.

I've heard people speak about how they think they planted a seed. Too often, they say that when the other person hasn't found common ground or a conversation blows up in the end. Often, those scenarios don't change minds, although they might.

If you want to plant a seed, don't just toss out information they oppose. One needs to make sure that a little growth begins with some common ground. The respect shown helped. The analogies that got her reasoning rightly on her own also helped. When she left, I knew she hadn't changed her mind. But a seed was clearly planted and growing.

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- 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

P.O. Box 864
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406