



# Life Matters

Discussing life matters,  
because life matters

April 2019

Editor: Jim Burke

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We welcome newcomers to  
our meetings and events

[Donate](#)

## Springing Forward

The Unplanned film has been showing in local theaters for longer than a month! This might just be the first time we've ever seen a movie focused on the abortion issue remain in local theaters that long.

This is the time of year many organizations have fundraisers. The Culture of Life Dinner raised lots of money for Natural Procreative Technology training. A few organizations have gala events planned for May. We have our real roses for mothers on Mother's Day weekend.

We are coming up on that time of year when we have far fewer events taking place. But that gives us time to start planning our events in fall. We can always use help. We want to continue to grow the number of people participating in life-affirming events!

Would you be interested in a position on our board? We have a few members who are moving this summer, and we will have some openings.

- Coalition for Life of Iowa's Board of Directors

# Upcoming Events



<p><b>Second Tuesdays</b> 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.</p> <hr/> <p><b>Fourth Tuesdays</b> 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>CFLI Board Meetings (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays) &amp; CFLI Working Meetings (4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays)</b> Get involved in 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></p>
<p><b>Limited Time</b> Varies</p>	<p><b>Unplanned Movie in Theaters</b> Check local listings! Marcus Cedar Rapids on Council</p>
<p><b>Fri, May 10</b> 7:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Bridgehaven Dessert Gala</b> This year’s benefit for Bridgehaven has Care Net CEO Roland Warren! <b>Where:</b> Cedar Rapids Marriott 1200 Collins Rd NE, Cedar Rapids, IA <b>More info:</b> <a href="https://secure.ministrysync.com/ministrysync/event/home.php?e=12446">https://secure.ministrysync.com/ministrysync/event/home.php?e=12446</a></p>
<p><b>Tue, May 21</b> 6 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Cedar Valley Guiding Star Gala</b> This dinner raises funds for the nearest NaProTechnology clinic <b>Where:</b> Rotary Reserve 5932 N Union Rd, Cedar Falls, IA <b>More info:</b> <a href="https://guidingstarcedarvalley.org">https://guidingstarcedarvalley.org</a></p>



## Morning After vs. RU-486

We sometimes receive questions that lead to newsletter articles. When someone asked a question about the morning after pill and how it relates to the RU-486 abortion pill, it was clear that this would be a good thing to clarify in the newsletter.

The abortion industry has a mindset that creates one backup plan after another. They might recommend condoms plus some other form of contraception. If those fail, that's when they would push the morning-after pill, also called Plan B.

Women take the morning after pill before they could possibly know if they are pregnant. The documentation that comes with the pills identify that it can work in any of three ways. It can prevent ovulation. It can prevent fertilization. And it can also prevent implantation. That last one makes it a potential abortifacient.

The morning after pill complicates the statistics for pregnancies and abortions. Women are only fertile a few days per month. If she

doesn't want to become pregnant, but also doesn't know she's in the infertile part of her cycle, she could still take the pill, just in case. In that case, it's a waste of money and an unnecessary consumption of drugs that could have a variety of side effects.

If she is fertile, she still may not have gotten pregnant. But if she would have gotten pregnant, then the pill may have prevented a pregnancy. If fertilization already took place, then pregnancy officially began, but the pill causes an abortion. The abortion industry thinks of pregnancy as starting at implantation, rather than fertilization/conception, so they don't always view that last method as being an abortion.

Even if the number of pills sold was clearly identified, it's never clear what percentage of those is taken. And of those taken, it's not clear which are done wastefully, which would prevent pregnancies, and which caused abortions.

RU-486 is the two-drug combination that is used in

webcam abortions or the non-surgical abortions that are done in person. In the Unplanned film, we saw some of the complications that can arise. They do take longer, are bloodier, and more painful than surgical abortions. They are taken in the first few weeks of pregnancy. But pregnancy is always confirmed before taking it.

The drug can be fatal in some cases, such as in some cases of tubal pregnancies. Since it takes time to figure out if someone is pregnant, a few weeks usually pass after the start of pregnancy.

If RU-486 does what it is expected to do, then it causes abortions 100% of the time. Since it takes longer and is favored by abortion providers, a protocol to reverse such abortions was developed. Abortion pill reversal is available in more and more cities in the country. After the Unplanned film, calls for it have already increased by 30%!



## 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 **did not pass** the amendment to the state constitution that would have explicitly stated that abortion is not a right within the constitution.

#### Fetal Homicide (SF 523)

The Iowa Senate has passed a bill that **failed** to get out of committee in the Iowa House. It addressed 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 **did not pass** out of the Senate.

#### Judicial Appointment Process Changes (Added to budget bill)

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.

There were bills addressing this in both the Iowa House and Senate. But this ultimately made it into a budget bill near the end of the session. That bill was **passed**.

#### Sex Ed from Abortion Industry

A bill failed earlier in the session that would have prohibited abortion providers from providing sexual education in our schools. But in the final day of the session, it was added to a bill that **passed**. This could fully defund PP in Iowa.

Iowa session ended for the year one week early!

# Abortion Referral Sites

Planned Parenthood (PP) depends on abortion referral sites in multiple ways. Pro-lifers in many communities where PP just has a referral site often don't worry about it as much. Just like people like to shout out as they go by us when we are on the sidewalk, "They don't do abortions here!" But there are many reasons to keep up pro-life efforts.

When I look at states like Minnesota, I see a few abortion sites, but PP only has one abortion site. PP has numerous referral sites. As Iowa discovered within the last decade, a referral site can quickly convert into a webcam abortion site. It takes much more effort to acquire a property, set up a business site, and then add abortion services. So referral sites are just a step away from becoming an abortion site. Even the Cedar Rapids PP made that transition a few years ago. Fortunately, the Cedar Rapids PP became one of the few that discontinued webcam abortions after less than two years.

Around the time the state of Iowa defunded abortion providers from receiving Medicaid funding for reproductive health services, the

Cedar Rapids PP changed to focus on schools. They were already in our schools teaching sexual education. But government funding was still available for them to indoctrinate our children. Defunding the abortion industry tends to happen in stages. PP knew how to continue to receive funds.

As former abortion business owner Carol Everett admits, sex ed is part of the abortion industry's sales strategy. They may ask very young students what they call various private parts. When students have different names, they start to undermine the credibility of parents, who must not know the real names, which they share with the students. With time, more trust is built with PP, and trust is eroded with parents. Students are taught about contraception, and often make use of it. But the failure rates are high enough to almost ensure many pregnancies. With the trust PP builds up, the students go to PP and then the sale of abortions gets completed. In a referral site, they point the clients to the nearest abortion site, favoring other PP sites.

It's easy for PP to reach children in Linn County, because PP has staff right here at their site. It's harder for them to reach schools that are more distant from their sites. Their sites become an anchor of influence, and many people overlook this.

That anchor also expands their promotional markets. Most businesses don't advertise in areas they aren't present. But anyone who sees PP's billboards and other forms of advertising know that PP is active here.

By having a local presence, they also find it easier to engage in a few fundraising activities each year. Again, most businesses don't fundraise hundreds of miles away from their business.

The state government in Iowa has taken successive steps to discontinue the various channels in which the abortion industry has received government funding. But that can always come back in the future, and most other states lack those protections. It's vitally important to do what we can to treat the mere abortion referral sites the way we would treat abortion sites.

# WHAT SHE SAW CHANGED EVERYTHING

IN THEATERS EVERYWHERE MARCH 29

## UNPLANNED

UNPLANNED.COM      @UNPLANNEDMOVIE



## Unplanned Criticisms

While promoting the Unplanned film, I saw ratings were very positive from people who saw the film. Film critics tended to rate the film much lower. That's common when films contain religious content and content that differs from the views of the critics. But many Christian films have traditionally used bad filmmaking techniques. So I wanted to see WHY the critics rated the film so badly.

Some critics wanted to see more character development. For instance, Abby's husband and her life outside of work is barely covered by the film. But she has so much to her story as it is that the film would have run a few more hours in order to capture her full story, and even longer if they tried to develop characters better. Face it, the movie didn't touch on her religious conversion, nor her many pro-life roles after quitting her job.

A local lawmaker didn't like it when the film was being shown

for lawmakers in the final week of the session. Although the objection did suggest it might not be good for any movie to be shown there, especially in the final week, there were many things said suggesting Unplanned is based on lies.

The first article I saw even cited a source that tried to find inconsistencies in her story. I couldn't help but notice that he attempted to use the court of public opinion to decide whether it was credible or not. It's well established that Planned Parenthood tried to sue Abby Johnson to keep her from saying anything about what they did. They sue to force continued funding from governments that decide there are better ways to spend our money. So if the story she provided in her book and now this film were causing a loss in business or donations for Planned Parenthood, and if the claims were false that she made in her story, why wouldn't they have

sued her by now?

On the flip side, how credible is it to imagine someone making up a story because she's a disgruntled employee? That's pretty reasonable. But who goes so far as to change religions as a result?

What about the image of the child on the ultrasound? We have seen similar reactions from the documentary, *The Silent Scream*. That film was created by Doctor Bernard Nathanson, who co-founded NARAL and performed tens of thousands of abortions.

What about the RU-486 abortion? They are bloody. They take much longer than surgical abortions.

The film captured details of abortions accurately. Even [Sue Thayer responded](#) to the lawmaker with her first-hand knowledge of abortions, welcoming further discussion.

# Great Month!

## Pro-Life Challenge



### Prayers

Please pray for God to work in the lives people.

In particular:

Jenifer (pro-life with health issues);  
Maddie (PP worker);  
Cedar Falls, IA PP;  
Council Bluffs, IA PP;  
Columbia, MO PP

## VOLUNTEER



### Help Us!

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!

This has been an exciting month in the past month or so! Let's take a little time to recap.

During 40 Days for Life, we had something happening every other week or so. We started the 40 Days for Life. A couple weeks later, we had Sue Thayer come and speak. She brought great insights into the inner workings of Planned Parenthood and what's happened in Iowa.

A couple weeks later, the Unplanned film came out in theaters. We kept thinking it wouldn't last long. But it keeps getting extended at least one week at a time! We were grateful for the new people who started to pray with us as a result of the film.

We closed our 40 Days for Life off with our finale rally. It's always great to see so many people gathered together in prayer, and then to join them for a meal. It's encouraging seeing our continued growth at such events.

A couple weeks after that rally, the Knights of Columbus in Iowa City had their annual Culture of Life Dinner. The dinner raises funds for people to train to become Natural Procreative (NaProTechnology) practitioners and doctors. This year's grant recipients are amazing. They seem like the best group we've seen so far, based

both in numbers and the combination of traits of the individuals. This could greatly improve the accessibility of real reproductive healthcare in the Cedar Rapids-Iowa City corridor. The dinner raised more funds than ever, by a long shot!

The past month or two has been full of so much activity. It's almost exhausting; but it's also energizing! We see some other organizations with fundraising gala events, and our own roses for moms on Mother's Day. We may do something for fathers on Father's Day. But beyond that, we are approaching the months that allow us to prepare for the pro-life activities in fall.

Each fall, we participate in 40 Days for Life. In October, we are part of the National Life Chain. We can always use help reaching out to new churches and new people to make those events as successful as possible. Most organizations need a little time to consider whether to participate in something. That's why we need a few months to prepare.

In summer, we also continue to maintain a peaceful, prayerful presence outside of Planned Parenthood. A few groups pick an hour or so per day. It's a great way to stay active.

**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.

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