



Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

July 2019

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Contents

- Page 2 Upcoming Events
Page 3 PP CEO Fired
Page 4 School Shopping
Page 5 Survey Results
Page 6 More PP Sites Close
Page 7 Matching Donations

**We welcome newcomers to
our meetings and events**

[Donate Here](#)

Board Election Results

We had our annual board elections. Sue Martinek will continue as our president. Jim Burke will continue as our vice president. Mary Cherion will take over as our secretary, replacing Bonnie Yount who served us for many years. We anticipate filling our treasurer position in our next meeting. Russell Yount served us in that position for many years.

We renewed the terms for Mary Cherion and Marianne Riester. We still have two board positions open, which we also anticipate filling in our next meeting.

We have some great volunteers helping to plan our upcoming 40 Days for Life! We have an amazing year ahead, and we can't become complacent in matters of life and death.

- Coalition for Life of Iowa's Board of Directors

Upcoming Events



Second Tuesdays

7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Fourth Tuesdays

7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

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

Sept 25 – Nov 3

1-hour time slots

24 hours/day

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/>

Sunday in October

(Date is TBD)

2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

National Life Chain

Spread the pro-life message in as long of a chain as possible!

Where: Sidewalk along First Ave, starting outside Planned Parenthood
3425 First Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA

More info: <http://lifechain.net>

Sun, Nov 3

5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

40 Days for Life Finale Rally

Join us to conclude our 40 days of prayer and fasting!

Where: Sidewalk outside Planned Parenthood
3425 First Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA

More info: <https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/cedar-rapids/>

**Help us plan
upcoming activities!**



Planned Parenthood CEO Fired!

Planned Parenthood's upper management continues to have high turnover. Cecile Richards stepped down from her role as CEO last year. Another executive resigned a few months later.

It took Planned Parenthood many months to find a suitable replacement for their CEO. They eventually named Doctor Leana Wen to the post in September, but she wouldn't take that position until November. She was the first doctor to fill the CEO role in half a century. But Planned Parenthood is mostly political in order to keep their lucrative \$1.9 billion business going.

She brought some boldness when she made it clear that Planned Parenthood's core mission involved abortion. Planned Parenthood had attempted to avoid admitting that in the past.

She was hit with serious challenges early on. This made her speak at public rallies. This is just a personal opinion, but it seems like Leana may naturally be more soft-spoken. But Planned Parenthood thought they needed a

loud and powerful leader. When Leana tried to convey that power and volume, she came across as angry and/or mean. This is not a good image for Planned Parenthood.

Near the end of her time as CEO, Leana wrote of her miscarriage experience. This had the potential to really draw in people from the general public to see her as a real person and to focus on reproductive health. But she referred to baby number two at one point, which had to draw the attention of the Planned Parenthood board. She recognized a child in the womb as being her baby. If nothing else would limit her days at Planned Parenthood, that likely did.

But she was a doctor and wanted to focus on things that address health issues. That's what Planned Parenthood should have wanted when they sought a doctor. But they seemed more interested in gaining the benefits of having a real doctor running the business, but not listening to her or prioritizing her goals.

The Planned Parenthood board of directors wanted a strong focus on abortion, especially now that they think their ability to perform abortions could be in danger. There was a sharp divide that ensured Leana wouldn't last long. She only lasted eight months in her role as CEO of Planned Parenthood.

Alexis McGill Johnson now serves as the acting CEO who replaced Doctor Wen. Alexis is just temporarily filling in until Planned Parenthood can find a new CEO. Alexis has served on the boards of Planned Parenthood's political organization. Who better can serve as the head of a business claiming to be about health than someone focused on politics?

This is a bad time for Planned Parenthood to lack stable leadership. Going from Cecile to Leana to Alexis to her eventual replacement in barely more than a year looks bad for them.

School Shopping

This page usually contains government updates. We could have focused on the \$60 million federal cut in funds to Planned Parenthood. But we want to make sure people know about some businesses and their alternatives before completing shopping for the upcoming school year.

2nd Vote is an organization that ranks businesses based on various factors, including their involvement in the abortion industry. One “votes” with one’s pocketbook by not supporting businesses that are engaged in various evils.

These alternatives work for any kind of shopping. But we know more school shopping occurs within the next month.

Check out other businesses by going to www.2ndVote.com

2ndVote™

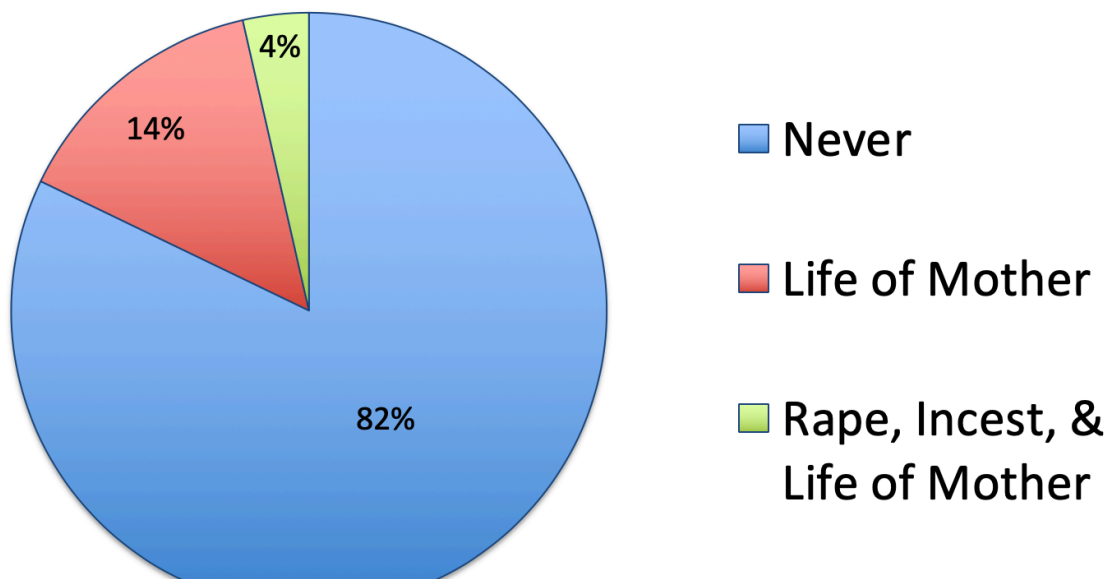
Back to School Shopping Guide

<p>Walmart</p> <p>Many think Walmart is a safe choice, but their 2ndVote score is even lower than Target.</p>	<p>Family Dollar</p> <p>Family Dollar is the one-stop destination for all your basic school supplies thanks to their neutral score.</p>
<p>Staples</p> <p>Stay away from the school supply favorite Staples along with other bad actors OfficeMax and Office Depot.</p>	<p>Hobby Lobby</p> <p>Hobby Lobby is a well known conservative craft store where you can get your school supplies and art gear.</p>
<p>Amazon</p> <p>Amazon may be a convenient online store, but their funding of liberal activism is incredibly inconvenient.</p>	<p>Wayfair</p> <p>Wayfair is a favorable online retailer, and they have plenty of Back to Campus sales.</p>
<p>Ikea</p> <p>Ikea may have simple design concepts, but their political support is rather messy.</p>	<p>Bed Bath & Beyond</p> <p>Bed Bath & Beyond is a neutral option, and has all your dorm room essentials in one place.</p>

Make your 1st vote at the ballot & your 2nd vote at the store!

www.2ndVote.com

When Should Abortion Be Allowed?



Survey Results

We thank everyone who participated in our survey earlier in the summer.

More than 80% of the responses indicated opposition to abortion in all circumstances. Most of the other responses made an exception for the life of the mother. The rape and incest exceptions had the lowest number of responses.

Everyone answering the survey affirmed there is no right to die through assisted suicide.

End-of-life plans are for the benefit of your loved ones and to make sure you are treated in accordance with your wishes. Roughly 80% of the respondents indicated they had a will. About

40% had medical advanced directives or the medical durable power of attorney. Only about 20% had funeral plans made out. Did you know it's free to make funeral arrangements? We know we will all die sometime.

As is typical of pro-lifers, we saw the most interest in abortion-related subjects. There was also a vast majority of people interested in learning effective ways to counter the pro-abortion stance.

In response to this, we plan to provide a pro-life apologetics course. It's available online. But we also find value in having time together to discuss the lessons and to practice a little

among other pro-lifers. People who are interested can gain access early by contacting us. We hope to have the in-person part in this spring and early summer.

This also goes a long way toward opposing Planned Parenthood (PP), which many people showed interest in. PP is our nation's largest abortion provider. They continue to get into our schools, despite their system proving to offer zero net benefits.

End-of-life decisions also had the interest of at least 70% of respondents. We will look into the best ways to serve our members in this area.



More PP Sites Close

Planned Parenthood of the Heartland used to include Arkansas before they split that off again and merged with the affiliate to our north. There is good news out of Arkansas. The Fayetteville Planned Parenthood site closed.

This means Arkansas no longer has an abortion provider anywhere except for a few sites in the Little Rock area. One is a Planned Parenthood that provides the abortion pill, and the other is a surgical abortion site that is not part of Planned Parenthood. The Fayetteville site served the NW part of the state, as well as anyone in SW Missouri or part of the NE part of Oklahoma. They are struggling to find a new location. We hope they don't find a place to open.

Muskegon County in Michigan used to have a Planned Parenthood in the same building as their county health department. People successfully

convinced their county to kick Planned Parenthood out of their government health building. They are also looking for a new location and struggling to find a good location.

We know what it's like to have an abortion provider looking for a new location. When we started praying for 40 days in local churches (before we started 40 Days for Life outside of Planned Parenthood), the Cedar Rapids Clinic for Women closed. They wanted to stay in business, but no longer at that location. We were concerned about where they might end up.

For a while, it looked like they might end up in Wellington Heights, in the vicinity of the old Planned Parenthood location. It also looked like they were going to set up shop within sight of what is now called Bridgehaven. They had some issues, which messed up those deals. As each month passed, it seemed more likely they wouldn't reopen, since

their normal clients would find other providers, and they should run out of money.

After the 2008 flood, we found out they had given up finding a new location, so they retired. Please pray that these abortion providers won't find new locations.

The Saint Louis Planned Parenthood was granted an extended time of operation while they waited for their next court date in August. All eyes will watch what happens in Saint Louis in the month ahead to see if they will be allowed to continue performing abortions. If they are, then the courts will override the regulators. If they aren't, then Missouri will be the first state since the 1970s to go without an abortion provider.

Residents of Missouri will only have to go a few more miles to reach an abortion provider in Illinois. There's also a provider in Kansas City. So abortion will still be accessible, regardless.

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);
 St. Louis, MO PP;
 Fayetteville, AR PP;
 Muskegon, MI 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!



Matching Donations

Although we accept donations any time of year, we usually make a bigger push near the end of the year. And sometimes we have individuals offering matching offers at that time of year. This is not a request for donations. But we did want to make sure you knew of opportunities to have donations matched.

Many employers match donations to some charities. Some are very limited, whereas others are very broad. With merger activity with one of our largest local employers, we wanted to make sure people checked to see if their employers about matching to our 501(c)3 organization.

Rockwell Collins matched a smaller group of non-profit organizations. But Collins Aerospace now matches donations to more non-profit organizations, including us. The other good news is that they match up to \$25,000 per employee!

It feels great to donate to a good cause that does life-affirming work. But it feels even better when you can get twice the benefit from your giving.

Regardless of your employer, you can check with your human resources department or check your company's policies to find out whether donations can be matched and how to go about it. We are very grateful that we now qualify for matches from Collins Aerospace. We know that not all employers match donations, and many limit donations to certain types of organizations.

We know other non-profit organizations like Bridgehaven are also qualified for such matches. So please don't miss out on the opportunities various employers in the area offer in matching your charitable donations.

CFLI Board

Jean Biermann

Jim Burke (Vice President)

Mary Cherion (Secretary)

Lisa Gignac

Sue Martinek (President)

Marianne Riester

Pat Semelroth

[open]

[open] (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.

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Coalition for Life of Iowa

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