



Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

May 2020

Editor: Jim Burke

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

[Donate Here](#)

Improving via Technology

There's still time to sign up for our online discussion of the Equipped for Life course. If you haven't received an email with the link for the weekly sessions, then we didn't receive your registration for the discussion. The sessions can help answer questions you have and allow you to learn from others.

We are seeing the state of Iowa opening up a little. This will make it easier for us to do more activities. We are working on improving a few of our online resources and the newsletter in the weeks and months ahead.

Please pray that someone will help fill our need for our one open board position. We could use help in other areas as well.

- 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: Online meetings.

More info: coalitionforlife@gmail.com

In-person gatherings called off until further notice, so we have online events!

Thursdays in June & July
Starting at 7 p.m.

Pro-Life Apologetics Class Discussion!

We plan to offer a pro-life apologetics class where we will step through the Equal Rights Institute’s Equipped for Life course! It’s an amazing course that many of our members already have access to online. We recognize the added benefit of discussing what we learned.

Win a Free T-shirt!



The Coalition for Life of Iowa needs a new T-shirt design. If you’d like to design our next t-shirt pattern please submit your entry by June 30th to coalitionforlife@gmail.com

We are looking for something that’s creative and/or catchy and CLEARLY PRO-LIFE. If your design is chosen, you will win a free T-shirt or sweatshirt of your choice with your design on it.

Help us out and win a free T-shirt!

Tips: We will have our logo on each shirt. You may work it into your design or we may have to choose where to place it. If you wish, you may put a circle with “LOGO” in it to identify a preferred place for the logo.

It helps to minimize the number of colors. Our logo uses black, white, and green. But full-color images are usually not recommended.



The FX TV channel premiered their documentary, AKA Jane Roe recently. It features Norma McCorvey, who was the Jane Roe in the landmark case of Roe vs. Wade. I used to have access to the FX channel, but presently do not have access to it. Therefore, I have NOT seen the documentary. I am eager to see it, but at this point, I can only convey what I've heard and read from various other sources.

The ads for the documentary drew interest by including a clip from Norma saying she was offering a deathbed confession. News leaked out a few days in advance that led to a few news sources saying that Norma claims to have never been pro-life.

The pro-life movement was overjoyed in 1995 when Norma "switched sides" and joined the pro-life movement. She died a few years ago. She usually turned down interviews, but she granted the filmmaker for this film a

chance to interview her a few months before she died.

When news came out that she claims to have been acting for more than 20 years and only did pro-life things for money, that obviously rocked the pro-life and pro-choice worlds. This revelation could be bigger than the Unplanned film. So, this makes it important to examine this more closely.

Many pro-lifers have pointed out that both FX and the filmmaker have a history of abortion-friendly productions. Some people pointed out that the film waited until after her death, when she has no chance to clarify anything that might be mischaracterized.

The movie included part of her funeral, and it takes time to produce movies. It is rather interesting that it is timed for an election year though. As for bias, there are many ways to inject bias into a film. I've greatly

appreciated the analysis of the Equal Rights Institute (ERI), who also created the Equipped for Life course we have acquired for many of our members. They previously analyzed the Reversing Roe documentary, pointing out countless forms of bias injected into that film. However, there are some details that they wanted to get more information about, and some people have found to be misleading. The money they claim the pro-life movement gave to Norma turns out to be the funds a pro-life organization she ran made over the course of several years. It wasn't money for her, but for her organization; and the kind of evidence suggests it was annual, when the time period was much longer.

When it comes to this documentary, ERI examined it and they hoped to find deceptive elements in the film, but they found that the producers seemed



Government Update

Planned Parenthood made news this month for a few reasons. The lesser news item was that they couldn't even get the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals to side with them to receive Title X (ten) funding. Title X funding used to provide Planned Parenthood \$60 million each year.

In case you think that's a great victory, you have to keep in mind that Planned Parenthood always finds ways to bring in money, often from at least three sources at a time. When the government threatens to cut some of the more than half-a-billion-dollar funding they receive from taxpayer funds, Planned Parenthood kicks into fundraising mode, asking their donors for money. In most cases, they tend to get the government money anyway, which means the donors end up duped into giving money to fill a funding gap that ends up not being an issue.

Something worse has happened recently. The COVID-19 situation led the federal government to make

funds available for small businesses to help get them through times when they aren't open for business. The terms were generous. If businesses or organizations met some simple terms, they wouldn't have to pay back the low-interest loan, thus turning it into a grant.

While the bill went through Congress, there was an explicit addition to the bill to make sure the money wouldn't go to businesses that were affiliated with businesses such that there would be more than 500 employees, and to avoid funding abortion providers. Planned Parenthood affiliates are thus disqualified from funds.

At least 37 Planned Parenthood affiliates applied for funds and were awarded \$80 million. Lawmakers have called for an investigation, and the Small-Business Administration (SBA) has requested that Planned Parenthood return the funds.

It would be nice to know whether Planned Parenthood defrauded the government by filling out the forms with incorrect information so they could be approved, and/or whether one or more people at the SBA chose to violate the terms of the program so they could funnel more money to Planned Parenthood than they lost in Title X funding.

The government is giving them the same opportunity they tend to give most people, by allowing them a chance to return the illegally-obtained funds. If they don't, then there could be penalties for the organizations involved and anyone who may have filled out the forms.

Considering that most Planned Parenthood sites, especially in the states with the most sites, remained open, there wasn't even much need, if any, for such funds. Yet, Planned Parenthood exploits their donors for funds at times like this, while still receiving federal funds illegally.



Pro-Life Training



I'm so pleased that we are nearing the start of our pro-life apologetics training sessions. Last year, we purchased online access for any of our interested members, and many of you signed up. Some of you have also signed up for our weekly discussions that will occur on Thursday evenings in the months of June and July. We would love to have more of you sign up! I love seeing the sign-ups increase as we near the weekly sessions.

I remember listening to a podcast called, "Life Report", which is what Josh Brahm did before he founded the Equal Rights Institute (ERI). It was loaded with good stuff. I was sad to hear he was leaving that several years ago. But when I found out he was founding ERI, it made me want to support that effort from some of its earliest days.

Once the Equipped for Life course came online, I quickly recognized that the course contained things I hadn't encountered elsewhere. It built off of the lessons from other nationally-known pro-life trainers.

But there are areas where they choose different approaches from others. They acknowledge the other approaches as a difference of approach. But they continually try out new things and study which approaches work better than others over enough time, situations, and samples to know what really works and that they didn't just have a good day on the first day they tried something new.

My main disappointment with the course was the PDF content that one can view or print. The content is reasonable, but I wanted to see some improvements from what I saw there. Being on a first-name basis with the people at ERI, I let them know I wanted to make some tweaks. I have started that and will continue to refine it in the coming weeks. But the people at ERI saw what I've done to it so far, and they love it and will provide feedback soon.

Due to the virus situation, we won't be able to meet in person as we had hoped when we first

planned this weekly series. But we will have video conferencing to discuss each lesson. Discussing what we learn has been shown to increase learning by a great deal. It seemed like a reasonable compromise under the circumstances.

There are a few lessons that really challenge people. Sometimes they might think what is being taught is not really a good thing for a lesson or two. But each lesson is there for a reason—some things haven't worked well, and some things have worked well, and they distilled the course down to offer us what we could spend years or even a lifetime learning the hard way, by making mistakes.

I can't wait to start discussing the lessons with several of you who have already signed up. **If you signed up, you should have an email with the meeting info by the time you read this. If you thought you signed up and haven't received that email, PLEASE tell us!**



AKA Jane Roe (continued)

to do what they could to avoid doing the things that would be considered deceptive.

People who knew Norma well said some things sound like things she's said many times before. Yet, they also say other statements are not true. The people who knew her best seem to recognize that she had views that weren't always in perfect alignment to the pro-life movement. It's possible she may have wanted to convey that she didn't hold some "perfect" pro-life stance.

Various well-known pro-lifers talked with Norma in her dying days. Months after her "deathbed confession", on the day she died, she told them, "I want you guys to promise me to never back away from undoing the decision I was a part of." She had no reason to keep acting. She could have let friendships fade or simply could have talked about other subjects. Her last words to pro-lifers seem to say a great deal, as do the many years she spent doing pro-life work at no charge, and even appealing to

the U.S. Supreme Court to reverse her case.

I would end the story there until seeing the documentary for myself, but there's another point to the film. While pro-lifers spent decades pointing out how the abortion advocates exploited both Norma and Sandra Cano (Doe from Doe vs. Bolton, the companion case), this film appears to suggest that pro-lifers did the same to Norma.

There is a reason we want post-abortive women to heal before they spend time on the sidewalk. We don't want people to operate fueled by anger and hurt. Adding a little time can help, and healing helps even more.

People who change sides tend to draw major interest from the people on the side to which they switch. Some people are great speakers, while Norma was not a great speaker. Some people might have their act together and be able to quickly adapt to the sudden attention and demands on their time. Some people have messy lives or might work best out of the limelight.

It's far too easy to use people who make our side look superior or the other side look evil. I once recorded an interaction with a woman in a really bad combination of poor circumstances who was treated horribly at the Cedar Rapids Planned Parenthood after having a very bad diagnosis. I was eating up the information about the callousness of Planned Parenthood. When I reviewed the recording, trying to make sure I remembered every detail, I realized how I didn't voice any concern about this woman who is almost certainly dead at this point. I could hear my eagerness to get the goods on Planned Parenthood. It was hard for me to listen to it.

I felt horrible and embarrassed by my own handling of that situation. It's among many reasons I strongly advocate for ERI's apologetics course. It helps us convey that we DO care about such people (or I wouldn't have felt so bad about how my interaction went).

Pro-Life Challenge



Prayers

Please pray for God to work in the lives people.

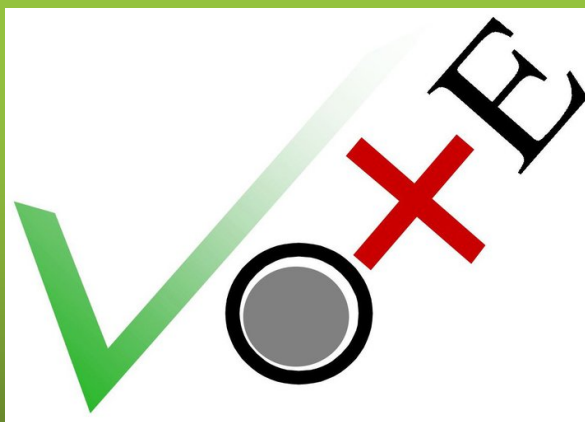
In particular:
 Jenifer (pro-lifer with health issues);
 Çantana (pro-lifer);
 Northern MN PPs;
 State of Iowa

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!



June 2 Primary Elections

This is an election year. We do not endorse candidates for political office. There are pro-life political action committees (PACs) that do that, often after the primary elections.

The June 2nd primary elections are almost upon us. This is the election where we vote for people within the party in which we are registered. You can view a list of candidates for office in the Linn County, Iowa area at the following:

<https://gis.linncounty.org/webdata/election/2020/primary.pdf>

Presidential candidates are chosen using another method. So this election will choose the official party candidates from each party for the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House, and various state-level offices.

We need good candidates. Some offices lack candidates from one party or the other. Write-in votes are allowed, and some people choose to run for office after the primary elections are over. It's a bit more complicated, but it happens.

I often think about how different elections would be if all pro-lifers prioritized the life issues for at least two to three elections. If candidates knew people would disqualify them from consideration if they supported the legal killing of innocent children, then I doubt I would have already seen a few political ads promoting a candidate's pro-abortion stance. They would want to hide such stances or change them.

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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.

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Remember, Life Matters!

Request electronic copies by email: coalitionforlife@gmail.com

Coalition for Life of Iowa

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