



Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

February 2022

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

Donate Here

<https://coalition-for-life-of-iowa.square.site/>

Great Start to 2022

We had an amazing turnout for our Cedar Rapids March for Life. We also had a great kick-off to our spring 40 Days for Life activities.

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, the shorter newsletters allowed me to create a special edition issue that I've wanted to write for a while, especially after visiting Poland last year. You can find that issue on our website among the list of other newsletters. There is even more I could have said, so I may revisit that in the future. It also makes me think of end-of-life matters that also tie nicely into that subject.

As a board, we will try to plan ahead so we can deal with whatever this year sends our way, since this year has the makings of a very significant year for the pro-life movement. We would appreciate whatever help we can get.

- Jim Burke

Upcoming Events

Second Tuesdays
7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

CFLI Board Meetings (2nd Tuesdays)

Get involved in our organization!

Where: Contact us.

More info: coalitionforlife@gmail.com

Mar 2 – Apr 10
1-hour time slots

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://www.40daysforlife.com/cedarrapids>

Sun, Apr 10
5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

40 Days for Life Closing Rally

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

Where: Sidewalk outside Planned Parenthood
3425 First Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA;
then Godfather's Pizza at 3647 1st Ave SE

More info: <https://www.40daysforlife.com/cedarrapids>

Sat, Apr 23
5:15 p.m. start

Culture of Life Dinner

Discover the best kept secret in women's health care!

Where: St. Wenceslaus Parish Hall, Iowa City
618 E Davenport St, Iowa City, IA

More info: <https://stwenc-ic.com/kofc/culture-of-life>



40 Days for Life

We begin 40 Days for Life this Wednesday, March 2nd. We just had our kick-off rally on the Sunday that started the week.

This rally packed several speakers with a range of topics, converging on the theme for us to “Be an Ambassador of Hope.” It began with music, prayer, moved on to speakers, then ended in prayer and refreshments.

Steve Patton led off on the subject of “Why Be Pro-Life?” There are many reasons to be pro-life, so this touched on many of those reasons.

Chelsey McDill, the director of Bridgehaven spoke on being an ambassador of hope. She helped people present to understand what is helpful and what can get in the way of what we do. She also passed along some statistics. One exercise even challenged us to identify examples of people who are at higher or lower risk of unexpected pregnancies. By the end, it was clear that most people have risks and strengths.

Laurie Quint spoke about the Gift of Hope organization that provides maternity housing support. The organization originally considered providing a location where pregnant women could live and get the support they needed. This is done in places like Dubuque. However, in looking at the needs and figuring out what’s involved, it made more sense to redirect to help support women where they live by helping with rent payments, paid directly to their landlords. This allowed for help sooner, and it doesn’t require women to move to a certain house.

We had Dr. Steven Bradley speak about things going on in the Iowa Legislature. This was not a campaign speech, since we avoid matters that the IRS considers political. But discussing things like what appears on the next page in the Government Update page are examples of what he talked about.

Pat Semelroth leads our 40 Days for Life in Cedar Rapids. She spoke

about how to get involved. It’s very helpful to use the online vigil calendar, so we know what hours are covered and what hours still need people to show up. It never feels good to drive by and see no one praying, especially when Planned Parenthood is open. It’s great to see large groups, but if anyone can spare extra time or perhaps splinter off a few people to cover more hours, that would be very beneficial. It really helps to have 3-5 people per hour throughout the day. By all means, larger groups are great, too, often providing energy and support to cover other time slots.

We thank everyone who make this event possible. Let us all get out on that sidewalk and fill it with prayer for the next few weeks. Please invite people to join you. The large groups provide great opportunities for new people. If they are interested in coming back, that’s a great time to suggest a smaller group covering another time. 🍷



Government Update

National

On Monday, February 28th, the U.S. Senate will vote on the inappropriately-named bill called the Women's Health Protection Act, H.R. 3755. If passed, it would eliminate all health protections for women and their children in the cases of abortion, making abortion legal nationwide up to the moment of birth for any reason.

EVERY state protection would become unenforceable. If it passes, then pro-lifers will have not only have a very uphill battle going forward, but we will most likely end up funding most abortions in the near future.

Please continue to pray for a good outcome of the Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization case.

Texas

Also pray regarding the Texas law that allows anyone to report an abortion that takes place beyond a certain gestational period. The state of California decided to create a bill that uses a similar enforcement

mechanism regarding weapons, challenging the Supreme Court to treat the two the same, even though the constitutional rights differ greatly between the two.

Iowa

H.F. 2119 is a bill that would require abortion pills to be dispensed in person. This attempts to counter the federal rule that allows abortion pills by mail and webcam abortions that began in Iowa. Without this, the number of abortions in Iowa could skyrocket.

Last week, the Iowa Supreme Court heard a challenge to the Planned Parenthood of the Heartland v. Kim Reynolds case from a few years ago that led to the declaration by the court of a fundamental right to abortion in the state of Iowa. If this challenge fails, then the law will continue to view abortion as a fundamental right, putting all other pro-life laws at risk. If the challenge succeeds, then the legislature will again be able to make laws as the constitution lays out.

The Protect Life Amendment cannot have progress until next year, but then must pass either in 2023 or 2024.

Columbia

Columbia's supreme court ruled to allow abortion in many more cases than before. With years of pressure from U.S.-based abortion advocates, their nation may be the next to follow in the path that leads to many problems.

Europe

Russia has attacked Ukraine in their gradual expansion that has been going on for several years. There has already been a significant loss of lives and there will be more. Putin may claim he wants to unite the Slavic people, but then orders the killing of them. He may claim Russia is justified because NATO is getting too close, but Russia made the first strikes and had previously grabbed Crimea and taken action in the nation of Georgia. 🇺🇸

Pro-Life Challenge



Please pray for God to work in the lives people, in particular:

Jenifer (pro-lifer with health issues);
Çantana (pro-lifer);
Northern Minnesota's PP sites; a good start for UNI Students for Life; lawmakers & judges

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!



March for Life

This year's Cedar Rapids March for Life was great! We believe we had a record high turnout for the event.

Along the route to Planned Parenthood, we experienced the improvements to the route that the city made last year. The pedestrian underpass that tucks below 1st Avenue made the crossing of that busy road so much easier this year than it has ever been. We always had to break up into small groups when we used to use crosswalks. That used to lead to large gaps in the line of people. This year, we were able to maintain a long line of marchers along the route.

We had some people praying throughout the duration of the event back at the church. We had many more people praying outside of Planned Parenthood. We even joined a group who pray outside of Planned Parenthood on a weekly basis each Saturday for the last several years.

After the outdoor portion of the event, we went inside for the next parts of the event. After not having an indoor

component to the event last year, it was so nice to get back to normal.

We enjoyed chili and desserts. We listened to a few speakers. Bernie Hayes was our keynote speaker, and he had many things to say on the pro-life topic.

We saw more people than usual that we hadn't seen at our events before. This is always a good thing. This event's turnout often varies greatly with the temperature more than any other that we do. But this year, we broke the normal pattern by a longshot.

Thank you to Sue for leading this effort each year, and to the dedicated group of people who helped make this event such a great success this year! We wouldn't have seen such large numbers without your help.

We will continue to try to make this event even better with time. You can help us make it a success by inviting others to our events. We also welcome those of you who are willing to volunteer to plan such activities. 🙏

CFLI Board

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Pat Semelroth
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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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