



# Life Matters

Discussing life matters,  
because life matters

April 2022

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

Donate Here

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

## Planning Ahead

April had several events across several pro-life organizations in Eastern Iowa. We are nearing the summer months that allow us to catch our breaths and plan for events in the latter half of the year.

We know we will have at least one opening on our board, starting in July. If there's any way you would like to help us achieve our mission, we would love to hear from you. We would appreciate whatever help we can get. We have other positions that would also help us transform our culture into a culture of life!

- Coalition Board

# Upcoming Events

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**Second Tuesdays**  
7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

CFLI Board Meetings (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays)

Get involved in our organization!

**Where:** Contact us.

**More:** [coalitionforlife@gmail.com](mailto:coalitionforlife@gmail.com)

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*We are planning events for  
summer and fall.*

*We encourage pro-lifers to pray  
for an end to abortion  
throughout the summer, and  
especially for the current court  
cases.*

*Please also pray as we look to  
fill some positions on our board,  
and consider if you would be  
willing to fill such a position.*



## Recent Events

### 40 Days for Life

We gathered together for the closing rally for our 40 Days for Life. It started out like our typical rally. We prayed together for the first hour. Then, we headed over to Godfather's Pizza, just a block away. We enjoyed a meal together, as usual. Everything was going well, as we ate in the special room in back.

When we knew we had ordered everything we intended to order for the evening, it was time to pay. Two of us headed to the front to pay. The owner asked if everyone still in back. A few people had left already, but those who remained were there. He wanted to address the group. We headed back before we had a chance to pay. He said a few things, including thanking everyone for being on the sidewalk as much as we are. At the end of saying what he had to say, he announced that he was covering the cost of our rally! **Thank you for that, Keith and Godfather's Pizza!**

### Culture of Life Dinner

It was great to attend the Culture of Life Dinner once again in Iowa City. It hadn't happened due to restrictions in recent years. They managed to raise more than \$10,000 to fund the training of people to become practitioners or medical consultants in NaProTechnology.

As usual, attendees learned a bit about NaPro from the scholarship recipients. Most of the recipients from the past have remained in the state, providing superior reproductive healthcare for women. A few have moved out of the state. One recipient this year presently lives in another state.

We are fortunate to live so near Omaha, where people get trained for this. As much as it would be nice to have all of the benefits of the funding stay in Iowa, it's good to see people who lived here bring it to other communities that need this level of healthcare, so this can spread even more.

### Life Dinner

Dubuque County Right to Life's annual fundraiser featured Dr. Anthony Levatino. The doctor is a former abortionist, and even played an abortionist in the Unplanned movie about Abby Johnson's conversion on the life issue.

Their event also hadn't occurred for a couple of years, and I hadn't attended it in even more years. They fill the evening quite well.

The doors opened at 5 pm. People could mingle for the first hour. Around 6 pm, the meal began. Rather than speaking through the meal, they gave us the time to eat. The food was good. Someone from the organization spoke for a bit. Someone else spoke about the respect for life as it relates to her husband with ALS. He intended to attend, but couldn't. Then the doctor spoke about how abortions are performed, his gradual path to being pro-life, and then spoke about some current matters. 🍷



## Government Update

### National

Please continue to pray for a good outcome of the Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization case. We expect a ruling in late June.

Some people who watch the Supreme Court for hints about how things will turn out have seen some signs that Chief Justice Roberts is very unlikely to write the majority opinion. If true, this could make for a more solid ruling, assuming it favors the pro-life side.

### Texas

Also pray regarding the Texas law that allows anyone to report an abortion that takes place beyond a certain gestational period. Many other states have been proposing or passing into law similar laws. So the outcome of the Texas case will provide a precedent for the other states. That could make a few laws either stand or fall, based on this decision.

### Iowa

SF 2381, the MOMS Bill, would help ensure that every new and expecting woman in Iowa has access to meaningful assistance and support when she needs it most through life-affirming pregnancy resource centers. We believe this bill will not only support healthier mothers and children, but it will help our state reduce abortions! The session is nearly over, so this bill needs to be voted on ASAP.


No further action has taken place regarding HF 2389, 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.

No ruling has been made in the Iowa Supreme Court case involving a challenge to the Planned Parenthood of the Heartland v. Kim Reynolds case from a few years ago. The former case 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. We will keep an eye on this.

The Protect Life Amendment cannot progress until 2023 at the earliest or 2024 at the latest.

In just over a month, the primary elections will occur in Iowa on Tuesday, June 7<sup>th</sup>. Due to the redistricting that occurred following the 2020 census, districts are different, both the areas contained in a single district and the number assigned to the districts.

Some lawmakers are trying to move up to a higher office, while several are not running for reelection. So this year could bring several new names to the ballots. Still, there are more seats with only one party represented. Time will tell if more candidates appear on the general election ballot in November. 

## Pro-Life Challenge



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

Jenifer (pro-lifer with health issues);  
Çantana (pro-lifer);  
Central Minnesota's PP sites; 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!



## Vicki Thorn

The founder of Project Rachel has died. Vicki Thorn founded Project Rachel in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee after growing up in Minnesota. It spread throughout the world, helped women heal after suffering from one or more abortions.

She was moved when a close friend of hers admitted to her that she had an abortion. Vicki didn't jump to judgement, but aimed to show love and care. She named the organization based on a passage of scripture:

"In Ramah is heard the sound of sobbing, bitter weeping! Rachel mourns for her children, she refuses to be consoled for her children — they are no more!" – Jer. 31:15

Vicki had spoken several times in Iowa. She was part of the Going Natural program that we helped put on a few times. Going Natural promoted NaProTechnology for improved women's reproductive health. After a slight pause in having those events, followed by the restrictions on public gatherings in recent years, it would have been nice to have her back for another event.

She will be missed. Fortunately, she created an organization that will provide a great legacy. Project Rachel has helped countless women heal after abortion.

The abortion industry tends to deny that abortion has any negative consequences. But numerous women come to terms with their abortions many years later. The abortion industry isn't there to help them deal with the trauma they face. That sends their former clients to pro-lifers who help them forgive, grieve, heal, and move on.

Vicki died on April 20<sup>th</sup> at the age of 72. She will be remembered for Project Rachel and the love she provided for so many women.

She has told people that over many years, she would be just about anywhere in the world, and once she is introduced to someone, they would ask if they could give her a hug. They would thank her. Without saying it outright, it was clear that such women had an abortion and Project Rachel restored them. Let's leave a similar legacy. 🕊️

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- Tell them about it
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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.

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Coalition for Life of Iowa

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