

Life Matters



State Affiliate to the National Right to Life Committee

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Volume 32, Number 5

A publication of West Virginians for Life, Inc.

December 2010

West Virginians for Life PAC Successful in General Election

Congratulations to these pro-life winners, many of whom were supported by the West Virginians for Life Political Action Committee (WVL PAC). Congratulations to them and to all the grassroots volunteers for their hard work!

U.S. Senate: Joe Manchin III (D)

1st Congressional District: David McKinley (R)

2nd Congressional District: Shelley Moore Capito (R)

WV Supreme Court: Thomas McHugh (D)

WV State Senate: Dist. 1 - Orphy Klempa (D), Dist. 2 - Larry Edgell (D), Dist. 3 - David Nohe (R), Dist. 4 - Mike Hall (R), Dist. 5 - Evan Jenkins (D), Dist. 6 - Truman Chafin (D), Dist. 7 - Ron Stollings (D), Dist. 9 - Mike Green (D), Dist. 11 - Gregory Tucker (D), Dist. 12 - Joe Minard (D), Dist. 13 - Bob Beach (D), Dist. 14 - David Sypolt (R), Dist. 15 - Walt Helmick (D) and District 16 - John Unger (D)

WV House of Delegates (in alphabetical order): Bill Anderson (R), Troy Andes (R), Tim Armstead (R), Bob Ashley (R), Tom Azinger (R), Anthony Barill (D), Larry Barker (D), Brent Boggs (D), Larry Border (R), Greg Butcher (D), Denise Campbell (D), Sam Cann (D), Ray Canterbury (R), Mitch Carmichael (R), Daryl Cowles (R), Kevin Craig (D), Gerald Crozier (D), Walter Duke (R), John Ellem (R), Tim Ennis (D), Allen Evans (R), Ryan Ferns (D), Michael Ferro (D), Ron Fragale (D), Judge John Frazier (D), Marty Gearhart (R), Roy Givens (D), Daniel Hall (D), Bill Hamilton (R), Eric Householder (R), Gary Howell (R), Richard Iaquina (D), Woody Ireland (R), Steve Kominar (D), Larry Kump (R), Patrick Lane (R), Mike Manypenny (D), Dale Martin (D), Harold Michael (D), Tim Miley (D), Carol Miller (R), Jonathan Miller (R), Rick Moye (D),

Eric Nelson (R), John David O'Neal IV (R), John Overington (R) Amanda Pasdon (R), Brady Paxton (D), Don Perdue (D), David Perry (D), Dave Pethtel (D), John Pino (D), Dan Poling (D), Doug Reynolds (D), Ralph Rodighiero (D), Wm. Roger Romine (R), Ruth Rowan (R), Brian Savilla (R), Stan Shaver (D), Harold "Pete" Sigler (R), Doug Skaff (D), Peggy Donaldson Smith (D), Rick Snuffer (R), Kelli Sobonya (R), Margaret Staggers (D), Dale Stephens (D), Erikka Storch (R), Josh Stowers (D), Linda Sumner (R), Randy Swartzmiller (D), Richard Thompson (D), Scott Varner (D), David Walker (D), Ron Walters (R), Harry Keith White (D), Larry Williams (D)

Of the 112 races both federal and statewide on November 2, there were 94 wins.

That's an 84% success rate.

Senate President Earl Ray Tomblin took over as Acting Governor upon Manchin taking his Oath of Office as U.S. Senator. Tomblin could serve out the remaining two years of Manchin's term or there could be a special election. Much speculation is going on as to how the whole procedure will be handled. Several have indicated interest in the position. In addition to Earl Ray Tomblin, among those interested in the gubernatorial office are Senator Clark Barnes, former Secretary of State Betty Ireland, Senator Jeff Kessler, Senator Brooks McCabe, State Treasurer John Perdue, Secretary of State Natalie Tennant and House Speaker Richard Thompson. Temporarily Senate President Pro Tempore Joe Minard is acting Senate President. Both Tomblin and Minard are pro-life.

It is so important to saving lives in West Virginia to have these pro-life candidates win their races. Our political efforts are important because they are directly related to passing legislation which saves lives.

Former WV Teens for Life President Wins National Pro-Life Award

The Gerard Health Foundation announced today that Kristan Hawkins, Executive Director of Students for Life of America is one of six winners of the 2009-2010 Life Prizes.

Under Kristan's leadership in 2006, SFLA has more than doubled the number of campus pro-life groups in the US by creating 330 new student pro-life organizations and training more than 5,000 student activists. In addition to training the next generation of pro-life leaders, she has helped to mobilize over 70 pro-life and pro-family leaders in the national Stop the Abortion Mandate Coalition to fight government funding of abortion in the health care reform this past year. Kristan is the youngest recipient of this year's Life Prizes awards and the only West

Virginia recipient ever.

The Life Prizes awards are granted for achieving significant progress in promoting the sanctity of human life and working to protect and preserve it.

Ray Ruddy, President of Gerard Health Foundation, congratulated Kristan, "Kristan Hawkins is a pillar of the modern pro-life movement. Her tireless work ethic has helped protect unborn lives. And only God knows how many more will be saved by the new, pro-life generation she has trained and inspired."

Kristan accepted the award graciously:

"I am humbled to receive this award amidst those trail blazers who have fought for life since even before I was born. Their progress combined with the creativity and

energy of America's youth will achieve an end to abortion in our lifetime."

The Life Prizes winners were measured by their success in saving lives and selected for best demonstrating their leadership and progress in pro-life achievements. The other five winners for the award are Jeanne Head, the UN Representative for National Right to Life; Terri Schiavo and Hope Network; Reverend Alveda King, Founder of King for America; Douglas Johnson, Legislative Director for National Right to Life; and Marie Smith, Director of the Parliamentary Network for Critical Issues.

The awards will be given at a ceremony held in Washington, D.C. on January 22, 2011.

Kristan Hawkins, daughter of Brooke County Chapter Leader /State Treasurer/ Board member Marla Mercer and father Gary Mercer of Wellsburg, has been honored nationally. She was a former WV Teens for Life President.



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From the President

Dear Friend of Life,

I love Christmas! It's a time for family and friends and traditions. It's also time to reflect on a tiny Babe born to a young mother.....One Who would live and die so that we might have eternal life. While that baby, Jesus, was destined to live, sadly far too many mothers are choosing death for their offspring. West Virginians for Life has actively sought to change that mindset.

Since 1975, West Virginians for Life has worked to meet the challenge of returning a culture of life in the state, and, alongside National Right to Life, in the nation. Through education, legislation and political action, we are changing hearts and saving lives.

As 2010 comes to a close, I reflect on our pro-life efforts. This has been a particularly successful year.

We began 2010 with the passage of an Ultrasound Option law which will allow women and girls seeking abortion the opportunity to see their unborn child. What was abstract will become real: They'll see fingers and toes and a beating heart and hopefully they'll change their minds.

Following the passage of the pro-abortion, pro-rationing Obama Health Care law, WVFL PAC and National Right to Life PAC successfully defeated Congressman Alan Mollohan after his vote for the bill.

In fact, despite being vastly outspent by pro-abortion groups, candidates supported by National Right to Life PAC nationwide fared extremely well. National Right to Life PAC supported 285 federal candidates nationwide. Of those, 235 (or 82%) won their races.

In West Virginia, of the 112 races we were actively involved in, we won 94 races for a success rate of 84%.

Pro-life voters don't vote their pocketbooks, you vote your values. You vote your hearts. You are selfless and passionate and on November 2, you soundly voted against President Obama's pro-abortion agenda.

This fall, West Virginians for Life ran radio and television ads statewide to educate the public about the pro-abortion, pro-rationing dangers of the Obama health care law. This is an ongoing effort so if you have a local Christian radio/TV station that could continue to broadcast these ads, which can be heard/seen at www.wvforlife.org, please call us at 304-594-9845 to give us their contact information.

Since 1973, more than fifty-two million defenseless babies have been aborted – more than 3,300 each day, 365 days a year. However, millions are alive today because of the efforts of the pro-life movement: education, legislation, political action, and the myriad of other selfless activities you do throughout the year.

You are my heroes. We continue to persevere as a movement because of your



passion for the most vulnerable among us. I pray you and yours will be blessed during this holy season.

Sincerely,

Karen Cross

Survey: 300 “Doctors” Do Late Abortions, 140 When Baby Feels Pain

With controversial late-term abortion practitioner LeRoy Carhart getting national attention over plans to expand his abortion business, a little-known 2008 study is gaining new attention.

The Guttmacher Institute, a pro-abortion research organization previously affiliated with Planned Parenthood, released a study in 2008 titled “Abortion in the United States: Incidence and Access to Services, 2005.”

The study found there were at least 1,787 abortion “doctors” in the United States but it revealed stark numbers when it comes to those who do abortions later in pregnancy.

Of the 1,787, the study found that “[t]wenty percent of providers offered abortions after 20 weeks Last Menstrual Period [LMP], and only 8% at 24 weeks [LMP].”

Though the numbers seem small, that translates to at least 300 “doctors” who will perform abortions after 20 weeks LMP like LeRoy Carhart and, of those, 140 willing to perform abortions at 24 weeks LMP.

Mary Balch, an attorney who handles state legislation for the National Right to Life Committee, says the numbers are important because mainstream media outlets have attempted

to make it appear there are very few practitioners willing to do late or late-term abortions.

“In an interview with Colorado abortionist Warren Hern published online November 5, 2010, *Time Magazine* perpetuated the prevalent myth that there are few, if any abortionists who perform abortions late in pregnancy,” she told LifeNews.com. “The *Washington Post*’s Rob Stein also furthered the myth in a November 10 piece saying that Carhart ‘is one of the few in the country to perform abortions late in pregnancy.’”

“The truth is, abortions in the fifth month of pregnancy and later are widely available,” she added.

But National Right to Life may have found a way to put these abortion practitioners out of business — by using a new type of state law that drove Carhart to seek opportunities to do late abortions elsewhere.

Carhart’s decision to move operations resulted from Nebraska’s enactment of the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act earlier this year. The law took effect October 15 and it protects unborn children in the fifth and sixth month of pregnancy or later by prohibiting abortion after 20 weeks following conception.

“Nebraska’s groundbreaking law protecting pain-capable unborn children is an example for other states in the nation,” Balch says. “LeRoy Carhart’s hopscotching around the nation to find areas that allow abortion for any reason, at any time, underscores the need for other states to pass similar legislation to put Carhart and the hundreds of other abortionists who perform abortions late in pregnancy out of business.”

See *SURVEY: BABY FEELS PAIN*, page 9



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Mary Anne Buchanan, *Editor*

Permit No. 56
Vol. 32 No. 5

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Life Matters, the official publication of West Virginians for Life,
25 Canyon Rd., Morgantown, WV 26508, (304) 594-9845,
wvforlife@labs.net, is published at 25 Canyon Rd., Morgantown,
WV 26508. Third class postage paid at Morgantown, WV.
Permit #56.

A Non-Profit Organization
Published Bi-monthly

ISSN 1084-3795
Price: \$10.00

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Babies Fare Well in 2010 General Election

Manchin Already Proving Pro-Life Commitment

by Vicky Covert, Legislative Liaison

West Virginians for Life is pleased that all three branches of government in West Virginia will continue to be pro-life - the House led by Richard Thompson, the Senate led temporarily by Senator Joe Minard and the governor being Earl Ray Tomblin. New Governor Earl Ray Tomblin has a 100% pro-life voting record. With his unwavering support in the past, WVFL anticipates a positive outcome for the 2011 session.

West Virginians for Life looks forward to working with former Governor and newly elected Senator Joe Manchin in Washington and wishes him well. Senator Manchin, too, has a 100% pro-life voting record for his time served as a legislator in Charleston. Already he has shown his commitment. On December 9, the Senate turned back a second attempt by pro-abortion Democrats to stop a Republican filibuster against a Defense Department funding measure that would allow abortions at military base hospitals. **Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid's second attempt to get 60 votes for cloture failed by a 57-40 vote and Senator Joe Manchin was the ONLY Democrat to vote against cloture (a pro-life vote). Please call him to say "thank you" at (202) 224-3954.**

In the U.S. Congress, winner David McKinley, who takes 14-term Alan Mollohan's seat, will be working alongside winner Congresswoman Shelley Moore Capito.

Overall, the outcome for the election..... 94 of 112 races won for a success rate of 84%.

West Virginians for Life congratulates all pro-life winners on their victories, as well as the grass roots people who worked diligently for their pro-life candidates. We look forward to working with all of you in 2011!



Governor Earl Ray Tomblin



House Speaker Richard Thompson



Temporary Senate President Joe Minard



U.S. Senator Joe Manchin III



Legislative Liaison
Vicky Covert



Communications Director Mary Anne Buchanan, 1st District Congressman-Elect David McKinley, NRL President Dr. Wanda Franz and WVFL President Karen Cross.



2nd District Congresswoman
Shelly Moore Capito

The 2011 Legislative Session begins January 12.

Join us at the Rally for Life on February 14. The theme is **Have a Heart for the Babies.**

WVFL Thanks the 2010-2011 Resource Book Advertisers

Affordable Spas, Berkeley Springs
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 Allen's Auto Rental, Morgantown
 Assumption Church of Keyser
 Delegate Tom Azinger, Vienna
 Carol Ambrose, Maryland
 Anthony Barill, Morgantown
 Delegate Larry Barker, Madison
 Senator Clark Barnes, Elkins
 Bethel Church of the Brethren, Petersburg
 Delegate Brent Boggs, Gassaway
 John G. Bonasso, Fairmont
 Dr. Karl C. Boone, Buckhannon
 Delegate Larry Border, Davisville
 Brooke County RTL, Wellsburg
 Delegate Greg Butcher, Chapmanville
 Cabell County Right to Life, Huntington
 Delegate Ray Canterbury, Ronceverte
 Congresswoman Shelley Capito, Charleston
 Delegate Mitch Carmichael, Ripley
 Central WV Center for Pregnancy Care, Buckhannon
 Central WV Center for Pregnancy Care, Thomas
 Centurion Hospitality Services, LLC, Morgantown
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 Dawson's Ace Hardware, Berkeley Springs
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 Delegate Walter Duke, Martinsburg
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Harrison County Chapter, Clarksburg
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 Huffman Logging, Inc., Petersburg
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 Joe Johnson Construction, Parkersburg
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 Father Leo B. Lydon, Clarksburg
 Maintenance Managers, Berkeley Springs
 Governor Joe Manchin, III, Charleston
 Delegate Mike Manypenny, Grafton
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 Mason County Right to Life, Letart
 Elliott "Spike" Maynard, Williamson
 David McKinley, Wheeling
 Mill Creek Animal Hospital, Petersburg
 Senator Joseph Minard, Clarksburg
 Mineral County Chapter of WVFL, Keyser
 Monongalia County Chapter of WVFL, Morgantown
 Monroe County Chapter of WVFL, Union
 Morgan County Chapter of WVFL, Great Cacapon
 Delegate Ricky Moye, Crab Orchard
 David O'Connor, Combined Insurance, Morgantown
 Senator Mike Oliverio, Morgantown
 Delegate John Overington, Martinsburg
 Amanda Pasdon, Morgantown
 Mary S. Paul Hearing Services, Morgantown
 Delegate David Perry, Oak Hill
 Delegate David Pethtel, Hundred
 John Pino, Oak Hill
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 Sabak Computer Services, Fairmont
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 Shanholtz Orchards, Romney
 Delegate Stan Shaver, Tunnelton
 Delegate Doug Skaff, So. Charleston
 Delegate Peggy Smith, Weston
 Sugarwood Golf Club, Lavalette
 Summers County Right to Life, Sandstone
 Delegate Linda Sumner, Beckley
 Delegate Randy Swartzmiller, Chester
 Senator David Sypolt, Kingwood
 House Speaker Richard Thompson, Lavalette
 Senate President Earl Ray Tomblin, Chapmanville
 Tudor's Biscuit World
 Upshur County Chapter, Buckhannon
 Valley Brook Concrete, Lakin
 Vineyards of Piterra, Purgitsville
 Walker's Flower Basket, Poca
 Chris Walters, Morgantown
 The Way of Holiness Church, Buckhannon
 Wayne County Right to Life, Ceredo
 Wayside Southern Baptist Church, Buckhannon
 West Milford Baptist Church, West Milford
 West Virginia Pipeline, Princeton
 Delegate Larry Williams, Tunnelton
 Woman's Choice, Inc., Charleston
 Word of Faith Assembly, Daniels

NRLC CONTINUES TO BE “FLAGSHIP OF THE PRO-LIFE MOVEMENT”



Wanda Franz
National Right to Life President

That same day, I also met representatives of National Right to Life. They opposed any research that destroyed embryos. They pointed out that each tiny stem cell cluster had the potential to grow into a person. In fact, all of us had started our lives in this early state. As evidence, they pointed to a new program run by Nightlight Christian Adoptions. The agency secured permission from IVF participants to place their unused frozen embryos up for adoption. Loving mothers had the embryos implanted in them and carried the babies—known as snowflakes—to term. The message was unmistakable: Within every frozen embryo were the beginnings of a child.

—President George W. Bush, *Decision Points*, (Crown Publishers, 2010), p. 115

The above paragraph is a quote from President Bush's memoir on major decisions of his presidency. In the chapter from which this section is taken he discusses how he came to prohibit funding of new stem cell research that required the destruction of embryos.

The chapter shows that President Bush informed himself carefully on the serious moral issues surrounding embryonic stem cell research. NRLC's down-to-earth explanation of the humanity of the embryo clearly moved him. There is another thing: NRLC is the only single-issue pro-life advocacy group mentioned in the whole book.

The point I want to make here is this: NRLC truly is the “flagship of the pro-life

movement,” as the late Henry Hyde so eloquently said. Pro-life public servants know that they can get sound advice from NRLC's staff. While some of NRLC's work is behind the scenes, much of it is out in the public sphere. In any event, it is work carried on with great expertise and on a wide scale. And what does that work require? High-caliber strategists and experts at NRLC's Washington office, active state chapters, and committed pro-life individuals everywhere—I mean you, dear pro-life reader. We need your support especially now! (I assume your check will be in the mail soon.)

What pro-life educational and political work can do was evident in the recent nationwide elections. How far did the work of National Right to Life and its state chapters reach?

- One exit poll had this question:

As you know, there were a number of groups and organizations that actively supported various political candidates or causes in the elections. One of these organizations is the National Right to Life. Do you recall hearing or seeing any advertising, receiving any information in the mail, receiving any literature, or receiving a telephone call from the National Right to Life? **YES 24%**

Obviously, National Right to Life has a strong educational role in the public square.

- In addition to receiving information from National Right to Life, respondents to the post election poll also received information from the state affiliates of National Right to Life.

Do you recall seeing or hearing any advertising or receiving information from the statewide pro-life group in your state? **YES 12%**

- While the economy, federal deficits, and government-run healthcare were foremost on the voters' minds, **5% mentioned abortion** “as the most important issue.”
- What about governmental funding of abortion?

Do you support or oppose using taxpayer dollars to pay for abortion at any time and for any reason? **OPPOSED 58%**

- Now let's look at one of the most important measures of the effectiveness of pro-life work.

Generally speaking, did the abortion issue affect the way you voted in today's election?

YES, ABORTION AFFECTED MY VOTE AND I VOTED FOR THE CANDIDATES WHO OPPOSE ABORTION – 22%

YES, ABORTION AFFECTED MY VOTE AND I VOTED FOR THE CANDIDATES WHO FAVOR ABORTION – 8%

Thus, the last election once again demonstrated the importance of the “pro-life advantage” for political candidates, 14% in this case.

- Obviously, the new healthcare law was a big issue in the elections.

Generally speaking, did the issue of health care rationing in the Obama health care law affect the way you voted in today's election?

YES, RATIONING IN THE HEALTH CARE LAW AFFECTED MY VOTE AND I VOTED FOR CANDIDATES WHO OPPOSED THE HEALTH CARE LAW – 44%

YES, RATIONING IN THE HEALTH CARE LAW AFFECTED MY VOTE AND I VOTED FOR CANDIDATES WHO FAVORED THE HEALTH CARE LAW – 10%

Generally speaking, did the issue of funding for abortion in the Obama health care law affect the way you voted in today's election?

YES, ABORTION FUNDING IN HEALTH CARE LAW AFFECTED MY VOTE AND I VOTED FOR CANDIDATES WHO OPPOSED THE HEALTH CARE LAW – 27%

YES, ABORTION FUNDING IN HEALTH CARE LAW AFFECTED MY VOTE AND I VOTED FOR CANDIDATES WHO FAVORED THE HEALTH CARE LAW – 4%

Do you *SUPPORT* or *OPPOSE* the Obama Health Care Law as passed by the Congress?

TOTAL OPPOSE – 54 % (44% strongly)
TOTAL SUPPORT – 39% (26% strongly)

During the contentious town hall meetings of early summer 2009, it was evident that a large number of citizens had become alarmed over governmental overreach. My conclusion already then was that the rationing of care built into President Obama's health care law would make these citizens open to NRLC's life-promoting message. Abortion might not be much of a concern for them, either because they were past child-bearing years or, personally, they would have never contemplated having an abortion. Rationing of their *own* health care, being denied life-saving treatment when they needed it—that was another matter. Now, their own lives were at stake. So it should not be a surprise that 44% of actual voters were concerned about rationing in the new law and voted for candidates opposing the law.

The total was this: The National Right to Life PAC supported 285 federal candidates nationwide, and 235 (82%) won as of the day after the election.

National Right to Life Convention

June 23-25, 2011
Jacksonville, FL



12th Annual Rose Dinner



Former Texas Planned Parenthood Director Abby Johnson making a point to the pro-life faithful.



Cabell County Chapter Leader George Wallace, The Honorable Elliott "Spike" Maynard and Travis Hatfield with the Cabell chapter.



Benediction by Pastor Byrne of St. John University Parish



Standing at the head table: Drs. Wanda and Gunter Franz, Speaker Abby Johnson and Andrew Murray. Seated: Fr. Fred Byrne, Karen Allen, Margaret Darr and Lou Palmieri.



A smiling Jane Bonasso with Andy and Linda Sabak helping themselves to the appetizers.



Standing: Heather Bragg, Michael Cross, Karen Cross, The Honorable Spike Maynard Seated: Michael and Brandi Loop with son Jameson and Sherrie Peery



Master of Ceremonies James Sabin, Youth Pastor at Kingdom Evangelical Methodist Church and teacher at Covenant Christian School, did an awesome job.



Abby with Michele and Tom Thacker, members of the Upshur County Chapter



The Teens table consisted of standing: Sam Deal, Shandy Kuzava, Heather Bragg, Emily Welsh and Chelsie Weed.

Seated are Abigail Johnson, Amy Welsh and Tiffany Staggs.



WVFL President Karen Cross welcomed everyone.

Standing: Dr. Miklos Auber with daughter Rebekah, David Michael, Dianne Auber
Seated: Arpy Balain, Dr. Tom Hogan, Dr. Ed Crowell and wife Susan



Donna Kolanko and daughter Kylie



Wood County Chapter Leader Patty Cooper donned her Margaret Sanger props and gave one of Sanger's chilling speeches from 1925.



Heather and Dawn Bragg with mother Suzi

Singer Shirley Robinson of Morgantown has been gifted vocally.



At Lakeview Resort in Morgantown



Standing: Julie and Dan Cunningham, Barbara Dunn and Shirley Robinson
Seated: Phylisa Thomas and Delegate Mike Manypenny



Standing: Mary Anne Buchanan, Pastor Jamey Gremillion who gave the Invocation, Nancy and John Kahl
Seated: Mary and Matt Robinette, Rhonda and Tim Fout



Standing: Jeanna, Ross and Scott Weed
Seated: Melody and Joe Torralba, Michele and Tom Thacker



Standing: Chrissy and Robert Kincaid, Jr., Barbara and Robert Kincaid
Seated: Dr. Joe and Charlotte Snead (Board Member), Karen Gump and Dr. Greenbrier Almond



Standing: Shelley and Jim Storm, Marion County Chapter Leader Andy Sabak, Connie VanGilder and Sharon Strother
Seated: Jane Bonasso, Agnes DeRosa and Linda Sabak



Standing: Pastor James Sabin, WVFL Vice President Lynn McElowney, Wood County Chapter Leader Patty Cooper and Barbara Cureton
Seated: WVFL Treasurer Marla Mercer and husband Gary



Standing: John and Darlene Jenks and Terri Funk
Seated: Tom and Monroe County Chapter Leader Martha Hunter and Senator David Sypolt



Standing: Bill and Mildred Heffern, Board Members Louise Deal and Patricia Johnson
Seated: Cabell County Chapter Leader George Wallace, Travis Hatfield, Carolyn Helmick and Morgan County Chapter Leader Jim Fritz



Here to serve you are WVFL Communications Director Mary Anne Buchanan, Office Manager Sherri Stevens, President Karen Cross and Volunteer Coordinator Kim Drvar



Martha Hunter
Monroe County Chapter

Pro-Life Profile

Martha Hunter is the president of the Monroe County Chapter of West Virginians for Life. Martha and her husband, Tom, have been married for 48 years. They have one daughter, Barbie, twins Mark and Eric, and James (Pete), their youngest. They are blessed with seven grandchildren: Dave, Jacob, Maggie, Charlie, Ryan, Luke and Wade. She and husband Tom attend the Lighthouse Church of God in Union, WV.

Martha and Tom lived in Summers County until Tom's retirement from CSX Railroad in 2004. As a Christian, Martha felt a calling to become involved in the Summers County Right to Life

and was there for about 12 years. They moved to Monroe County in 2005. There was no active chapter in Monroe County, so a few pro-lifers gathered and the Chapter was officially formed in April 2009. Brian Louk was their first speaker.

The Monroe County Chapter of WVFL distributes literature to churches, sponsors booths at area festivals, participates in parades, and has spoken at a youth rally and women's prayer group. The Chapter has their annual Pro-Life Mother's Day and Father's Day Signature ads in their local newspaper *The Monroe Watchman*. "We have a lot of churches that support our work," she said.

Martha believes that the most important task of the Monroe County Chapter is to educate the public on pro-life issues. She said it is amazing how many people still ask what partial-birth abortion is. Martha feels that there is much apathy regarding abortion, even in our churches. As a result, she feels that pro-lifers need to get information out to make people aware that abortion is murder, that it is the killing of an unborn, innocent child. Martha shared that she is honored that God has called her in this battle "For such a time as this."

We join our prayers to Martha's that someday all our work will be rewarded with the reversal of *Roe v. Wade*!



Don't miss the
**38th Annual
March for Life!**

Monday, January 24, 2011

- Chartered Bus leaves Morgantown Mall (Sears) at 4:45 a.m. to return approx. 11:00 p.m.
- Cost is \$10 per person or \$25 per family of three or more
- Congressional Meeting at 10:30
- Make your reservation immediately at 304-216-6573
- If you know of other charters going, please inform the WVFL Office at 304-594-9845.

West Virginia Teens for Life



Dear WV Teens,

As we begin the season of Advent, we are preparing for the coming of Christ. Advent is a time to celebrate the unborn Christ Child. This is a good time to pray for all nascent life. Babies born and unborn are defenseless and need protection. A way you could celebrate this time is by throwing a baby shower for a young mother or taking the girls out at your local crisis pregnancy home for a movie to show your support. Have a heart-to-heart chat with a friend or acquaintance about the

urgent need to protect these innocent lives. During this time of year, people have open hearts so discussing this important issue in a loving way might get some of your friends involved.

After Christmas, New Year's Day comes up swiftly and many people take this opportunity to make resolutions. Some resolutions are about prayer, exercising, or fostering virtues, but this year, make a pro-life resolution. Just identifying yourself as pro-life is not enough. Become active in your local chapter or if you don't have one, organize one! A good way to start the year would be by attending the March for Life in D.C. on Jan. 24th, 2011. Making sure America remembers this infamous day is key.

Let me know about what your resolution is! E-mail at christinad93@yahoo.com.

Merry Christmas!

For Life,
Christina Deal

WVFL Treasurer's Article

I pray that you had a wonderful Thanksgiving with your families. It is good to give thanks for all of our many blessings. As the Christmas season is coming upon us, may we continue to pray that abortion will end and that Life will be respected at all stages. May we continue to pray for our leaders and may they seek His guidance on making the right decisions to defend Life.

I was so inspired at our annual Rose Dinner by our guest speaker, Mrs. Abby Johnson. Her message was powerful and I hope that all of you will be able to hear her story at some point. Her book *Unplanned* is scheduled for a January 2011 release.

All of these educational events take time and money to present to all of us. May you continue to support West Virginians for Life with your monetary gifts so that we



WVFL Treasurer Marla Mercer

may continue educating people about those Life issues that are so important to all of us.

Merry Christmas and May God bless you and yours.

Marla Mercer

Survey: Baby Feels Pain

from page 2

“That more than 140 abortion providers are willing to kill unborn children who are capable of feeling the excruciating pain of abortion is a tragedy – a tragedy that we can easily stop in the state legislatures,” Balch told *LifeNews.com*.

The legislation is sorely needed because there are more late abortions and late-term abortions taking place in the United States than most people probably realize.

A May 2010 briefing by the Guttmacher Institute reveals .5% of the estimated more than 1.2 million elective abortions performed annually in the United States are on unborn children at 21 weeks LMP (19 weeks postfertilization) or older.

This translates to roughly 18,000 abortions annually – a substantial number of which probably occur at 22 weeks LMP or later, which is past the point that the best evidence indicates that the unborn child is fully capable of feeling pain (a point that may well occur earlier).

Balch says those findings are generally corroborated by the Centers for Disease Control Abortion Surveillance Report for 2006, released in November 2009.

In the 43 reporting areas for 2006 which reported gestational age to the CDC for its report, at least 1.3% of abortions were performed at 21 weeks or later and several states either submitted no data or did not accurately report the age of the baby at the time of the abortion.

Not only does the legislation have the effect of prohibiting late abortions, Balch

says it has a tremendous educational value by showing the public how abortions cause great pain for unborn children.

“Since 2007, medical research, triggered by the identification of consciousness in children lacking a cortex from birth, has indicated that nerve connection to the cortex is not essential to experience pain,” the NRLC attorney notes. “In fact, informed specialists have concluded that the subcortical plate, to which nerves from the pain receptors are linking at 20 weeks postfertilization, fulfills that function.”

Scientific studies dating back to 1987 confirm the existence of fetal pain at 20 weeks postfertilization (22 weeks LMP).

The ability to target late and late-term abortions via this state legislation is so important that NRLC is planning a state legislative forum for pro-life leaders and state legislators on December 7.

“With pro-life electoral gains on November 2, the spring legislative sessions give us a tremendous opportunity to enact a variety of protective pro-life laws in many states and put an end to abortions after the unborn child is capable of feeling pain,” Balch concludes. “Our number one priority at the state level is protecting mothers and their unborn children from the abortion industry and we have pro-life legislative majorities across the country to help make that happen.”

Article by Steven Ertelt, Reprinted from LifeNews.com.

List YOUR Name in the Ad for Life

This year’s Ad for Life in the *Charleston Daily Mail* will be on Monday, February 14, 2010, the day of our annual “Pro-Life Rally and Day at the Legislature” at the Capitol in Charleston. The 2011 theme is *Have a Heart for the Babies*.

Your contribution will not only help us finance this large expense, but it will also include printing your name so that you can make a public statement. The ad will address the need to pass pro-life legislation.

If you would like to donate, but do not want your name printed, please indicate so on the coupon below.

Please list my name as a sponsor of the “Ad for Life” in the *Daily Mail*.
Enclosed is my donation toward the February 14 Ad for Life:

___\$10.00

___\$15.00

___\$20.00

___\$50.00

___\$100.00

___\$ ____.

Name (Print)_____Phone #_____

(If you do not wish to have your name listed in the ad, please indicate so on this coupon.)

Address_____

City_____State_____Zip_____

E-mail _____

Donations should be made payable to:
West Virginians for Life, Inc.
25 Canyon Rd., Morgantown, WV 26508

Contributions to West Virginians for Life are not deductible as charitable contributions for income tax purposes. West Virginia residents may obtain a summary of the registration and financial documents from the Secretary of State, State Capitol, Charleston, WV 25305. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Sign, Sign, Everywhere a Sign

These signs were in the yard of a Raleigh County WVFL Board Member. On Election Day, she was told to remove the signs as they were within 300 feet of a polling place.

However, she was perfectly within her rights to display these as they made no mention of any political candidate by name.

Once she found this out, the owner promptly walked to the polling place, informed them and repositioned her signs.

This story has been shared so that you know what is permissible. Way to go, Hilda!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- January 12, 2011: Legislative Session begins
- January 23, 2011: Sanctity of Human Life Sunday
- January 24, 2011: Annual March for Life, Washington, D.C.
- February 14, 2011: Pro-Life Rally and Day at the Legislature, Charleston
- March 19, 2011: Board Meeting, Clarksburg

Across the Mighty State

Cabell County: Travis Hatfield, Cathy Weiss and Chapter Leader George Wallace attended the State Convention and really received a blessing for being there. “The love and enjoyment of being around pro-life friends makes it worth it all,” said George. Members of their chapter participated in the Life Chain on Oct. 3, a special fundraiser at Bob Evans and the 4-day Pumpkin Festival in Milton. Additionally, the chapter made sure to be part of a Pro-Life Info and Craft Show at a nearby United Methodist church. George drove to Wood County to pray and hold a sign outside the Planned Parenthood in Vienna alongside Patty Cooper for 40 Days for Life. Most recently, the Teays Valley Church of God was graced with pro-life info at the craft show there on November 20. Many thanks from the chapter for the help and invitations goes to Yoko Wallace, Cathy Weiss, Michelle Plumley, Freda Gooch, Barbara Flanery and Mary Harris.



The Cabell County Chapter helped Mary Harris man a pro-life booth at the New Life Church Fall Festival. Pictured L to R: Mary and friend

Fayette County: At the October meeting, a gentleman shared his personal experience as a father who lost a child to abortion. The chapter continues its website at savingthebabies.com and holds regular monthly meetings the first Monday of every month. At the October meeting, Leader Vada Whitt shared a video with clips from all Fayette County for Life activities within the past year for the group’s one year anniversary. A letter will be sent to area churches in search of liaisons to attend their meetings. They have established a fundraising committee headed by Nina Cox and Katie O’Neil. This newest chapter is continuing to make great strides thanks to the dedication of its members.



Mineral County walkers in the May 8 Mother’s Day Walk-for-Life

Monongalia County: In November, anyone who attended the Covenant Evangelical Methodist Church’s Christmas Bazaar, was privy to the chapter’s pro-life booth. Petition signatures were obtained, canned goods were sold and fetal models and pro-life literature were on display. The chapter will be sending a busload to Washington, D.C. for the 38th Annual March for Life. It will leave on Monday, January 24, at 4:45 a.m. from the Sears at Morgantown Mall. Cost per person is \$10 or \$25 for a family of three or more. To make your reservation, call Mary Anne at 304-216-6573. Seats will go fast, so call ASAP. The chapter will also be submitting a pro-life signature ad to *The Dominion Post* for the January 22 edition in observance of the infamous *Roe v. Wade* decision that has been



Mon County Chapter member Rhonda Fout and daughter Savannah shared the pro-life message at the annual Christmas Bazaar at Covenant EMC in Morgantown on Nov. 20.



Raleigh and Fayette County chapter members desire to go back to D.C. for the March in 2011.

the bane of our American experience. Make your public stand. Donations to the ad can be made payable and sent to: WVFL-Mon County Chapter, PO Box 1479, Morgantown, WV 26507-1479. Any amount is acceptable. Be sure to include how you want your name to appear in the ad.

Monroe County: Chapter Leader Martha Hunter and husband Tom attended their first Rose Dinner in November and visited the State Office on Canyon Road the next day before heading back to Union three and a half hours away.

Morgan County: On October 3, Respect Life Sunday, many local citizens participated in the National Life Chain by forming a “Life Chain” along Washington Street in downtown

Berkeley Springs. This Life Chain is formed throughout a hundred nations of the world on Respect Life Sunday between the hours of 2 and 3 p.m. This keeps the pro-life issue in front of the public and hopefully may have changed some attitudes about respect for life. Respect Life not only includes the life of the unborn, but the life of those that may die from euthanasia and other unnatural causes. An estimated 2,000 drivers, passengers and pedestrians observed the signs during the one hour of demonstration. Reaction to the demonstration was very positive with many thumbs up, honks from the truckers, requests for signs and even pictures taken of those holding signs.

On October 9 the Morgan County WVFL participated in the Apple Butter Festival Parade

Across the Mighty State



Office Manager Sherri Stevens, Volunteer Coordinator Kim Drvar, Monroe County Chapter Leader Martha Hunter, Tom Hunter and Communications Director Mary Anne Buchanan the day after the 12th Annual Rose Dinner.

Butter Festival. Pro-Life material was given out along with pro-life balloons. Fetal models were on display for all to pick up and hold. Little 12-week-old fetal models were given to interested girls to keep. One girl showed them one she had received the year before. She carried it everywhere. Two other girls came back with little baskets to hold their ‘babies’.

showing the development on a monthly basis were also displayed in the Gathering Place and updated on a monthly basis. Just prior to the baby’s birth on October 10th the group held a baby shower inviting people to bring gifts. The gifts of baby items were donated to the Hope Center Pregnancy Center in Hagerstown. They were happy to receive \$400 in cash and a pickup load of baby items from diapers to cribs. Over 200 people adopted the unborn babies, naming each one and pinning an adoption card on a board placed in the Gathering Place of the church. Barbara Carr and Jim Fritz are writing a book that includes all of the information necessary to conduct this effort.

Charlie Heise, Jim Fritz and others provide sidewalk counseling three days a week in front of the abortion mill in Hagerstown, Maryland. Since they began in October 2006 they have saved 194 babies from being killed and an equal

number of women from being emotionally damaged. Plus, they have affected a good number of people passing the scene. Passersby view the large signs and witness the people praying. One young man came from some distance just to show a picture of a baby girl whom he and his wife almost aborted a year ago. They had driven to the abortuary and after seeing the signs and people praying, changed their minds. He was one proud Papa. The 8’ X 12’ pro-life billboard outside of Berkeley Springs on Route 522 has continued. Thanks to all who support this, especially the Knights of Columbus, who donate \$1,000 yearly.

WVTFL: The WV Teens for Life meet on the first Monday of every month at 3:30 p.m. prior to the Mon County Chapter meeting at the State Office in Morgantown. Contact Christina at 304-599-3902 if interested in attending.

in Berkeley Springs. They had a float driven by Bob Ezolt who helped prepare the float and drove the truck with huge pro-life banners. The float included live music by Bob Williams and his wife Eun Yea. The float had two 4’ X 8’ banners with the pictures of the 12 babies who entered the Beautiful Babies Contest. Many rode the float and others walked alongside. The Quarantillo family and many others from Morgan County participated.

The chapter also provided a WVFL Booth in downtown Berkeley Springs on the Columbus Day Weekend when thousands of visitors descend upon the town for the Apple

Crew members included Rachel and Linda Lawhorne, Barbara and Jack Carr, Vickie Saenz and others.

Barbara and Jack Carr, who formed a pro-life group at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church in Berkeley Springs, spearheaded a Spiritual Adoption Program last January. The primary purpose was (1) for a family to spiritually adopt an unborn baby and (2) educate the adults and children of the parish about the development of the preborn baby. Each week a short insert was placed in the church bulletin describing the development of the baby at that specific time in his/her life from conception to birth. Pictures

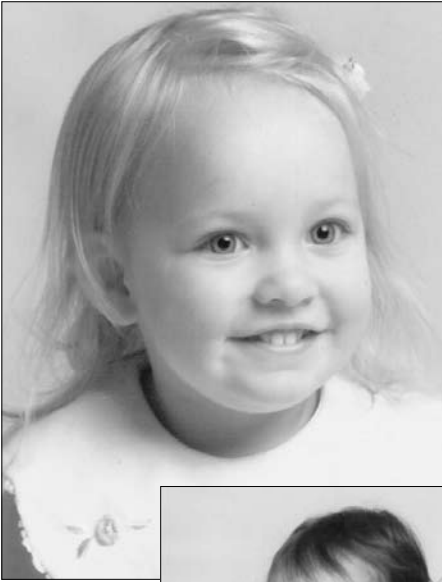


Staff Table - *Standing:* Volunteer Coordinator Kim Drvar, Donna Dunson, webmaster Allen Dunson and Office Manager Sherri Stevens *Seated:* Suzi Bragg and daughter (also a stem cell recipient) Dawn

Monongalia County Chapter



Above Left: First place winner in the Mon County Chapter’s Precious Baby Photo contest was Benedict Franks.



Above Right: Second Place was Shana Monroe.

Right: Third place winner and a two-time entrant was Lyra Mae Morey.

All entrants won a precious feet pin and a certificate while the top three received trophies and their photos in *The Dominion Post*.



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25 Canyon Road
Morgantown, WV 26508

Change Service Requested



Please join us on Monday, February 14, 2011 in the Capitol Rotunda, Charleston at Noon.

Highlights:

- Meet with your Legislators (10 a.m. - 12 p.m.)
- Teens for Life Rally (11:30 a.m.)
- Rally at Noon
- Prayer Processional following Rally
- Remember to wear red!!!

VALENTINE'S THEME:

HAVE A HEART FOR THE BABIES

For additional information:

(304) 594-9845 or wvforlife.org

The day will be filled with fellowship, music, exciting speakers, and a special prayer walk through the Capitol on behalf of the unborn.

Life Matters


West Virginians for Life, Inc.

December 2010



Merry Christmas!