



25 Canyon Road, Morgantown, WV 26508
304-594-9845 / email: info@wvforlife.org / www.wvforlife.org

All of these speakers are prepared to speak without any speaker's fee. However, they must be reimbursed for all of the expenses of traveling to give a speech. Be sure to discuss these arrangements with any potential speaker.

(June 2019)

SPEAKERS FOR WEST VIRGINIANS FOR LIFE

Rebekah Berg was born in Morgantown, WV. She was raised with Christian and pro-life values, and she worked as a part-time office assistant in the West Virginians for Life office. After high school, Rebekah moved away to a small Christian college in Missouri. During her freshman year, she was date raped. When she discovered she was pregnant, she chose life and decided to keep the baby. As a single mom she completed her degree at West Virginia University in exercise physiology with an emphasis in Aquatic Therapy. She is married and the proud mother of five children.

Topic: Personal testimony demonstrating that the case for the right to life is superior to abortion in cases of rape

Mary Anne Buchanan, West Virginians for Life (WVFL) Program Director and Political Action Committee (PAC) Treasurer, graduated from Penn State University with a B.A. in Speech Communications. After an 8-year career as a radio announcer in the 1980's for WPQR in Uniontown, PA and then WVAQ and WAJR in Morgantown, she opted to be a full-time mother and homemaker until 2005 when she rejoined the workforce. Among her responsibilities are the editorship of the organization's quarterly newspaper LIFE MATTERS and coordinating fundraising events for WVFL. She has been involved with her local Monongalia County Chapter of West Virginians for Life since 1985 and held every office at various times since then. She was named WVFL's Angel of the Year in 2009. She resides in Morgantown with her husband, retired attorney and former pro-life Delegate Mike Buchanan, and they are the proud parents of adult children Kaitlin, son-in-law Joey Travinski and Aaron.

Topics: Personal testimony about her own abortion and how to be an overcomer
How to Save Babies with Social Media

Patty Cooper, having been adopted, has been a stalwart pro-life advocate for years. As the West Virginians for Life Wood County Chapter Leader and a WVFL Board Member, Patty has also made a name for herself as a frequent Letter to the Editor contributor in the *Parkersburg News Sentinel*. She conducts an annual 40 Days for Life campaign every fall, too, in front of the only Planned Parenthood clinic in the state not far from her historic century-old home that she has worked hard at preserving. Patty is proud to be the 2010 recipient of the coveted Angel of the Year Award from WVFL. A performer of living history for the West Virginia Humanities Council and Artsbridge, Patty portrays several famous women of the past, teaches olde needle arts, is an antique dealer, and a motorcoach guide. She has used her driving passion of history in her pro-life work portraying the evil Margaret Sanger, founder of abortion giant Planned Parenthood, Susan B. Anthony, Eleanor Roosevelt, Amelia Earhart, blind hymn writer Fanny Crosby and a whole host of many other historical women. She has been the school marm at New Era One Room School in Wood County since 2007 to over 4,000 fourth graders and sits on the Board at Mountwood Park and historic Cooper Cabin Museum in Parkersburg's City Park. The wife of Curtis Cooper, they have two sons and six grandchildren and one waiting in heaven.

Impersonations: Margaret Sanger (not in a positive way)

Lacey Evans is a 2010 graduate of Marshall University with a degree in Secondary Education. She attended the National Right to Life Academy in the summer of 2009 along with nine other college-age students. At the Academy, she received in-depth training on the issues and strategy of the pro-life movement. She has given pro-life presentations at West Virginians for Life Conventions and at youth events. She is currently the president of Tucker

County Right to Life and serves on the Board of West Virginians for Life. She is employed as a business education teacher in Tucker County and works as a leader with the Young Life group in that area. She serves as a board member for the new youth center in Parsons, WV.

Topics: Legal and legislative issues relating to abortion and euthanasia
Planned Parenthood
The Living Will
Damage caused to women, men and families following abortion

Wanda Franz, Ph.D., is a developmental psychologist and professor emerita of child development at West Virginia University in Morgantown, WV. Dr. Franz served as a consultant to the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Adolescent Pregnancy Programs. She has co-authored a textbook on early child development and has written chapters for a number of books on fetal development, post-abortion syndrome and abortion decision-making in adolescents. She has served as president of West Virginians for Life from 1975 to 1990 and president of National Right to Life Committee from 1991 to 2011. She has spoken on abortion and euthanasia nationally and in numerous international setting, including at the United Nations NGO (non-governmental organizations) conferences. She is currently serving as President of West Virginians for Life.

Topics: Legal and legislative issues relating to abortion and euthanasia
Fetal development and fetal pain
Adolescent abortion and parents' right to know
Damage caused to women, men and families following abortion

Deborah Sturm, RN, MA, was born in Wheeling, WV and grew up in New Martinsville, WV. She has an extensive background in healthcare—eighteen years of experience in the field of radiologic technology, and nine years of hospital experience in the field of nursing. She is also a veteran of the United States Army Reserves. Her nursing background includes long-term care, adult behavioral medicine, and geriatric psychiatry. She holds a master's degree in counseling from the Franciscan University of Steubenville. She has published articles—mostly in the area of bioethics--in the *Journal of Christian Nursing*, *Crisis Magazine*, *Lay Witness*, the *Catholic Social Science Review*, and in *PulseLine*, the official newsletter of the National Association of Pro-Life Nurses. Her bioethical articles can also be found on the website, Children of God for Life (www.cogforlife.org) and LifeIssues.net (www.lifeissues.net). She has written about futile care policies, living wills, abortion, the nursing profession from a Catholic perspective, the dilemmas and rights of pro-life healthcare providers, and ethical problems of organ donation. She served on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Pro-Life Nurses from 2006 to 2013. She lost her husband Michael in 2012 after an extensive battle with cancer and, as a result, gained an understanding and appreciation of hospice care. She currently resides in Friendly, West Virginia with her dog Mia.

Topics: Living wills and advance directives
Ethical problems of organ donation
Futile care policies in healthcare
Dilemmas and rights of pro-life healthcare providers
End of life issues
Physician-assisted suicide

Mary Hencke Tillman, J.D. is a 1976 graduate of University of Maryland, College Park in Speech Pathology and a 1981 graduate of University of Maryland School of Law. She practiced law until the birth of her third child when she elected to stay home with her children, eventually homeschooling six. She has been active in the right to life movement for 25 years, first becoming involved in testifying against a liberal pro-abortion bill in Maryland. She has served on the Board of Life Choice Pregnancy Resource Center in Clarksburg, WV and currently is Vice President of WVFL. She resides in Lost Creek with Mike, her husband of 37 years, who is the CEO of United Hospital Center.

Topics: End of Life Issues
Living Will