

## WE ARE A MOVEMENT OF HOPE

by Carol Tobias,  
National Right to Life President

*Editor's note: This appeared on page three of the February edition of National Right to Life News. Please share with all your pro-life family and friends. Also send any comments to daveandrusco@gmail.com.*

As expected, the Biden/Harris administration's assault on preborn children has started.

On January 28, a mere eight days after his inauguration, President Joe Biden signed an executive order to reverse the Mexico City Policy so that U.S. tax dollars will again be disbursed to international organizations that perform and promote abortion.

On the same day—the day before the virtual March for Life—Biden removed the U.S. as a signatory on the Geneva Consensus Declaration. The Declaration was a joint effort by the Trump Administration and 34 other countries to affirm that there is no international “right” to abortion and that sovereign states (countries) have the right to make their own laws on protecting children. President Biden apparently agrees with the likes of International Planned Parenthood that countries should not be allowed to protect these innocent little ones.

President Biden also began the process of restoring tax funding to Title X grantees that promote abortion as a method of family planning. Under the pro-life Trump administration, grantees were not allowed to refer for abortion, leading Planned Parenthood to forego \$60 million in federal grants.

We know the abortion industry, pro-abortion Democrats in Congress, and their allies in the media will be pushing

a radical policy that allows for no legal protection for unborn children at any time throughout pregnancy. And they want tax dollars or insurance policies to pay for the abortions.

To that end, Biden announced on January 22, the 48th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, that his administration was “committed to codifying” that disastrous 1973 Supreme Court decision as federal law. In truth, the agenda goes far beyond *Roe v.*

At the same time we see this concerted effort to enact a federal law that legalizes abortion on demand throughout pregnancy and to eliminate any protections that currently exist for preborn children, we are seeing increased efforts to paint the pro-life movement as extremists, racists, and terrorists. Most of the major media happily joins Democrats in this smear campaign.

What's the goal? To try to minimize

We seek to help and protect others simply because those others exist.

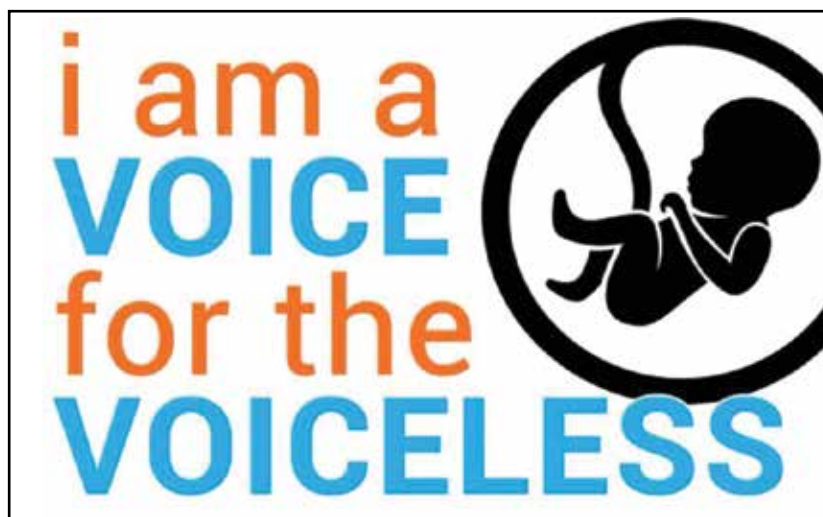
We are also a movement of Hope. We offer hope to women who are considering abortion, helping them through a difficult time in their lives, and to women who have had an abortion, helping them find peace in their future.

We offer hope to the elderly and those with disabilities, advancing the truth that all human beings, regardless of capacity or disability, are valued members of the human family.

Nobel Peace Prize winner, Bishop Desmond Tutu, once stated, “Your ordinary acts of love and hope point to the extraordinary promise that every human life is of inestimable value.”

Everything we do to protect preborn babies and those vulnerable to assisted suicide and euthanasia encourages others. We offer hope through our acts of love.

And we do everything with love in our hearts and a smile on our face. Let's keep on keeping on.



*Wade*, as we've discussed at National Right to Life News Today.

During her brief run for president, now-Vice President Kamala Harris introduced a proposal which would require states wanting to pass a pro-life law to get preclearance from the Department of Justice. If the proposed law did not comport with *Roe v. Wade* and the so-called “Women's Health Protection Act,” DOJ must object to the change.

If, for some reason, the Justice Department did allow a piece of pro-life legislation, abortionists would be given standing to challenge the approval in federal court.

In addition to the legislative battleground over protections for unborn children, there are efforts underway in Congress to severely limit our First Amendment right to speak, to advocate for our cause, up to and including criticizing the actions of elected officials.

the impact of the pro-life movement, to try to frighten people away from getting involved, and to try to prevent pro-life people from speaking up and speaking out on behalf of our defenseless brothers and sisters.

I say “try” because it won't work. This struggle for Life is too important. Almost 900,000 babies are killed by abortion every year. These littlest members of the human family need us. And it is deeply offensive to suggest that speaking in favor of the right to life will somehow cause violence.

Hard-core pro-abortion advocates will cynically push this false and ugly narrative simply because we are a roadblock. For those journalists or public officials who naively believe the pro-life movement will abandon peaceful, legal efforts to achieve our goals, I would encourage them to spend time with pro-life people.

I have often said that the pro-life movement is the Movement of Love.

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## From the President



## Thank You, Senator Joe Manchin

*Dear Friends,*

It is widely understood that, in this time of extreme progressive legislative sentiments, Senator Joe Manchin has become an important voice for moderation in the U.S. Senate. As such, he is positioned as one of the most important Senators. This, in turn, makes West Virginians among the most important constituent groups in the country.

We are positioned to influence Federal Legislation in the Senate through our influence on our Senator. The first thing we should do is to thank Senator Manchin for his vocal opposition to the elimination of the filibuster and other important legislative rules, such as the Byrd Rule (which limits the use of reconciliation procedures only to budget issues). These are the important controls in the U.S. Senate that support minority expression and influence the movement of legislation through the Senate. Senator Manchin is taking a principled position in response to the draconian changes proposed by Democrats to force progressive policies on Americans.

It is also important for us to lobby Senator Manchin to oppose the extreme pro-abortion agenda of the Biden administration, which is pushing on every front to reverse the pro-life policies of the Trump administration and to push even further to make abortion the law of the land, paid for with taxpayer dollars. They want to reverse the Hyde Amendment, which was the first major piece of pro-life legislation to pass through Congress after the 1973 Supreme Court abortion decisions. The Hyde Amendment has protected Americans from paying for abortions in the Federal Medicaid system.

An extremely dangerous effort is underway in the

Biden administration to recognize the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to the U.S. Constitution. As originally proposed in 1972, it was intended to make men and women equal under the law. If enacted, it would mean that the courts could argue that restrictions on abortion perpetuate gender inequality. This would mean that any law that restricts access to abortion would be found unconstitutional. The ERA would remove virtually all the laws we have passed here in West Virginia to protect women and limit funding for abortions.

There is also a very dangerous law being proposed, which has been designated as top priority by Congressional leadership. It is H.R. 1, the so-called *For the People Act*. It will put into place a Federal version of the Democratic election game plan that worked so well to defeat President Trump in the last election. It has many components some of which would eliminate the right of states to formulate their own election laws. It would smother organizations in layers of record keeping and reporting requirements. It would limit our free speech ability to discuss voting records and incumbent's positions by expanding the definition of electioneering communications to allow for government control of that speech. In addition, it would force organizations like West Virginians for Life to disclose the private information of our donors, thus exposing our members to harassment and intimidation.

Please contact Senator Manchin and ask him to vote against H.R. 1 and any effort to resurrect the Equal Rights Amendment (see contact info below).

*Wanda Franz, Ph.D.*

**Wanda Franz, Ph.D., President**

## March for Life 2021 Occurred Virtually

*by Mary Anne Buchanan*

It was, indeed, a strange way to hold a March for Life. The traditional way would have seen thousands upon thousands in our nation's Capital on January 29, but the world has not been as it was for a good year now.

Hopefully, in 2022, West Virginians for Life will be sending another chartered busload of excited pro-life faithful on the 4.5 hour journey to rub elbows with other like-minded individuals proudly being voices for the voiceless.

This year's theme was *Together Strong: LIFE UNITES!*

Contemporary Christian artist Matthew West performed several stripped down versions of his hits from an off-location site - just he and his guitar. No complaints here.

There were interviews and celebrities, such as Tim Tebow in a pre-recorded video, who spurred us on with encouraging words.

Pro-life figureheads actually did walk, among them Carol Tobias, President of the National Right to Life Committee (NRLC). West

Virginians for Life is the state affiliate of NRLC.

The EWTN TV network did a tremendous job of broadcasting the day's events.

Hats off to Jeanne Mancini and all those who worked so hard to put the event together virtually.

I submit that everyone would prefer, however, the 2022 March for Life occur as we've always known it - live and in-person. Let's join in prayer with the March for Life staff to that end.



*All of these pro-life figureheads were given a single red rose to carry. Because of the fencing around the Capitol grounds, they had to go to the back side of the Supreme Court building, where their roses were laid on the sidewalk.*

*Photo Courtesy Carol Tobias*

## Contact Your Members of U.S. Congress

**Sen. Shelley Moore Capito** - (202) 224-6472  
172 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510  
email: [www.capito.senate.gov/contact/contact-shelley](http://www.capito.senate.gov/contact/contact-shelley)

**Sen. Joe Manchin III** - (202) 224-3954  
306 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510  
email: [senator@manchin.senate.gov](mailto:senator@manchin.senate.gov)

**Rep. David McKinley** (WV-1) - (202) 225-4172  
1232 Longworth HOB, Washington, DC 20515  
email through website: <https://mckinley.house.gov/contact-me/email-me>

**Rep. Alex Mooney** (WV-2) - (202) 225-2711  
2366 Rayburn HOB, Washington, DC 20515  
email through website -  
<https://mooney.house.gov/contact/email>

**Rep. Carol Miller** (WV-3)  
(202) 225-3452  
1605 Longworth HOB, Washington, DC 20515  
email through website - <https://miller.house.gov/zip-code-lookup?form=/contact/email-me>

# THE SECOND CHANCES AT LIFE ACT

## (Formerly the Abortion Pill Reversal Act)



Lead Sponsor in the Senate of the Non-Discrimination in Abortion Bill is Senator Patricia Rucker.



WVFL President Wanda Franz, Ph.D., Second Chances at Life Act Lead Sponsor Delegate Kayla Kessinger, and WVFL Political Liaison Karen Cross. Both photos were taken at former Pro-life Rally Days at the Capitol (2020 and 2019, respectively).

By Wanda Franz, Ph.D., WVFL President and Karen Cross, WVFL Political Liaison

The name of our pro-life legislation has been changed to the **SECOND CHANCES AT LIFE ACT**. It will provide information about abortion pill reversal.

The Second Chances at Life Act is protective legislation requiring that a woman be informed that the effects of the chemical abortion pill can be reversed in order to save her baby, if she changes her mind after taking it. The chemical abortion currently involves a two-step drug process. The first abortifacient drug is given at the clinic and weakens or kills her unborn baby. The second drug is taken 24-48 hours later, usually at home, to expel her unborn baby and complete the abortion. Research demonstrates that these chemical abortions produce more negative side effects, such as pain and severe bleeding, than do surgical abortions.

The bill requires the abortion provider to inform the abortion client that, if she has taken the first drug RU-486, but has not taken the second drug, she can change her mind about having the abortion by calling the Abortion Pill Reversal Hotline within 24 to 48 hours. To date over 2,000 babies have been saved nationwide by the Abortion Pill Reversal protocol. In West Virginia, chemical abortions account for about 40% of abortions. These women deserve to know all the facts.

Kayla Kessinger will be the lead bill sponsor in the House of Delegates.

A second bill, the **Non-discrimination in Abortion Bill** is supported by West Virginians for Life. This bill will protect unborn babies from being aborted on account of their sex, race, and/or a diagnosis of Down syndrome or other disabilities. Unfortunately, abortion has become a search-and-destroy method for eliminating these less-than “perfect” unborn children. For a society that prides itself on welcoming

people with disabilities (we cut our curbs, make our public building and transportation accessible), it should be unacceptable to solve their “disability” by killing those who have the “disability” before they are born. You do not cure the disease by killing the patient.

Polling by the Knights of Columbus showed that 70% “oppose abortion due to the expectation a child will be born with Down syndrome.” In April 2013, a poll taken by The Polling Company found that 85% of respondents supported banning sex selection abortions. Currently 17 states have enacted laws protecting unborn children from discrimination based on sex, race, and/or disability.

Senator Patricia Rucker is the lead sponsor for this bill.

**Please contact the senators and delegates from your district regarding these bills at [pac.wvforlife.org/legislator\\_info/](http://pac.wvforlife.org/legislator_info/).**



## Improving West Virginia Advance Directives in 2021

By Mary H. Tillman, J.D.  
WVAFHC Legislative Coordinator



WV Alliance for Ethical Health Care  
Legislative Director  
Mary H. Tillman, J.D.

This coming legislative session, West Virginians for Life (WVFL), through its subcommittee the WV Alliance for Ethical Health Care, will again introduce “Options in Living Wills” to amend the WV Code provisions dealing with Living Wills, Medical Powers of Attorney, and the Combined Form (Living Will and Medical Power of Attorney).

The goals of the legislation are three-fold: to insure patient autonomy; to promote informed consent; and to protect cognitively disabled persons

from denial of care. In order to achieve these goals, persons desiring to execute an advance directive will have their attention drawn specifically to the issue of the provision of artificially-provided food and fluids, and be given a chance to initial their choice of receiving them or not. For patients diagnosed to be in the “persistent” or “chronic” vegetative state, this is a matter of life or death because without a feeding tube they will die of dehydration.

Another additional safeguard will be to increase the number of physicians that must certify the diagnosis of vegetative state from one to two. This

is in response to guidelines that were updated in 2018 by the American Academy of Neurology, which noted that there is a 40% misdiagnosis rate of the condition. The updated guidelines recognize that treatments are always improving for this very vulnerable population, and, in some cases, they can be rehabilitated.

In the meantime, we advise that the forms being promoted currently around the state NOT be used. Please go to [wvforlife.org](http://wvforlife.org) and use, instead, the “Will to Live” form tailored to West Virginia state law, with its protective language.

# STOP THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT (ERA)

by Wanda Franz, Ph.D., President

In 1972, Congress passed the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to the U.S. Constitution with the required 2/3's approval and submitted it to the states for ratification. ERA included a seven-year ratification deadline. There was an initial rush to pass the ERA in the state legislatures; but as opposition arose and became public, five states rescinded their ratifications.

As the March deadline approached, the ERA was three states short of the required 38 state ratifications. In 1978, Congress passed a resolution, by simple majority votes, purporting to extend the deadline for 39 more months. This vote was roundly criticized as unconstitutional and one federal court case found the deadline extension to be unconstitutional. No additional states ratified ERA during the pseudo-extension period, so in 1982, the Supreme Court declared the controversy moot and the 1972 ERA was dead.

The original ERA was written to make men and women equal under the law, presumably a worthy goal. However, the National Right to Life



Committee (NRLC) and affiliates realized that the ERA language would be construed to invalidate virtually all limitations on abortion and would require government funding of abortion. Three state ERA's were subsequently used to force state taxpayer funding of abortion.

Originally, ERA supporters played down the impact on abortion laws. However, in recent years, there has been no effort to hide the real impact of the ERA on abortion. One example of this abortion

advocacy is found in the Associated Press on January 1, 2020 that reported a quote from the general counsel from the National Women's Law Center saying: "abortion access is a key issue for many ERA supporters," and adding the ERA to the Constitution "would enable courts to rule that restrictions on abortion perpetuate gender inequality."

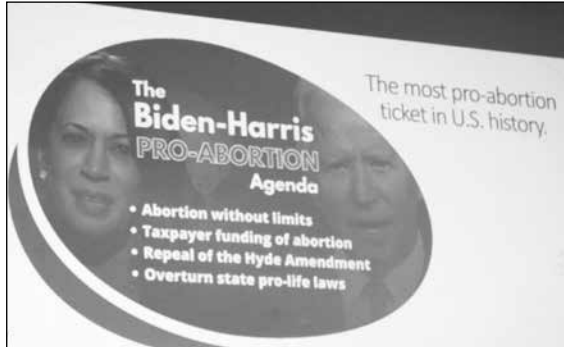
Douglas Johnson, who directed the NRLC effort to kill the original ERA said: "The ERA is a stealth missile with a legal warhead that could be used to attack any federal, state, or local law or policy that in any way limits abortion – abortion in the final months, partial-birth abortion, abortions on minors, government funding of abortion, and conscience-protection laws."

The Biden-Harris administration wants to revive the ERA by a simple majority vote of Congress. This is clearly unconstitutional, as even the late Ruth Bader Ginsburg had acknowledged. However, we cannot take any chances. We must lobby our Congressional Representatives to vote against any effort to revive the 1972 ERA.

## New Poll of West Virginia Voters

by Wanda Franz, Ph.D.

A recent poll (Mark Blankenship Enterprises) of 504 West Virginia voters shows that West Virginians overwhelmingly oppose some of the many pro-abortion policies proposed by the Biden-Harris administration.



Findings of the poll include:

- 64% of West Virginia voters strongly oppose expanding the Supreme Court to add more justices.
- 62% of West Virginia voters strongly oppose using taxpayer dollars to fund abortion in the United States.
- 64% of West Virginia voters strongly oppose using American taxpayer dollars to promote abortion overseas.

West Virginians for Life urges the members of our Congressional delegation to oppose these policies when they come before them for a vote. For example, a vote to end the Hyde Amendment would eliminate the ban on taxpayer funding of abortion in the Medicaid program.

**For the next four years, we will be fighting to prevent the pro-abortion agenda of the Biden-Harris administration from becoming law in America. Every voter must be alert to the appearance of this legislation and must plan now to contact his/her Congressional representatives to ask them to vote against this pro-abortion legislation.**

## President Biden Should Stop Defining Himself as a Devout Catholic

by Wanda Franz, Ph.D.

This is the position taken by Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas and currently Chairman of the U.S. Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities. He was born in St. Louis, was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of St. Louis in 1975 and an auxiliary bishop in 1997. He became the Archbishop of Kansas City in 2004.

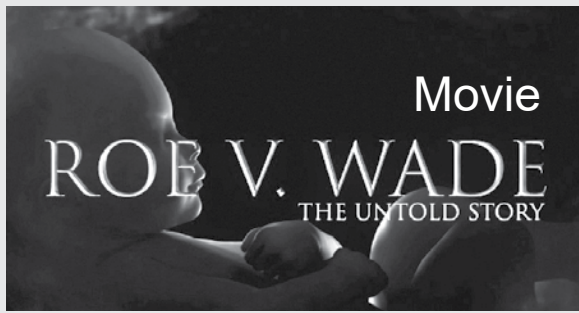
As a young priest in St. Louis, Fr. Joe demonstrated his strong support of the pro-life movement. He served as pro-life coordinator of the diocese, and sponsored annual conferences on the life issue for the benefit of the diocesan faithful.

In his role as Chairman of the Bishops' Pro-Life Committee, he has taken on the thorny question of President Biden's claim to be a devout Catholic whenever his support of pro-abortion policies are mentioned. Biden appears to be hiding behind his Catholic faith in order to avoid answering direct questions about his support for abortion. In a recent interview, Archbishop Naumann has said: "I don't know the disposition of his mind and heart, but his act of supporting legal abortion is wrong."

He was asked how America's bishops ought to respond to the fact that Biden professes to be a devout Catholic, yet has a 100% pro-choice position on abortion. Archbishop Naumann replied: "I can tell you how this bishop is responding. The president should stop defining himself as a devout Catholic, and acknowledge that his view on abortion is contrary to Catholic moral teaching...When he says he is a devout Catholic, we bishops have the responsibility to correct him...What he is doing now is usurping the role of the bishops and confusing people. He's declaring that he's Catholic, and is going to force people to support abortion through their tax dollars. The bishops need to correct him, as the president is acting contrary to the Catholic faith."

Archbishop Naumann goes on to say that one of his greatest concerns is that Democratic leadership wants to do away with the Hyde amendment, prohibiting federal tax dollars from funding abortion.

It is important for the Catholic faithful to work alongside all pro-life Americans to prevent the pro-abortion agenda of the new Democrat administration from becoming law in the United States.



West Virginians for Life hopes you got to see the March 6 early virtual showing. It was a fundraiser for the organization. It's theater release date is April 2.

### THE TRUE UNTOLD STORY.

Dr. Bernard Nathanson and Dr. Mildred Jefferson square off in a national battle in this untold conspiracy that led to the most famous and controversial court case in history.

The film begins with Margaret Sanger, the founder of Planned Parenthood, who launched an initiative called "The Negro Project." She gives a speech at a KKK rally, describing her intentions to reduce the growth of the African American population by legalizing abortions. Quickly, Dr. Bernard Nathanson, the most outspoken doctor performing abortions during this time, joins

her cause, followed by outspoken feminist Betty Friedan.

A team of activists begin to search the country, looking for a pregnant girl they can use to sue the government for her right to have an abortion. They find the perfect pawn: a young woman with a 10th grade education, struggling with poverty and other issues, named Norma McCorvey, now famously known as "Jane Roe." We watch as Norma and her legal team sue Henry Wade, the district attorney of Dallas County.

*Roe v. Wade* is born.

Now that the activists successfully had the case before both state and federal courts, they had to convince the Supreme Court Justices to vote their way. Their advocates fed fake polls and statistics to the media, and Bernard and Betty Friedman from Planned Parenthood even brought Hollywood on board, persuading

studio executives to create TV shows and movies supporting abortion. This was all done to influence public opinion and manipulate the courts.

There were a few citizens willing to speak up for the rights of the unborn. This fight is led by the film's protagonist, Dr. Mildred Jefferson, the first African American woman to graduate from Harvard Medical School. She joined the Catholics and a passionate group of other citizens who attempt to educate Americans on the truth, but they soon discover they are up against the most well-funded revolution in 20th century America.



*Chief Justice Warren Burger is played by veteran actor Jon Voight (center). Jon Schneider is also in the film. The late Mildred Jefferson, who at one time was the president of National Right to Life, is played by Stacey Dash.*

## Ortiz will be Rose Dinner Keynote

Whether she's sharing a memory, a laugh, or a perspective on the conflict in the Middle East, anyone who encounters Melisa Ortiz is quick to learn that she is truly one of a kind. Before being old enough to enter the first grade, Melissa had been both a poster child for a major charity and involved in a political campaign. While living with the challenge of a physical disability might give Ortiz license to feel like a victim, have a sense of entitlement, or minimally, be a bit grumpy, she is none of those things. She identifies as a "happy patriot" and is passionate about driving dialogue between conservatives and people living with disabilities. She is uniquely suited to bridge the gap between these two groups and is passionate about bringing them together to create solutions.

A native southerner who has spent periods of her life in Atlanta, Nashville, Jerusalem, and New York City, Ortiz has finally settled with husband Tony in the nation's capital. Her passion for politics and penchant for communication has taken her from the Tennessee State Senate Clerk's office to the battle against ratification of the UN Treaty on Disabilities (CRPD). From the very beginning, Ortiz's family instilled in her the importance of public service. "I grew up in a family who believed in helping other people," Ortiz remembers. "We just saw people who were in need and we could reach out to do whatever we could." Ortiz has been involved in countless political campaigns. She worked on the team supporting Sen. Ted Cruz's Presidential bid and has worked to pass a Constitutional Amendment protecting the rights of all parents. She recently also finished a stint

as a political appointee in the Trump Administration where she worked to promote the concept that people with disabilities need employment opportunities and a community framework that will allow them to live independently. Following her experience in the Administration, Melissa served as a visiting fellow for the Independent Women's Forum, she addressed these issues and more through blog posts, opinion pieces and media appearances.

In 1989, Ortiz received a BS in Criminal Justice and Broadcast Communications. She spent the following thirteen years working in local government, on political campaigns and teaching in the Tennessee public school system.

In 2002, Melissa married her husband and moved to NYC to live with him. It was a whole new adventure that included being named Ms. Wheelchair New York State 2005 and competing for Ms. Wheelchair America 2006. As a conservative person with a physical disability, Ortiz has special insight to bring the two groups together to create solutions and opportunity. Her passion for empowering people with disabilities inspired her to found Able Americans in 2011, which she ran until joining the Trump Administration in 2017.

This is only 2/3 of her incredible bio. Hear this dynamic disability rights activist on Thursday, November 11, at Morgantown's Holiday Inn. Mark your calendars now.



*In Loving  
Memory of...*

**Conrad Baston**

by the Baston and  
Daugherty Families,  
who continue  
to make donations to  
WVFL in his name.

*Etta Fortney  
by Tom Fortney*

# More October 10 State Convention Photos



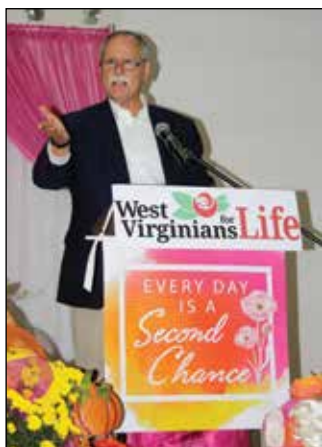
The keynote speaker, Rebekah Hagan, held everyone spellbound with her personal story of abortion pill reversal. Her second son was almost a statistic, but for finding the abortion pill rescue network after she had taken the first of the two-pill series.



Trevor Morris (candidate in House 35), WVFL President Wanda Franz, SOS Mac Warner, National Right to Life Political Director Karen Cross, Rebecca Polis (candidate in Senate 13), Guy Ward (candidate in House 50), and Laura Kimble (candidate in House 48)



The head table was comprised of Karen Cross, Dr. Wanda Franz, keynote Rebekah Hagan, Mary Anne Buchanan, Mary McKinley, and 1st District Congressman David McKinley.



1st District Congressman David McKinley did a wonderful job of pointing out how important this pivotal election was going to be.



From Cruzan to Schiavo to the Present: Why our Living Will Needs to be Updated was the title of the Mary H. Tillman, J.D. presentation. Tillman is the WV Alliance for Ethical Health Care Legislative Coordinator and WVFL Vice President.



Secretary of State Mac Warner gave a gem of a speech regarding the importance of this election.



Pastor Doug Joseph is the WVFL State Treasurer and computer whiz extraordinaire. He gave the offering plea before praying.



At least 80 attended the convention and all were spaced out in the Trinity Assembly of God Fellowship Hall.



The Teen Day Camp was led by Sadie Shields on far left. National Right to Life Political Director Karen Cross (center) gave her testimony.



Seated are Riley Keaton, candidate in House District 11, who presented and also helped with the Teen Day Camp. Beside him are Office Assistants Alli Richard and Sadie Shields, who led the Day Camp.



Beautifully decorated cake from Sam's Club was the perfect complement to Mary Kay's Gourmet Catering buffet lunch.



One of the fun things that the teens participated in was a poster contest. Pictured here are Cecilia Shields and McKenzie Underwood.

# More November 12 Rose Dinner Moments



Keynote speaker Melissa Coles spoke of her personal experience with getting off the abortion table, going through with the pregnancy, and meeting the son she had given up for adoption 19 years earlier.



Keynote speaker Melissa Coles (left) and WVFL's Program Director Mary Anne Buchanan pose for a shot ahead of the crowd arriving.



WVFL President Wanda Franz, Ph.D., gave the crowd an update on the organization's pro-life legislation.



WVFL Office Assistant Alli Richard with Bishop Mark E. Brennan of the Wheeling-Charleston Diocese



A beautiful Lifetime Achievement Award was given to WVFL President Dr. Wanda Franz, unbeknownst to her, and a video tribute created by Pastor Doug Joseph was aired. Here she is addressing the crowd before she was taken by surprise.



Gorgeous table settings featured rose topiaries in crystal vases.



Delegate-Elect Riley Keaton stood as he was recognized while a former teacher of his, Cathy Leahy, applauded (to his right) with Kathy Deely also happy about his election results.



Seated around the Dr. Mike Hogan sponsored table were WVU students David Hadinger, James Kirby, Abby Crist, Carl Stavigga, and Reece Lopatka.



These WVU students willingly collected the offering. They are Reece Lopatka, James Kirby, David Hadinger, and Carl Stavigga.



Leave it to wonderful friend Linda Day to create this lovely promotional decoration in the Holiday Inn hallway.

## Pro-Life Profile

by Patricia Johnson

Terri is a 66-year-old mother of two girls and four grandchildren, ranging in age from 16 months to 18 years. She has been married 47 years to her husband, David. They have lived in Forest Hill, WV for 32 years, where she is a member of Fairview Baptist Church. Terry graduated from Concord College in 1976. She began teaching in 1977. Later, she pursued a Master's Degree in Special Education from Marshall University & taught special education for 23 years, with a total of 40+ years teaching. Before retiring in 2016, she was chosen as Summers County Teacher of the Year. She now substitutes as needed and contracts small educational jobs.

Terri believes that becoming involved with the pro-life movement was not an accident...it definitely is God's plan for her life. Deep in her soul, she always felt that abortion was wrong. When she'd receive information on abortion in the mail, she would tell herself that maybe someday she could help support a pro-life organization. After her first grandson was born, she felt a deeper desire to participate, but had no idea where to begin. After watching a video on abortion 15 years later, she prayed for God to open a door for her. While shopping at Lowes the next day, she met Bonnie Ayers (President, Summers County Chapter WVFL, at the time) in the checkout line. Terri couldn't believe that, in less than 24 hours, God opened the door that she had long desired to be opened.

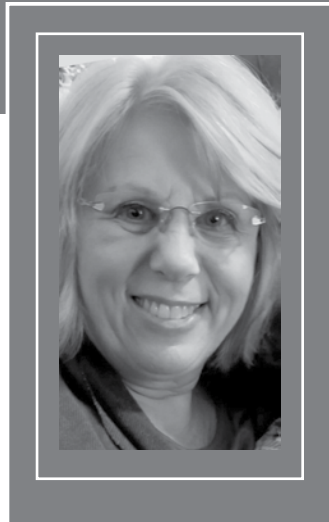
Due to her local WVFL chapter president's encouragement, Terri has remained involved with the Summers County Chapter and participated in both Pro-Life Rally Day and the State Convention. She has passed out voter guides prior to elections, set up a booth at the John Henry Festival, and attended regular monthly chapter meetings. With the support of her local church and community, Terri served as vice president for years until recently elected as the new chapter president.

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*Terri feels that the biggest challenges facing the pro-life movement are the recent reversals of progress that have taken place on the federal level. She believes that more factual information on abortion must be published so that legislative actions can once again be taken to stop the killing of the preborn. She also understands the need for more involvement and local support to those facing an unplanned pregnancy, including the promotion of life through adoption as a top priority.*

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Terri's hope for the future is to educate both young girls and boys that all life is to be valued. She believes we must educate our society that every life matters so that families can have a positive response, if an unplanned pregnancy occurs. It is her desire that people understand that an 'unwanted' child can be the greatest gift to someone who is willing to offer the child unconditional love. WVFL thanks Terri for her involvement, leadership & tireless dedication to God's most precious gift of life!



*Summers County  
Chapter Leader*  
**Terri Keatley**

## WVFL Treasurer's Article

### Stay Encouraged "For Such a Time as This"

As pro-lifers, we are all deeply disappointed by the fact that the White House switched hands from the tremendously pro-life Trump/Pence administration to the tremendously pro-abortion Biden/Harris administration, and that the U.S. Senate swung to a razor-thin pro-abortion majority, and the U.S. House still suffers a pro-abortion majority. It would certainly be easy to become very discouraged and despondent. I urge you not to do that. Stay encouraged.

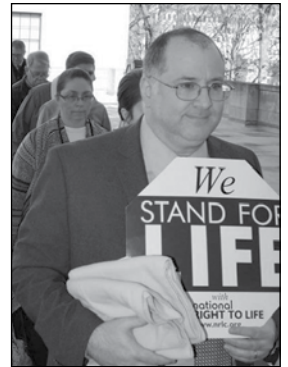
The Bible's Book of Esther tells about a horrific time when anti-Jewish hatred reached such a radical fervor that a new "pro-death" law meant the Hebrews were potentially facing literal extinction. As always, God had a plan, as He had arranged for one key woman (Esther) and one key man (Mordecai) to be positioned in crucial places of influence "for such a time as this." We all must trust that each of us has a role to play in navigating the tough waters ahead, and bear in mind that we may well have been positioned by God "for such a time as this."

Please continue supporting our state's only grassroots organization for pro-life action and success in West Virginia. Don't withdraw. Stay the course. My sincerest, heartfelt gratitude to all West Virginians who are FOR LIFE. Our namesake really says who we all are: We are West Virginians **For Life!** Your pro-life support is needed now more than ever.

Join WVFL at: [wvforlife.org/membership](http://wvforlife.org/membership)

Better yet, step up to **Rose Society Membership** while you're there!

*With determination,  
Pastor Doug Joseph  
WVFL Treasurer*



## West Virginia

### Teens For Life

*Dear Teens for Life,*

In these past months we have been through many twists and turns. COVID infections have changed so much the numbers look like a roller coaster, while political movements and elections have become the forefront of any conversation.

However, one topic has become hazier to the American public and that subject is abortion. Today, so many people are concerned with injustices, but the biggest injustice has been terminating the lives of unborn children. Young mothers value the right to choose but isn't the child's choice just as important? Even while a mother may not want the child, adoption is a viable option and another family is ready and excited to bring a child into their lives.

I remember hearing once, "Nine months of pain for a lifetime of happiness". There is no reason to wake up one morning full of regrets because you never know what could have been. Everything happens for a reason and there is no need to change something so important, if it does not align with your plan now.

We may not be able to go out freely right now, but there are pro-life educational options. Start podcasts, research organizations, and educate those who are ready to learn. We are all here to affect change, no matter the scale.

So, what are we waiting for?

*Your WV Teens for life President,  
Margaret Deely*



**WV Teens for Life  
President**  
Margaret Deely

# 2021 Calendar of Events

February 10 (Wed.)	<b>Sixty day Legislative Session began</b>
March 13 (Sat.)	<b>Board meeting, Clarksburg</b>
March 15 (Mon.)	Perhaps <b>Abortion Pill Reversal petitions</b> will be presented at the Capitol this day and seen virtually on Facebook Live. Join the Weekly Update list at <a href="http://wvforlife.org">wvforlife.org</a> to remain abreast of this.
April 10 (Sat.)	<b>Legislative Session ends</b>
June 12 (Sat.)	<b>Board meeting, Clarksburg</b>
June 25-26 (Fri.-Sat.)	<b>National Right to Life Convention, Herndon, VA</b>
July 10 (Sat.)	<b>9th Annual Golf FORE Life Tournament, Preston Country Club, Kingwood</b>
September 11 (Sat.)	<b>Board meeting, Clarksburg</b>
October 9 (Sat.)	<b>State Pro-Life Convention, Trinity Assembly of God, Fairmont</b>
November 11 (Thurs.)	<b>23rd Annual Rose Dinner, Holiday Inn, Morgantown</b>

## WEST VIRGINIANS FOR LIFE T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE

You may place your orders at the state office at 304-594-9845 or send the order form with your payment to West Virginians for Life, 25 Canyon Road, Morgantown, WV 26508 or email [info@wvforlife.org](mailto:info@wvforlife.org).

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Number of shirts & sizes:

\_\_\_\_ Small    \_\_\_\_ Medium    \_\_\_\_ Large

\_\_\_\_ XLarge    \_\_\_\_ 2XLarge    \_\_\_\_ 3XLarge

Cost per shirt: \$15.00 includes shipping    TOTAL COST: \_\_\_\_\_



red t-shirt with white lettering

YES! You can count on me to help save unborn children from abortion. Enclosed is my **Basic membership** contribution of \$35 ( ) or a **GOLD membership** contribution of \$50 ( ). One statewide pro-life t-shirt at no additional cost is an optional gift to those who pay the **GOLD membership**. Adult sizes are: S-M-L-XL-2XL-3XL. Indicate size here: \_\_\_\_\_

YES! You can count on me to help save unborn children from abortion with this donation.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to support the work of the Political Action Committee\* with a contribution of:

( ) \$10    ( ) \$25    ( ) \$50    ( ) \$100    ( ) \$500    ( ) \$1,000    ( ) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to support the educational work of WVFL with an additional tax-deductible contribution of:

( ) \$10    ( ) \$25    ( ) \$50    ( ) \$100    ( ) \$500    ( ) \$1,000    ( ) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to join the Rose Society with a monthly pledge of:

( ) \$10    ( ) \$25    ( ) \$50    ( ) \$100    ( ) \$500    ( ) \$1,000    ( ) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Rose Society members receive a monthly update from the President and do not receive other fundraising mailings or calls other than fundraising for the political action committee.)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation/Employer\* \_\_\_\_\_

Because in addition to educating, we are involved in trying to change the law, contributions to West Virginians for Life, Inc., 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."

\*A maximum donation of \$5,000 per Primary or General Election from an individual to the WVFL State PAC or \$5,000 per person per year to the WVFL Federal PAC is allowable. Please include occupation and employer when donating to the PAC. Corporate and church contributions to West Virginians for Life PAC are prohibited by law. Contributions to West Virginians for Life PAC are voluntary. Please disregard if you are a public employee or not a WVFL member.

West Virginians for Life • 25 Canyon Road, Morgantown, WV 26508  
(304) 594-9845 • [info@wvforlife.org](mailto:info@wvforlife.org) • [www.wvforlife.org](http://www.wvforlife.org)

## 9th Annual GOLF FORE LIFE TOURNAMENT

**Saturday, June 10th**

Registration & Lunch at Noon  
Putting Contest 1:00 pm • Tee Time 1:30 pm  
Preston Country Club, Kingwood, WV

Registration  
Form

There are several ways to participate in the Golf FORE Life Tournament, including playing in the tournament, sponsoring a hole, donating tournament prizes or gifts, or doing all of the above! Please complete this form and send back to us. Please contact us with any questions.

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(as you would like it to appear on signage if sponsoring a hole)

\*Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\*City: \_\_\_\_\_ \*State: \_\_\_\_\_ \*Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ \*Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\* = Required, if available

☐ **Individual Golfer** - Quantity: # \_\_\_\_\_ \$70 each (Golf registration includes box lunch, beverages, box dinner and one gift bag.)

☐ **Team Registration** - \$280 each (Golf registration includes box lunch, beverages, box dinner and one gift bag per team player.)

☐ **Platinum Sponsorship** - \$2,000 each (includes 1 foursome, box lunch and dinner for 4, a plaque, name on Banner and T-box)

☐ **Gold Sponsorship** - \$1,500 each (includes 1 foursome, box lunch and dinner for 4, name on Banner and T-box)

☐ **Silver Sponsorship** - \$1,000 each (includes 1 foursome and name on Banner)

☐ **Hole Sponsorship** - \$200 each (includes a sign on a hole - does not include golf registration)

Proper golf attire required - No sleeveless shirts or jeans permitted - Soft spikes mandatory

My foursome includes: \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

If using check, please make payable to WVFL Ed Trust Fund. Mail, with this form, to WVFL, 25 Canyon Road, Morgantown, WV 26508. If by credit card, please complete the following:

☐ VISA    ☐ MASTERCARD    ☐ DISCOVER    ☐ AMERICAN EXPRESS

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**Donations for tournament prize items and players' gifts are also needed - contact us for more details.**

All proceeds benefit the WVFL Educational Trust Fund,  
a 501(c)(3) organization.  
1-304-594-9845

Amounts are tax deductible less goods and services received.

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.

**PLEASE COPY AND DISTRIBUTE**

Registration forms are downloadable at [www.wvforlife.org/events](http://www.wvforlife.org/events)

## Berkeley



Berkeley County WVFL Chapter Members Sharon Sutton, Vicki Saenz, Richard Demoske and Judith Leitner are contacting the West Virginia Congressional Delegation to Vote NO on H.R. 1.

## Greenbrier



Chapter Leader Paula McLaughlin (left) introduced Raleigh County's Lorrie Legursky (right) on SOHLS to give her testimony.



New officers for 2021 are Vice President Delegate Barry Bruce, President Paula McLaughlin, Treasurer Pam Workman, and Secretary Mary Beth Hefner.

## Kanawha



Taken at the State Convention in Fairmont in October are Kanawha County Chapter's Missy Ciccarello, Kathy Crow, and National Right to Life Political Director Karen Cross.

## Monongalia



Wanda Franz spoke to the Catholic WVU student women's group in Morgantown. Front row: Wanda Franz Maria Lacaria, Rachel Keifer and Martha Lacek. Back row: Michela Dorsett, Quinn Stangler and Michelle Carter.

## Monroe



One of many Signs that the Monroe County Chapter strategically placed in February

## Pocahontas



All these items above went into these five gift bags (above right) for mothers and their babies at the Greenbrier Birthing Center with extra items filling two boxes for the community closet at the facility.



Chapter members signed cards for each of the mothers and for those churches who had donated throughout the year.

## Summers



L to R: Candidate Guy Ward of Marion County (now Delegate Ward) enjoyed the State Convention as did Terri Keatley and Bonnie Ayers of the Summers County Chapter and Germain Umstead, who traveled from Ritchie County to take in the event.

## Raleigh



Chapter Leader Hilda Shorter and Lorrie Legursky, both of the Raleigh County Chapter, traveled to Fairlea Baptist Church at the request of Greenbrier Chapter Leader Paula McLaughlin. The special event was Sanctity of Human Life Sunday (SOHLS), which they had to postpone until February 14 due to inclement weather. If you have not heard Lorrie's testimony, you really need to do so. A crisis was averted when she jumped off that abortion table and ran. To God be the glory!



This is a prime example of how to put up a pro-life table. This one was created by the Raleigh County Chapter, who joyfully displayed it at the Fairlea Baptist Church on SOHLS.

The chapter will be gifting a set of fetal models to the Greenbrier Chapter.



### Berkeley County

Kristan Hawkins, President of Students for Life of America, shared facts with the chapter about H.R. 1 at one of their monthly meetings. Chapter members are educating themselves on the issue and contacting their Congressional Delegation. H.R. 1 – the so-called “For the People Act,” would enact sweeping changes in two main areas: elections and free speech. Firstly, it would essentially “federalize” the election process including abolishing state voter ID laws, forcing states to use same-day voter registration, and forcing states to have ballot drop boxes for absentee and early voting available at least 45 days before election day. And secondly, H.R. 1 would limit the free speech of ALL Americans by expanding the definition of “lobbyist” to include grassroots citizens like you and me who sign petitions or even try to call their elected officials. Federal legislators need to hear from pro-lifers regarding this resolution. The chapter is also excited about the new maternity home coming soon to Berkeley County called Mary’s Refuge.

### Cabell County

Cabell County had its baby model displays at four churches for Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. Chapter Leader George Wallace would like to thank Pastor Mark Hesson of Chestnut Grove Baptist Church, Pastor Greg Wagoner of Fellowship Baptist Church, Pastor Mark Finley of Sunrise Temple Baptist Church, and Pastor Robert McCallister of Open Door Baptist Church for allowing them to have the baby model displays for that special Sunday.

### Clay County

Sheena Rapp-Leedy, the chapter president, is looking for more interest from others in her county. The contact email is sheena192001@gmail.com and phone is 304-587-7073.

### Doddridge County

Doddridge County Chapter has been inviting folks from Ritchie County to join them for meetings. Contact number to do such is 304-782-1808.

### Greenbrier County

Greenbrier County Chapter began 2021 with renewed energy and enthusiasm. The leadership team is captioned at left. Each meeting includes “solid food” information and education about how to talk about abortion with love and grace, effective communication with representatives, and learning about resources that are available for more in-depth study. Often videos are used for this portion of their meetings. The chapter goals this year include improved public awareness, hosting a public rally, and creative fundraising. Since the chapter is new, learning from more experienced chapter leaders is most welcome. In fact, two Raleigh County Chapter officers helped with the SOHLS service at Fairlea on February 14. Live in Greenbrier County and want to get involved with the chapter? Call Paula at 304-661-9866.

### Harrison County

The yearly signature ad was not pursued, since many churches were not meeting. However, the chapter sent in a donation to the state office in Morgantown to help sponsor the *Roe v Wade* movie. The movie will be shown on Saturday, March 6. By the time this paper is received, it will have aired. Chapter members hope you paid the inexpensive \$12.99 to see it virtually.

### Lewis County

Chapter Leader Judith Barrett invites county residents to call her at 304-269-4281 to get involved.

### Marshall County

If there are interested parties in Marshall County who would like to help with the chapter, please email Karen Ali at klee1105@yahoo.com.

### Monongalia County

Chapter members solicited for the signature ad in the *Dominion Post* newspaper on January 22, 2021 to commemorate the legalization of abortion in America by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Roe vs. Wade* and *Doe vs. Bolton*. The amount raised was the most ever and will stand the chapter in good stead for the year. Chapter Leader Wanda Franz presented her pro-life testimony to the Catholic WVU student women’s group at St. John University Parish in February.

### Monroe County

The chapter got its pro-life signs out for the month of February (see photo at left). They also did a similar ad in the *Monroe Watchman*. Chapter members plan to regularly publish a pro-life success story in the *Monroe Watchman* under the heading “Heart Beats.” They already have their first one ready. They are still working on petitions to send to the office by the March 8 deadline. Their meeting date and time has been changed to the second Thursday at 6:30 p.m. instead of during the day, as it had been previously.

### Morgan County

Chapter President Betsy Wolfe finds herself in the middle of a move to another state. People are responding to the call to get involved. Email Betsy at family.concecration@gmail.com if you feel the nudge to take her place.

The chapter is known for its effective sidewalk counseling two days a week in front of the abortuary in Hagerstown, Maryland. The count is 552 unborn babies that have been saved over the years, not to mention the women. It is estimated that at least an equal number of women have changed their minds about abortion after viewing their large signs and witnessing the people praying.

WDTF broadcasts several pro-life messages a day including a five-minute National Right to Life program called Pro-Life Perspective. The Knights of Columbus originate and record another set of pro-life messages created by Dick Byrne. Another Knight, Patrick Crosby is the pro-life station engineer.

The chapter continued its 8’ X 12’ pro-life billboard outside of Berkeley Springs on Route 522. Thanks to all who support this, especially the Knights of Columbus and the Holy Name Society.

### Pocahontas County

The Pocahontas Chapter held a baby shower for the Greenbrier Birthing Center located in Southern Pocahontas County. A plethora of items were donated.

### Raleigh County

Chapter Leader Hilda Shorter and Lorrie Legursky were blessed to be a part of the Sanctity of Human Life service at the First Baptist Church of Fairlea. Lorrie was the guest speaker where she shared her beautiful testimony of life and Hilda shared her pro-life poem. Chapter members have agreed to give a set of fetal models to the Greenbrier County Chapter. Said Shorter, “We must join together and speak up for those unable to speak for themselves. We invite you to be a part of the Raleigh County Chapter. Due to Covid we are unable to meet at this time, but contact us through messenger for any information. God bless you as we stand together for the unborn.”

### Summers County

The chapter has elected new officers for 2021. They are President Terri Keatley, Vice President Hazel Toler, and Secretary-Treasurer Bonnie Ayers. Ayers had been the chapter leader for decades and did an admirable job!

### Wayne County

Chapter leader Tranae Mathis invites Wayne Countians to monthly meetings. Find out details at 304-417-1925.

### Wood County

Email Jaime Bigley at mrsjbiggs@gmail.com or call 304-494-0333 to get involved and to find out meeting details.

### WV Teens for Life

President Margaret Deely invites teens to contact her at deelyma@aol.com.

### WVU Mountaineers for Life

The group is the West Virginia University student-led organization which serves as an active voice for the unborn by hosting tabling events on campus, attending rallies, sidewalk counseling outside of abortion clinics, and chalking on campus. In the spring, they hope to host their annual 5K for Life to raise money to support their efforts in promoting life from conception to natural death. It is not a sure thing yet. Contact Alli at 412-737-6486, if interested.



*The Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Petitions were presented by WVFL's President Dr. Wanda Franz and Program Director Mary Anne Buchanan at the 2020 Rally on the north steps of the Capitol.*

West Virginians for Life regrets that the annual Pro-Life Rally Day did not happen this year due to Covid-19. Instead, the Abortion Pill Reversal Act petitions were presented in mid-March by a small group at the Capitol.

If you do not receive the Friday Weekly Updates, now would be a good time to sign up for those at [wvforlife.org](http://wvforlife.org), so you can keep up with ever-changing West Virginians for Life happenings.



25 Canyon Road  
Morgantown, WV 26508

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West Virginians for Life, Inc.

Spring 2021

**Life**



**Matters**

Vol. 43, Number 1

*This image may be the one used in connection with Mary's Refuge Maternity Home in Berkeley County. Coming soon, it will be the only maternity home in West Virginia.*



**Find your July  
10 Golf FORE  
Life Registration  
form on page 9.**



*This lovely plaque was on display at a Sanctity of Human Sunday service in Greenbrier County.*