

Right to Life Newsletter

of Shelby County

April 2010

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Volume 37 Issue 4

Building a Culture of Life in Shelby County, Ohio, since 1974

Volunteer corner

- Welcome to new thrift shop volunteers, Carol Carruthers and Ellean Davis.
- Thank you to Jen Bohman and all who assisted with the Membership Meeting.

Mark your calendar...

- Deadline for submissions to the May newsletter: April 21.
- Board meetings: April 6, May 4, 7 pm.
- Lehman ProLifeGuards to pray at abortion clinic in Dayton: Thursday, April 1. Anyone wishing to join them, please call Anne Schmiesing, 492-5584.

Clothing center report

We served 94 people during the month of February, of whom 18 received free items and one took literature.

Right to Life of Shelby County is a 501(c)(3) educational and service organization. All donations are fully tax-deductible.

On the Web...

RTL of Shelby County:
www.shelbycountyrctl.org

Ohio RTL:
www.ohiolife.org

National RTL Committee:
www.nrlc.org

McEldowney Takes First in Oratory Contest

With a clever introduction and verbal illustrations drawn from personal experience helping teens in crisis pregnancies, Chloe McEldowney, a senior at Russia High School, received top honors for her speech at the Pro-Life Oratory Contest sponsored by Right to Life of Shelby County on February 25 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Sidney.



Nine juniors and seniors participated in the contest, speaking on topics ranging from the biological beginning of human life at conception to unjustifiable decisions to hasten or cause the death of an adult through euthanasia. One contestant identified commonalities between proponents of abortion and of slavery in their disregard for the rights and autonomy of the human person.

Chloe McEldowney delivers her first-place speech.

In April, McEldowney will compete at the statewide Ohio Pro-Life Oratory Contest, in Westerville, Ohio, with the chance to proceed to the national contest in June.

In McEldowney's exhortation, she admitted that helping people make life-affirming choices often requires enduring opposition and trials, which, at times, is like enduring a terrible stench. But, she said, "I am so happy that my family and I are able to reach out and help each of these young mothers and their babies. There is no stench in this world that would make me want to stop supporting life in this way."

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Members Moved, Encouraged by Speakers

The Alpha Center in Sidney was the scene of Shelby County Right to Life's Membership Meeting, Friday, March 12. The event, open to all members of RTL, featured presentations by local members and representatives of Ohio Right to Life, based in Columbus.

Sidney teen and 2009 National Right to Life Oratory Contest champion, Elizabeth Trisler, opened the program with a presentation of her award-winning speech, followed by a summary of her experience as the national winner. Area nurse Michelle Dieperink offered a moving testimony of her own experience of abortion, stressing that its negative effects are long-lasting.

Connie McEldowney of Russia recounted the true story behind her children's book, *Josiah's Journey*, which follows the development of an unborn baby.

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Another Banner Year for the RTL Garage Sale

Shattering last year's record, the Right to Life garage sale in Russia, which raises thousands of dollars to support RTL's many programs, was again an outstanding success. RTL is grateful to Maria Hoehne and Bonnie York for organizing the sale, to all of the volunteers, and to all those who donated goods or attended the sale. Thank you also to St. Remy Church for permitting use of the Community Center, and to Made in the Shade Tent Rental for providing use of the tent for large items.

Garage Sale Raffle Winners

1. \$300.00 (Donated by Friends For Life) Craig and Jeanne Inman, Anna
2. \$200.00 (Friends For Life) Kathy Schafer, Ft. Loramie
3. \$100.00 (Anonymous) Kennedie Goubeaux, Russia
4. \$100.00 (Anonymous) Kathy Schafer, Ft. Loramie
5. \$50.00 (Hoehne Professional Painting & Contractors, Houston) Matt Gibson, Russia
6. \$30.00 (Meyer's Tavern, Botkins) Tim and Jalyynn Gerber, Jackson Center
7. Sterling Silver Jewelry (Kathy's Collection, Russia) Mary Scott, Spring Hill, Florida
8. \$25.00 Gift Certificate (Silver Cross Catholic Books & Gifts, Ft. Loramie) Evelyn Bensman, Anna
9. \$25.00 Gift Certificate (Cruizers, Russia) Connie McEldowney, Russia
10. \$25.00 Gift Certificate, Mary Kay Products (Barb Riethman, McCartyville) Betty Bruggeman, Anna
11. Centerpiece (Decor & Floor, Ft. Loramie) Sherie Huelskamp, Sidney
12. Rosary (Sharon Holdheide, Ft. Loramie) Roger Borchers, Houston
13. Diaper Cake (Tiers of Joy, Russia) Michael Morand, Sidney
14. BIB-lical Blanket (Mary Jo Puthoff, Houston) Dennis York, Russia
15. BIB-lical Blanket (Mary Jo Puthoff, Houston) G. Kondracki, Botkins

Missing Anything?

Among the donations to the garage sale was a small, valuable item. We want to be sure that this donation was intentional. If you think you may have accidentally included this item with your garage sale donation, please contact Maria Hoehne at 295-2627.

Oratory Contest Continued from page 1

Runner-up in the competition was Botkins High School senior, Jean Goettemoeller, and in third place, was Sarah Trisler, a homeschooled junior from Sidney. Prizes were \$300, \$150 and \$100. Also competing were Cody Blust and Tadd Martin of Christian Academy; Sarah Hipple, Taylor Thompson and Paul Trygstad of Sidney High School; and Allison Ulbrich, of Lehman Catholic High School. Judges were State Representative John Adams and area teachers, Amy Gleason (Sidney High School) and Henry Cordonnier (Lehman Catholic).

Thank you to all of this year's participants for their excellent work. We are also grateful to our judges for contributing their time and expertise, and to anonymous donors who provided the funding for this year's prizes.

Membership Meeting Continued from page 1

Gillian Stechshulte and Elyse Putnam, outreach and media officers at Ohio Right to Life, updated the county group on state-level activities and explained the importance of membership in right to life organizations.

Board member Mary Schmiesing offered a brief history of Shelby County RTL. "It began as all great movements do," she quipped, "around a kitchen table." The program closed with a summary of the organization's accomplishments in 2009: 1800 visitors to RTL's downtown thrift shop; 25 individuals referred to the Sidney Women's Center; and 200 students and adults reached through educational programs.

Member John O'Neill commented, "It was wonderful to see the right-to-life people of Shelby County come together to meet and to share their stories," he said. He said he was "amazed at the impact that people from Shelby County have had on a national level."

Health Care Bill Funds Abortion

ACTION ITEM

Following is a statement from National Right to Life concerning the health care bill recently passed by Congress. There are a number of petitions and calls for other forms of protest circulating. We leave it to members to determine which method of action they deem most appropriate and effective. Most importantly, this development demonstrates the imperative of electing consistently pro-life legislators who will not compromise the defense of unborn human life, in particular. Calling oneself “pro-life” is not good enough: one has to be willing to stand against one’s own political party and any other political pressures, if necessary. We need to keep this principle in mind as we decide whom to support and vote for in the primaries this spring and in the general election this fall.

Statement of National Right to Life, Sunday, March 21

The National Right to Life Committee (NRLC) remains strongly opposed to the Senate-passed health bill (H.R. 3590). A lawmaker who votes for this bill is voting to require federal agencies to subsidize and administer health plans that will pay for elective abortion, and voting to undermine longstanding pro-life policies in other ways as well. Pro-life citizens nationwide know that this is a pro-abortion bill. Pro-life citizens know, and they will be reminded again and again, which lawmakers deserve their gratitude for voting against this pro-abortion legislation.

The executive order promised by President Obama was issued for political effect. It changes nothing. It does not correct any of the serious pro-abortion provisions in the bill. The president cannot amend a bill by issuing an order, and the federal courts will enforce what the law says.

To elaborate: The order does not truly correct any of the seven objectionable pro-abortion provisions described in NRLC's March 19 letter to the House of Representatives, which is posted here: www.nrlc.org/AHC/NRLCToHouseOnHealthBill.pdf. Regarding Community Health Centers (CHCs), NRLC has documented the problem created by H.R. 3590 here: www.nrlc.org/AHC/NRLCMemoCommHealth.html.

Prof. Robert Destro, a professor of law and former dean of the Columbus School of Law at the Catholic University of America, and an expert on abortion-related litigation, has sent lawmakers a letter explaining why the bill opens the door to direct federal funding of abortion in Community Health Centers: www.nrlc.org/ahc/DestroLetterToStupakOnCommHealthCenters.pdf. Prof. Destro clearly explains why it is the statutory language that will govern.

Regarding the new program to provide tax credits to purchase private insurance, the executive order merely tinkers with the formalities of a bookkeeping scheme under which federal subsidies will pay for plans that cover elective abortion—a break from the longstanding principles of the Hyde Amendment.

The order does nothing at all to mitigate the other abortion-related problems described in the NRLC letter, dealing with bill provisions that create dangerous regulatory mandate authorities, revise Indian health programs, and create pools of directly appropriated funds that are not covered by existing restrictions on funding of abortion. Nor can the order correct the omission from the pending legislation of the necessary conscience-protection language that had been included in House-passed health care legislation last November (the “Weldon language”).

For additional information regarding the abortion-related components of the legislation, and NRLC's assessment of the gravity of these issues, please refer to the March 19 letter linked above, and other materials posted on the NRLC website at www.nrlc.org/AHC/Index.html.

In memory of Paul Richard, in whose name memorial donations were made.

+May he rest in peace.+



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Attention Pastors: Life Solidarity 2010

On Thursday April 22, 2010, there will be a gathering of leaders to advance the protection of the unborn. All are welcome to attend Life Solidarity 2010 at the Schindler Banquet Center in Xenia, Ohio.

Conference speakers and other activities will explore the issues, as well as provide resources and guidelines for life affirming ministry. The overarching purpose of this gathering is to bring together God's people from across racial lines and theological traditions to overcome barriers toward presenting a united calling for defense of life in the womb. **All area clergy are especially urged to attend this convocation.** Speakers will include Bishop Harry Jackson of Hope Christian Church in Washington, D.C.; Greg Koukl of Stand to Reason; and the Rev. Arnold Culbreath of Life Issues Institute. Please encourage your pastor to participate in this exciting event. Find more information at www.lifesolidarity.com. Pastor Brian Wonn of Urbana is helping to promote the event. Please contact him with any questions: 937-652-2129; bbwonn@yahoo.com.

Wear Your Convictions on Your Sleeve: Pro-Life T-Shirt Day

April 27 is Pro-life T-Shirt Day, a chance to send a message by wearing pro-life clothing. Various styles of t-shirts are available at the RTL shop. You can find out more about the event at <http://www.npltw.com>. Other good places to order clothing and other pro-life material are:

www.hh76.com (Heritage House)

<http://americanlifeleague.stores.yahoo.net/naprtwe.html> (American Life League)