

Right to Life: **REGROUP!** Urgent Membership Meeting

January 31 at 7:00pm

WHO: All Right to Life members come, and bring some friends!

(Event is intended for high school age and older.)

WHAT: Important membership meeting, to REGROUP after the fall of Roe. **Hear from** Ohio's Regional Coordinator of [Students for Life, Jamie Sherdin](#) and Shelby Co. **RTL Director Anne Schmiesing** about **critical ballot initiatives expected in upcoming elections**; why the fight to protect innocent human lives is far from over in Ohio; and what you can do to protect women and families. There will be time for: Q & A, sharing *your* ideas, and recommitting to protect innocent persons from violence. We're at a crucial moment in the fight for life and are working **together with all of Ohio's Pro-Life groups** to defeat extreme pro-abortion efforts in Ohio and beyond.

WHEN & WHERE: January 31 at 7:00pm, at the American Legion Hall in Sidney, banquet room.

There will **NOT** be a **Candlelight Vigil** as in Januarys past. Please join us at the REGROUP Event instead.

Pro-Life Oratory Contest for High School Juniors and Seniors

☀ **Monday, February 20 at 6:30pm** (President's Day) at St. John's Lutheran Church in Sidney.

☀ **Prizes: \$400+, \$250, and \$100 for 1st-3rd.** One winner receives an additional \$100 travel stipend for participating in the state contest Saturday, May 6, in Columbus. The state-level winner continues to the national competition June 23-24, in Pittsburgh, PA.

☀ **Eligibility:** All high school juniors and seniors who are residents of Shelby County or attend a Shelby County high school. Contestants are to give a pro-life speech, 5-7 minutes in length, on one of four topics: abortion, doctor prescribed suicide, infanticide, or embryonic research.

☀ **Register by Friday, February 17 (by 11:59pm).** For rules and contest resources go to the [oratory contest page on the RTLSC website](#).

☀ **Contact** Anne Schmiesing: register@shelbycountyRTL.org or 937-658-3535 (cell), for more information and to register.



Words From Abortion Healing

Just because you did something wrong in the past doesn't mean you can't advocate against it now.

It doesn't make you a hypocrite; you just grew.

Don't let people use your past to invalidate your current mindset.

If you focus on the hurt, you'll continue to suffer. If you focus on the lesson, you'll continue to grow.

You can't reach for anything new if your hands are still full of yesterday's junk.

Watch for Membership Renewal letters going out in January. Your renewal guarantees you'll be informed of current events and supports our mission. **Thank you for your support!** The 2023 newsletters will be the **50th volume** of Shelby Co. Right to Life newsletters!

Bimonthly newsletters are produced by Right to Life of Shelby Co. Director, Anne Schmiesing (director@shelbycountyrctl.org), and are available **with internet links** on our website: www.ShelbyCountyRTL.org. Look for this icon and click to view.



January-February Prayer Intentions

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In thanksgiving for God's abundant gift of life: creating human life, sustaining us, redeeming us! In thanksgiving for the fall of Roe v Wade. For each state to legally protect all human life.



Dates to Remember in 2023

- **January 20, 2023** (Friday) — **National March for Life in Washington DC** commemorates the catastrophic Roe v. Wade decision. Mercer County and Darke County have buses chartered.
- **January 31, 2023** (Tuesday) — **REGROUP! Meeting for Shelby Co Right to Life**, at the American Legion Hall in Sidney, at **7pm**. (See pg. 1)
- **February 4, 2023** (Saturday) — **Life Defenders Class** in Coldwater, 9am-12noon. (See pg. 3)
- **February 20, 2023** (Monday/President's Day) — **Oratory Contest** (See details on pg. 1)
- **March 23-25, 2023** (Thursday-Saturday) — **Garage Sale** at St. Remy Hall in Russia. Start saving "another man's treasures/one man's junk" to donate to the sale. Drop-off locations and times will be listed in the March newsletter.
- **April 15, 2023** (Saturday)— **Essay contest** for Shelby Co. students (Details to come, in March.)
- **May 13, 2023** (Saturday) — **Golf Outing at Shelby Oaks Golf Course**. Shot gun start at 8:30am.



Many thanks!

To the many businesses, churches, and schools who assist in the Right to Life mission!



Pictured:

(Above) Osgood State Bank staff who organized a winter coat drive for the families we serve.

(Right) Lehman Catholic students helped clean and restock shelves during a school retreat.

Ballot Expectations and Concerns: Why We Must Act Now

The following information will be discussed in more detail at the REGROUP! Meeting (announced on page 1), because Ohio citizens need to be aware of what is at stake.

The Dobbs decision overturning Roe v. Wade did not make abortion illegal, but sent abortion law back to the states, and because of weak Constitutional protections in many states, unscrupulous special interests groups and out-of-state activists are exploiting a chance to make abortion-on-demand even more prevalent than before Roe. **This should be of great concern to all citizens, not just because it's a violation of pre-born children and the health of women, but because it is also a violation of Constitutional principles.** Elections in 2022 resulted in six ballot measures addressing abortion, none of which resulted in protection of human life! Limitless abortion measures were *approved* in [California](#), [Michigan](#), and [Vermont](#). Measures to protect life in the womb were *defeated* in [Kansas](#) and [Kentucky](#), while [Montana even rejected protections for born-alive children](#). **Ohioans are now in the crosshairs of abortion activists.** (Continued on pg. 4)

Thank you for your assistance and prayers for those in post-abortion healing programs in our area. These programs bear great fruit!

Memorial plaques and services are available for children lost to abortion or miscarriage. It's a powerful step in the healing process.

Morgan's Place Cemetery is now open for service, providing burial of pre-born children

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Life Defenders Class: Saturday, February 4th, Mercer County Right to Life hosts a pro-life apologetics workshop, from 9:00AM until 12:00PM at Preferred Insurance Center in Coldwater, Ohio. Doors open at 8:30AM. Cost is \$5. Two levels of training will be offered: **Life Defenders 101** refutes logical fallacies of pro-choice rhetoric; taught by Ian Spencer, Director of Outreach and Engagement for Created Equal. In **Life Defenders 201**, Mike Spencer of Project LifeVoice will address moral relativism, euthanasia, and assisted suicide. Each class is designed to equip pro-life ambassadors to communicate the pro-life message confidently and graciously. To register for this event go to <http://ichooselife.org/MercerCo> or call Mercer County Right to Life President, Connie Randall, at 216-815-0430.

Keep Pressure on Companies Promoting Abortion

The call to boycott Kroger continues. Why? 1. Kroger was among the first companies to offer employee pay-offs for abortions after the Dobbs decision. 2. Their policy is egregiously pro-abortion and anti-family (without limitations on abortions) 3. As an Ohio-based company they are accountable to Ohioans. It is often argued that it's hard to find a company which doesn't have some bad policy or other, and we "can't boycott them all." True, but it doesn't follow that boycotts are thus useless. Analogously, there are millions of people who are in need of assistance, and *we can't help them all*; so does that mean that we should help no one? The answer is clear: Do what you can, for those God places in your path. Regarding boycotts, act with discernment of priorities and God's calling.

Here's part of our director's letter to Kroger:

It is heartbreaking that by your policy promoting abortion for your employees, you would subject women to pressure to abort rather than support them with maternity leave costs and other moral support. Aside from the unethical nature of a pay-off to an employee to undergo a procedure that causes trauma, the procedure increases risk of premature death in subsequent years (according to solid research, this is 4 times greater than for women who give birth; up to 14 times higher for some causes). The abortion-funding policy also creates a very poor workplace environment. Employees who've undergone trauma don't function as well, many suffer extreme loss of motivation, and suffer from anger and relationship problems, including in the workplace, until they undergo healing, which for many women has taken decades.

Ohio's large network of advocates for healing after abortion attests to the lasting harm caused by the abortion wound. By your policy you will be paying for abortions, but leaving others to pick up the pieces. I encourage you to research studies conducted using unbiased and accurate information, that reveal the harm caused by abortion. (Resources included in the letter.)

Mailed to: Kroger Co. Customer Relations, 1014 Vine Street Cincinnati, OH 45202.

For more information on how to boycott companies paying for abortion, see our website.

IN MEMORIAM

Right to Life continues its work for the protection of all human life, in honor of those who have offered time, prayer and other resources to this cause during their lifetimes.

In memory of: +David Borchers and +Doris Kremer

In whose names memorial donations were made in November and December.

May they rest in eternal peace.

Several well-armed, pro-abortion groups have announced their intentions to put abortion on the ballot in Ohio as soon as November 2023. These radical groups will be seeking out Ohio residents in just some of Ohio's counties, to sign the petition to get their proposed Constitutional amendments on the ballot. The initiatives are expected to espouse abortion-on-demand. Precedent indicates they will use misleading information and slogans to get support, first for their petition efforts and then for votes. Please help educate our businesses and citizens of the present danger, and pray for protection.

All Right to Life groups in Ohio are working together to protect innocent human life from these attacks. After 50 years of legally-promoted abortion, the nationwide **network of abortion-healing ministries** already has their hands full trying to help women, and men, recover from their abortion wounds. If Ohioans don't protect vulnerable parents and children from special interests groups, the cycle of harm will continue.

One important aid to protecting Ohio's Constitution from special interest activists is another ballot measure Ohioans may vote for in 2023, called **The Ohio Constitution Protection Amendment**. The Ohio Secretary of State [press release stated](#), "The Ohio Constitution is supposed to serve as a framework of our state government, not as a tool for special interests." Ballot initiatives "should require the same standard for passage that we see in both our United States Constitution and here in our own state legislature. Requiring a broad consensus majority of at least 60% for passing a petition-based constitutional amendment provides a good-government solution to promote compromise." Supermajority requirements for Constitutional Amendments have already been established in both Red and Blue States, and upheld by the courts, including the US Supreme Court, for decades. [[See changes made to the proposed amendment in 2023.](#)]

According to RTL-SC Director, Anne Schmiesing, "Requiring a supermajority for ballot measures is a common sense remedy for the **extreme divisiveness of a near 50-50 split vote, which comes nowhere near being a mandate from the people**. Yet the **supermajority requirement is certainly reasonable and attainable**, as evidenced by the statewide passage of *both* Issues 1 and 2 in the 2022 general election, both passing with over 75% and preserving the integrity of Constitutional principles."



Shelby County Abortion Report 2021

The most recent [Ohio Abortion Report](#) indicates that 20 of the 25 abortions inflicted upon Shelby County residents, in 2021, were on women ages 20-34. In other age groups, 3 abortions were done on women older than 34, and 2 children of women 18-19 years old were lost to abortion violence. Of abortions on Shelby County residents, 17 of the 25 were within the *Sidney* zip code.

None of the reported abortions were actually done *in* Shelby County; all were incurred in other counties, however, the reports don't necessarily include mail order chemical abortions.

In neighboring counties, Miami County had 99 abortions, Champaign had 37, Logan had 33, Auglaize had 24, Darke had 19, and Mercer had 14 abortions obtained by residents. Not only did Darke and Mercer Counties have lower numbers of abortions than Shelby, their rate per capita was also lower. Champaign and Miami, on the other hand, had higher per capita abortion rates than Shelby. The most staggering numbers (and rates), of course, come from counties with large cities; Cleveland's Cuyahoga County tops the list at 4839 abortions for the year, and Dayton's Montgomery County registers at 1318 abortions.

The report for 2022 will not be available until next fall. A drop in abortion numbers is expected as a result of Ohio's Heartbeat Law being briefly in effect after *Roe v Wade* was overturned, however, since activist judges and the abortion lobby have again tied up the Heartbeat Law, abortionists continue to legally slay pre-born children, even late term. The Heartbeat Law is intended to protect pre-born babies once a heartbeat can be detected (at least by 4 weeks after conception.)

As we begin a new year, continue to pray for an end to abortion and assisted-suicide, with the hope given to us by the coming of our savior.

*Hail and blessed be the hour and moment, In which the Son of God was born
Of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold.*

