

Dear Friends of Life:

As most of you know by now, Ellen Markham, Dubuque County Right To Life's Executive director for the last 12 years is retiring. As an organization, we have grown so much during Ellen's time with us. Ellen has worked tirelessly with the Board and volunteers to spread the message of the horrors of abortion, infanticide and euthanasia. Her background in nursing has been invaluable to DCRTL in talking about the development of the unborn baby, embryonic stem cells, and end of life issues. Her inherent goodness and kindness have endeared her to everyone with whom she has come in contact.

We wish Ellen the very best as she now has a chance to travel and spend more time with her family. We know that Ellen will still be available to help us out after a little R&R. There will be an Open House Friday, June 27, 1- 5 p.m. Please join us for coffee, punch and cookies as we tell Ellen goodbye and say hello to our new Executive Director.

After a long search and interview process, the Board of Directors has hired Steven Brody to be our new Executive Director. A graduate of the University of California and the American College of Law, Steve has a background in legislative affairs, communication, and business. He hosted a live public affairs radio program for 21/2 years and a public affairs program for 7 years on cable. He and his wife are very active in their local pro-life group. Steve is the father of six children. To quote from a letter he wrote to the editor of the Dodgeville paper,

"As a proud father of six children . . ., I understand and value the miracle of life. I am awed at the hand of God each time our family is blessed with a new addition. It is because of that I choose to stand on the side of life. I believe that as God granted life, that He should be the only one that decides when to take a life."

Steve is very excited to be joining DCRTL and we look forward to working with him.

Maureen Ward, President

REMINDER: Patricia Bainbridge, director of the Respect Life Office for the Diocese of Rockford, Illinois will speak at St. Mary's in East Dubuque after 7:00 P.M. Mass on Tuesday, August 5th. The evening will begin with recitation of the rosary at 6:40. The title of her talk: "Conscientious Voting."

- **Planned Parenthood & other contraceptive providers to profit from war funding bill**
The Senate Appropriations Committee added an amendment (4803) to the 2008 War Supplemental Bill (H.R. 2642) that would benefit the nation's largest abortion provider, Planned Parenthood. The measure will once again allow Planned Parenthood clinics and university health centers to receive drugs at discounted prices. In 2005, as part of the Deficit Reduction Act, Congress made university health clinics and clinics that dispense birth control and abortion drugs ineligible to receive discounts on drugs provided under the Public Health Service Act. If enacted, the amendment would overrule that law (Public Law 109-171), virtually guaranteeing Planned Parenthood clinics would get discounts on drugs. Senators Patty Murray (Wash.), Herb Kohl (Wis.) and Tom Harkin (Iowa) sought the amendment, which was added to the Iraq war funding bill. This domestic spending measure was approved by the Senate by a vote of 75-22. It was subsequently removed from that bill and enacted in HR 2764 (Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008). *Clearly, a provision to allow Planned Parenthood and similar groups to provide cheaply-priced contraceptives (or abortifacients like Plan B) to college students has no place being connected to a bill funding U.S. troops.*
- **President Bush Signs Genetic Nondiscrimination Act Protecting Both Born and Unborn**
This Act bars employers and health insurers from discriminating against individuals on the basis of their own or their family members genetic information. It protects women from financial pressure to abort children with genetic disorders.

THERE WILL BE NO JULY MEMBERSHIP MEETING! As per tradition, we will not be meeting in July because the first Thursday falls too close to the Independence Day holiday. Our next meeting will be the annual picnic on the first Thursday of August (the 7th). Details will be in the next newsletter.



SWEET SORROW

Most of you already know that I am retiring; actually, I guess you all know, at least if you read page one! Anyway, I want to use this space to let you know that although I'm stepping down, I'm not going away. I am retiring "because I can" but I remain passionately pro-life and know I cannot give up pro-life work. It just won't be full time anymore. I've often said that I have (had) the best job in the world because I get to work with pro-life people all day long, every day. And I will certainly miss that. People make the job and pro-life people are the best people in the world, especially those actively pro-life. I've also often jokingly said that this is a great job because so many others do the work and I get all the credit. So now I bestow credit where due—good work, faithful volunteers! Next, my heartfelt thanks goes out to my friends: co-workers (Irene, Barb and Colleen), board members (all of you since 1996) and volunteers; and also to all members and supporters. Thank you for all your encouragement, advice, smiles, kind words, hugs, updates and help! I know that dealing with "life issues" requires a certain sensitivity to the people involved and to the issues themselves. As executive director of an educational organization, my intent was always to inform, never to hurt; but I know I don't always realize how the information will come across to my audience. So if ever I said or did anything to offend you, I ask forgiveness. As I begin this new phase of my life, know that my heart remains here with all of you. I hope you will all keep in touch and may God Bless You, Everyone!

Ellen

CORRECTION/CLARIFICATION

Organ donation can truly be the "gift of life." Surely it is noble to donate a kidney, a lobe of a lung or liver, and adult stem cells. It *can be* noble to donate vital organs; the critical question is whether a person is truly dead when declared "brain dead" or to have suffered "cardiac death." As with all life issues, we must be critical thinkers. The laudable goal of saving more lives through transplantation cannot sacrifice ethical principles; we must be sure that a desired good end does not justify any and every means of accomplishing that end.

TESTIMONIES REQUESTED:

The Justice Foundation, in their legal effort to overturn *Roe v Wade* and *Doe v Bolton*, is collecting testimonies from women who have had abortions. They intend to gather one million declarations to show the Court how many women are hurt by abortion. Please encourage anyone you know who have had an abortion and regretted it to download the form "Declaration How My Abortion Affected Me" by going to www.operationoutcry.org, tell their story and send it to The Justice Foundation, Operation Outcry, 8122 Datapoint Drive, Suite 812, San Antonio, TX 78229. Questions call toll-free 1-866/468-8279. (Or, pick up a form at DCRTL)

**IF WOMBS HAVE WINDOWS,
WOULD WOMEN STILL HAVE ABORTIONS?**

MEMBERSHIP FORM: Please mail to DCRTL, 2205 Carter Road, Dubuque, Iowa 52001

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| <input type="checkbox"/> \$300 Lifesaver | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Supporter | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$200 Defender | <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Family | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Patron | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Individual | |

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____ PHONE: _____