

Life Line

Protecting the unborn, the elderly, and people with disabilities

Newsletter No. 15
June 2008

Wisconsin Prolife @ 40

This year marks a milestone in our efforts to preserve life. The Wisconsin Right to Life (WRTL) state office shared these memorable events. Here is a reminder of where we've come and a hint of how much work is left.

- **1967:** A steering committee, which became the founding committee of Wisconsin Right to Life, was formed to address ongoing challenges to the Wisconsin 120-year-old abortion ban.
- **1971:** Hundreds attended a public hearing in Madison to oppose a bill to legalize abortion in Wisconsin.
- **1973:** The landmark U.S. Supreme Court *Roe v. Wade* decision overturned the laws of all 50 states and legalized abortion for any reason for the full nine months of the pregnancy.
- **1976:** The first Hyde Amendment passed which prohibited federal tax dollars used to pay for abortions.
- **1982:** Six infants briefly survived late-term abortion attempts at two Madison hospitals.
- **1992:** Led by WRTL, Wisconsin passed a law requiring parental consent before a minor girl's abortion. (continued page 2)

Grassroots bloom "Roses for Life"

Flowers are a great symbol to express the message of life. "Roses for Life" is the primary Wisconsin Right to Life-Dane County activity to raise funds to support our outreach programs.

Held annually on Mother's Day, this year's sale was a tremendous success. A warm "Thank You!" to all the volunteers who helped sort and sell the roses. Thousands of roses were distributed through dozens of churches across the county.

Each beautiful bloom gave the buyer and receiver a moment to think about and appreciate what life-givers Mothers truly are.

Volunteers found that this heartfelt, positive and symbolic message conveyed so much. Their task was simple. Staffing the rose sale table at their church, even for one hour, gave them the opportunity to chat with friends and fellow churchgoers *and* support life.

This wonderful fundraiser may be right for your church too. Contact Kristen Korab, the 2008 coordinator, for more information before speaking to your pastor. Her number is 608-655-8175. She has materials that explain the commitment of time and resources to help your church get involved.

Media obscures candidates' stand on abortion

As media coverage of the presidential election expands in the coming months, listen cautiously to how the media position the candidates' stands on life issues. Analysis of current stories reveal how the media already *underplays* Obama's pro-abortion views and McCain's opposition to abortion.

Funding for television commercials as well as directly to campaigns are often under reported. Pro-abortion groups endorsing and offering large donations to the Obama campaign include NARAL (National Abortion Rights Action League), Emily's List, and soon Planned Parenthood.

The National Right to Life organization has extensive coverage of the candidates and pending legislation on its website, www.nrlc.org. Below are a few highlights of the candidates' positions on life:

John McCain on *Roe v. Wade* OPPOSES

- Voted to oppose *Roe v. Wade*, the Supreme Court decision that allows abortion for any reason.
- "...We would be better off by having *Roe v. Wade* return to the states....I don't believe the...Court should be legislating in the way that they did on *Roe v. Wade*."

Barack Obama on *Roe v. Wade* SUPPORTS

- Co-sponsor of the "Freedom of Choice Act."
- "I have consistently advocated for reproductive choice and will make preserving women's rights under *Roe v. Wade* a priority as President."

Wisconsin Prolife @ 40 (continued)

- **1998:** Wisconsin passed a law to make it a crime for a third party to kill or injure an unborn baby.
- **1998:** The Woman's Right to Know law was upheld in federal court with the assistance of WRTL. There was a 12% reduction in Wisconsin abortions.
- WRTL expanded its mission to include protection of human embryos. The FDA approved the abortion drug RU-486
- **2001:** Wisconsin passed a law allowing mothers to carry their baby to term and relinquish the unwanted newborn without prosecution.
- **2005:** Wisconsin passed a Ban on All Human Cloning, the Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act, the Conscience Protection Act, and a budget provision to give priority for family planning funds to counties rather than organization that provide abortions. Gov. Doyle vetoed all points.
- **2006:** Number of abortions in the state reached its lowest level in 30 years.

- **2008:** WRTL reached 50 years and includes 64 chapters and sub-chapters.

What are your memories? Your work in Dane county has been instrumental in preserving life for four decades.

Not too late: Teen Leadership Camp

Wisconsin Right to Life sponsors a fun-filled/fact-filled camp to empower teens to speak up for life. The 2008 Wisconsin Teens for Life Summer Leadership Training Conferences July 20-25 in Walworth. Mixed with fun and laughter, teens will learn more about abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, abstinence, stem cells and more. The programs are lead by experienced professionals who enjoy working with teens. For more information, contact jlittle@wrtl.org.
NOTE: Scholarships are still available through the Dane Co. Chapter. Call Diane at 233-5440.

Training & Events Calendar

Summer will be gone far too quickly. Here are a few worthwhile events that come in early Fall. Mark these in on your calendar:

A Project Rachel seminar on **men and abortion** is scheduled for September 8 & 9 in Chicago.

Rachel's Vineyard Regional Training September 19 & 20 in Madison. Founders Theresa & Kevin Burke are planning to attend.

Campaign starts for Forty Days for Life

Plans are underway for local efforts to end abortion during the country's annual 40 Days for Life prayer vigil outside Planned Parenthood centers September 24 through November 2.

The success of last year's 40 Days for Life included 33 states, 89 cities and 150,000 people participating.

Volunteers are sought for all facets of the campaign, including participants praying outside Planned Parenthood from one to four hours and even coordinator positions. Contact Amy Hying at 40DaysforLifeMadison@gmail.com or 608-698-3877.

The Respect Life Mass is set for Oct. 5 at 11 a.m. in Madison at St. Patrick's Church in Madison. Pro-life groups will be invited to have display tables. If you have suggestions for groups to display, contact the office.

Leave your legacy to life

Wisconsin Right to Life-Dane Co. is involved and supports outreach and education throughout our community. Your contribution in the form of an annual tax-deductible donation or bequest, continues those goals. Please fill out the information below and enclose your contribution. WRTL-Dane Co. will never sell or give your information to groups not consistent with our life mission.

Mail to: Wisconsin Right to Life-Dane County, P.O. Box 46454, Madison, WI 53744-6454 or call 608-233-5440.

Name _____ Email address _____
Address _____ Phone _____
City, State, Zip _____

ISSUES THAT MATTER ...

Likely Fall legislation

Two bills were introduced last session and will likely be re-introduced in the next session:

* AB 747 / SB 400 would have required each school board that provides a program of abstinence-only education to notify each pupil's parent or guardian that the pupil is receiving abstinence-only education. The notice must also state that abstinence-only education does not teach pupils how to prevent pregnancy or sexually transmitted diseases, other than by remaining abstinent, and that a pupil, at the request of his or her parent or guardian, may be excused from abstinence-only education.

* AB 750 / SB 405 would have required that if a school board offers an instructional program in human growth and development, the program must be medically accurate and provide a wide range of information, including marriage, pregnancy, prenatal development, childbirth, adoption, the benefits of abstinence, the prevention of sexually transmitted infections, and "the health benefits and side effects of contraceptives approved by the FDA." The bills also require each school board that does not offer this program to notify each pupil's parent or guardian of this fact.

Information about abstinence education is available at www.parentsfortruth.org, a national organization and the Wisconsin-based, www.wiabco.org.

Think about it: Drug companies don't make money off of children NOT having sex.

World Abortions

54 countries allow abortion, which is about 61 percent of the world population. 97 countries, about 39 percent of the population, have abortion laws that make it illegal according to the pro-abortion Center for Reproductive Law and Policy in New York.

Drop in STD Rates for '08? Check again

As of March 1, 2008, Herpes is no longer a reportable sexually transmitted disease in Wisconsin. Remember this when state STD rates go down this year.

Sally Ladky, executive director of the Wisconsin Abstinence Coalition (www.wiabco.org) says, "The 'official' explanation is that this makes our state conform to national STD reporting standards which also does not require the reporting of HPV."

"Interesting enough, herpes and HPV are the most prevalent of all STDs, incurable and, as viruses, present lifelong outbreaks and potentially serious medical complications for adults and their babies. By dropping them, a false picture of STD infection rates will be presented in the future. This was a state departmental (DPH) decision, probably made within the STD division, without any legislative oversight or even notification."

Always check the numbers

In Italy, the claimed figure of women dying from illegal abortions before its abortion referendum was 20,000. In the age group 15-45, there were actually only 11,500 female deaths from all causes.

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Raise awareness at the Fair

The Dane County Fair has traditionally been a positive outreach opportunity for volunteers of Wisconsin Right to Life—Dane County. Our professional-quality booth inside the exhibition hall among the general exhibitors includes a set of life-size fetal models and informative brochures.

This July 16-20, we again have the opportunity to show the stages of life. It's an ideal time for individuals, service clubs and even friends to spend a little time to inform our community.

For more information or to volunteer, contact the office at 233-5440.

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“I will give no deadly medicine
to any one if asked,
nor suggest any such counsel”
... The Hippocratic Oath

FALL LAUNCHES LIFE CAMPAIGN TO YOUTH

After students return to their campuses and before the presidential campaign goes ballistic, groups throughout Dane County are quietly planning outreach educational programs for life. For example:

Pregnancy Helpline, which provides free much-needed clothing and baby supplies, plans a recruitment drive to encourage volunteers to staff its Sharing Center and its Pregnancy Helpline phone counseling and referral service.

Safe Place for Newborns will mail its posters and brochures to health teachers, school nurses across the state and target area technical colleges and universities. The non-profit's aim is raise awareness of Wisconsin's law that allows a woman to carry her baby to term and confidentially relinquish the unwanted newborn at a hospital.

Where will you invest an extra hour to promote life? Call the WRTL-Dane Co. office, these organizations listed or wherever your heart leads.

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extra hour
to promote life?