

Meeting Date: Meeting date - 4th Thursday, February 23rd, 8:00 PM, Coldwater Community Hospital Meeting Rm. Municipal Court Judge James Scheer is Retiring. May 2nd is the Primary Election. Several candidates for that position have requested to speak before our membership. At our February meeting, Kathryn Speelman will be our Guest. At our March meeting, George Moore will be our Guest. You are invited to attend and *JUDGE* for yourself which one Candidate you prefer!

The Full Page Pro-Life NEWSPAPER SIGNATURE AD CAMPAIGN that was printed in the Daily Standard on January 23rd, commemorating the 44th Anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision legalizing abortion, LOOKED *Wonderful!* Pat Pottkotter and family did a Great Job! Thanks to all who participated. Thanks to Pat for her work in gathering all the names, 531!! Thanks, also, to the Staff at the Daily Standard for putting it all together.

MERCER COUNTY RIGHT TO LIFE SEND-OFF RALLY was held at the Mary Help of Christian Church in Ft. Recovery, at 6:00 PM on Thursday, January 27th. It was very well attended.

Rally Hostess, MCRTL's 2017 President Sarah Post, Welcomed ALL those in attendance. The Church Choir, under the Direction of Barb Grube, provided the lovely music for the evening. The Opening Prayer was given by Pastor Fr. Ned Brown.

The Guest Speaker for the evening was Kelly Anderson of Celina. She gave words of encouragement to those planning to board the bus and march in our nation's capital. Kelly stated that God was using her & her husband as parents of five adopted children, to share their pro-life, pro-adoption values. Kelly said, "being pro-life does not end when a child is born. It goes beyond that. We must care for birth mothers and their babies after they are born and if called, must be willing to care for these children to provide them a home." Sarah Thanked Kelly for sharing her heart for adoption – the Win-Win-Win alternative to abortion.

After Kelly's remarks, President Sarah Post presented the annual '**Friend for Life Award**' to Lisa Homan, Ft. Recovery. Lisa served as the Secretary of our organization for 20 Years. And with that Milestone, she decided it was time to retire this year. But we trust that she will stick around for many more years to come, because of her pro-life stand and her work with the Sweetheart Dance committee.

March coordinator David Kaiser said he supports the pro-life cause, because he feels that the Supreme Court erred when they ruled in the Roe v. Wade case 44 years ago. "Tomorrow, thousands of people will gather in D.C., all voicing the same. You're with other people that believe in the same cause".

He stated that as much as he wanted to, he was not able to make the D.C. bus trip. Since there was only one bus traveling to D.C., Gary Borger was going to be the sole Bus Caption, to lead the 57 strong into DC. Dave stated that their first stop was the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception Church in D.C. From there they will gather to have breakfast before going to the Rally Site. At the Rally sight, they will hear countless pro-life speakers, some spiritual leaders and many Senators & Representatives all voicing their opinions. He also commented that they heard that Vice President Mike Pence will be a Guest Speaker at the Rally Site.

He encouraged those making the trip to wear the lime green hats they were given that will help to identify our group members and to stay behinds our banner. Kaiser also told the group not to rely on the major news network to cover the event, however, EWTN would be there.

A special "Thank You" was given to the Students for Life for putting together the Snack Bags each passenger received when they boarded the Bus.

NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE – 1/22/17 – 44th Anniversary

Due to the Inauguration of President Donald Trump, the National March took place on Friday, January 27th. The Rally went on as planned. People, People everywhere!! The largest we have seen, estimated over ½ million people. Normally, by the time our group would finish our breakfast and walk the short distance to the Rally sight, we would be close to the Stage. Not this year! By the time we got there, we had to go so far back, that if it were not for the Jumbo trons, we would not have seen able to see anything! Due to VP Pences appearance, we all had to go thru Security, which did take time. But, it was so great to hear a VP state that he is Pro-Life and so is our President. The media stated that neither a President nor Vice President ever addressed a pro-life event. Kellyanne Conway, Pres. Trump's top Advisor, also spoke to the crowd. There were so many congressional leaders that wanted to speak, however, there was not enough time for them all.

The March started around 1:30. The weather was tolerable. The March down Constitutional Ave was SLOW due to the massive crowd. The marchers were dominated by young people, except for one in our own group, Maurita Bergman, 81 years strong, who resides at St. Charles Living Center. She actually made the 3.1 mile walk to the Supreme Court building. She told us that God wanted her to go...

When we got to the end of our march, our group walked to Congressman Bob Latta's office, where they were treated with refreshments before walking to the Subway station, about 6 blocks. The Subway ride took 42 minutes and Thanks to several great adult helpers, Randy Kunk, Frank Mohlman, Paul Langenkamp and Judy Forsthoefel, even though some members of our group got separated, we all got back together!

We rode the Subway until the end of the line where we met up with our bus/driver. We all enjoyed a good meal at the various Food Courts before traveling home. Everyone had to agree, all went well. It was a Smooth trip there and back home again, even on the Subway!

Our Bus arrived back in Mercer County at 5:30 AM. It was a good trip.

Mark Your Calendar: The MCRTL Sweetheart Dance will be held on Saturday, February 25th. Get your gang together & come out for a good night of fun & fellowship. Dig out those tickets that were sent with last month's RTL Newsletter. Check out the Prize List!!! The tickets will get you thru the door for the Dance and also enter you into the Raffle Drawing.

If you are unable to attend the Dance and want to be entered in the Raffle, send your completed ticket stubs along with a check, payable to Mercer County RTL in the envelope provided with the tickets, \$5.00 per ticket, Please. If you send them in advance, just hang onto the Ticket Stub & it will be your ticket into the dance that night. Many Thanks to Celina Insurance Group for donating the printing of the tickets again this year!!

Music for the evening will be provided by D.J. 'F 1 Sound'. Doors open at 8, with the music starting at 9:00. Tickets available at the Door. Questions - Call Marilyn Pottkotter, 375-2400 or Lisa Homan, 375-2515.

PS: NO alcohol is to be carried in for liability reasons.....

2017 MERCER COUNTY RTL ORATORY CONTEST: JUNIORS AND SENIORS, THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK UP FOR LIFE!!

Mercer County RTL will hold its annual Oratory Contest Sunday, March 12 at the Fr. Yauss Center in Coldwater starting at 1:45. This Contest is open to High School Seniors and Juniors from Mercer County.

Contestants are to research, write, and present an original pro-life speech on abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, or stem cell research. The speech is to be 5-7 minutes in length. One may use notes when presenting their speech.

The 1st Place winner will receive \$1,000.00 and will compete at the State Contest in Columbus on April 29th. The 2nd Place winner will receive \$750, 3rd Place - \$500, and 4th Place - \$250. All other participants will receive \$100.

For more information contact your school's Guidance Counselor or Esther Beyke at etbeyke@aol.com or 419-678-4107.

ESSAY CONTEST FOR FRESHMAN AND SOPHOMORES: Mercer County Students for Life will again be facilitating their Essay Contest for all 9th and 10th graders. The Essay is to be 500-800 words, with the topic, "*Why I Am Pro-Life*", and be submitted to janellepoepelman@hotmail.com by Monday, March 6th.

All contestants will receive a Pro-Life T-shirt to wear for National Pro-Life T-Shirt week. All Essay's will be scored by Mercer County SFL's two advisors: Janelle Homan and Kristie Evers. The top three Essays will receive the following cash prizes: \$150 for 1st, \$100 for 2nd, and \$50 for 3rd. For an Essay application, please e-mail janellepoepelman@hotmail.com.

T-SHIRT DESIGN WINNER! Congratulations to Macy Spieth who had her T-Shirt design selected as the winning entry of the '2017 Mercer County T-Shirt Design Contest'. This T-Shirt may be ordered through Mercer County RTL. Look for her design on the Mercer Right to Life sponsored 'Pro-Life T-Shirt Day' this upcoming April. Great job Macy and all other contestants for using their time and talents to help defend life!

National Pro-Life T-Shirt Day for 2017 is Friday, April 21st. T- Shirts will be available for a \$5.00 donation as they have been the past few years. T-Shirt orders AND the money need to be in to Angie Bertke no later than Friday March 17th. This years' shirts have been designed by the students in the Mercer County Students for Life Group. They had a contest and the winning design will be the T- Shirt we use for this year's campaign. You may contact Angie at 419-925-4822 or at kenbertke@roadrunner.com.

The Shirt is grey in color with the wording: 'Pro-Life' and 'Take my hand, not my life'. 'Pro-life' (in red) is above a picture of a baby in utero (in black) and 'take my hand not my life' is below the picture of a baby. It looks great!



Students for Life will hold their last meeting of the school year on Monday, March 13th, at 7:30 p.m. at Fish-Mo's Restaurant in St. Henry. Please come and join us to hear Molly Briner share her beautiful story of the daughter she placed for adoption as a teenager and the blessings that have followed for two families. All 7th-12th graders are welcome to come hear Molly's story and enjoy free pizza and drinks.

SPRING JUSTICE RIDE 2017: [Defend Life in Florida](#) Will you use your Spring Break to change minds, save lives, and offer help to post-abortive women? **WHO:** Preborn defenders from across America **WHAT:** Bus load of students creating public dialogue about abortion **WHERE:** University campuses in Florida **WHEN:** March 4 – 11, 2017 **COST: \$275-** This covers travel, food, and lodging. **There will be \$50.00 vouchers distributed from Created Equal at Mercer County Students for Life's February meeting from a Created Equal representative. In addition, Mercer County RTL will reimbursement \$150.00 towards the first five persons who register.**

Last month, we shared a story of the Chickasaw Ladies group that worked for 29 years preparing the MCRTL Newsletter for mailings. They were Retiring! We mentioned Alma Puthoff as being the 1st in that group to start. Unfortunately, Alma recently Passed away. **Our Sympathy to her family.**

As a follow-up to that story, Deb Post who for the past 24 years has been coordinating the volunteers and helping process the RTL mailings and Carol Ranly who has been volunteering for 29 years taking the RTL mailings to the Post Office, have both decided to step aside and allow younger members of our group the opportunity to perform such tasks. Fortunately, they have both agreed to stay on until those that are interested can be trained. With that said, anyone that is interested in doing any part of the mailing, please contact Deb Post to find out what is all involved, 419-852-6015. Many Thanks!

Mercer Co. Right to Life Sponsors Bus Trip to Kettering Abortion Mill, Thursday, April 6, 2017

In conjunction with the "40 Days for Life" Spring Campaign, Mercer County Right to Life is sponsoring a bus trip to the Kettering Abortion Mill on Thursday, April 6, 2017. This is an opportunity for Christians of all denominations to set aside a portion of one day to stand up for the sanctity of human life. Many times we say we are pro-life, but this is one of those opportunities to "walk the talk." We will peacefully line the sidewalk, pray, and give witness in behalf of God's precious human creation through our presence.

A 20 passenger bus will be stopping at the following locations for pickup and return:

Coldwater - cars park far west side of the Coldwater Football Stadium parking lot, Departure: 7:50 AM; return home 3:00 PM.

St. Henry - west side of Gels IGA parking lot, (451 Stachler Drive), Departure 8:00 AM; return home 2:50 PM.

Minster – St. Augustine Catholic Church, (parking lot east of church on Lincoln St). Departure 8:30 AM; return home 2:20 PM.

Won't you please consider joining us? To reserve a seat on the bus, make your **check payable to "Mercer County Right to Life"** for **Adults-\$25.00 & Youth-\$10.00** and put "Bus trip to Kettering" on the Memo Line. Mail your check and the form below to: **Marie Heitkamp, P.O. Box 65, Burkettsville, OH 45310**. Any questions, please call 419-375-1044. Thank You!!

clip here

Name _____ Cell phone _____ Home phone _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Email _____

____ Yes, reserve me a bus seat so I can join others in praying peacefully outside the Kettering Abortion Clinic Thursday April 6, 2017. I am over 18 years of age. I absolve Mercer Co. Right to Life of all responsibilities en route, during, and returning from the bus trip to Kettering.

____ Yes, reserve me a bus seat so I can join others in praying peacefully outside the Kettering Abortion Clinic Thursday, April 6, 2017. I am under 18 years of age (age: ____), but have a parent's signature, below, giving me permission to go on this bus trip. My parent and I absolve Mercer Co. Right to Life of all responsibilities en route, during, and returning from the bus trip to Kettering. *Minors must be accompanied by a parent.

____ I have not seen an ultrasound at the pregnancy help center (across from the abortion mill), and I want to be included in one of the visiting shifts, if possible.

*Signature of person reserving seat (if under 18, parent signs): _____

The Spring Campaign for 40 Days for Life begins on March 1st and ends on April 9th.

We are excited to call together all those who care about life! Come and pray in front of the Women's Medical Center, 1401 E. Stroop Road in Kettering. Let's take a stand together! Let's defend the innocent and those with no voice! God has put each one of us on this earth for such a time as this! He has a role for each of us to play in this battle against the forces of darkness. Be that person who will take a stand. Be the one who answers His call. Every 40 Days for Life campaign, we stand in witness as God changes hearts ... and that happens on the sidewalks outside of abortion centers where faithful Christians pray.

When you Trust God, show up and Pray during a 40 Days for Life Campaign, Abortion Facilities CLOSE! The simple explanation? The **power of prayer and the love of Christ** at that crucial moment.

Choosing Life Pregnancy Center: Choosing Life Pregnancy will be holding their 8th Annual Celebration/Auction on Sunday, April 9, 2017 beginning at 4:00 pm. We will have 4 different kinds of Auctions including; a Silent, a Raffle, Special, and a Live, and this year a Bake Sale, as well. There will be plenty of food and fun. Tickets are FREE. Call Patty at 419-733-4847 for tickets. This is our only big Fundraiser we have to help keep our Center up and running so please come and enjoy your evening while supporting this very worthwhile cause.

We are the only Center in Mercer County. All of our services are FREE and for anyone who needs them. **Pregnancy Tests with verification, Ultrasounds, Counseling, Adoption Planning, and Parenting Classes.** For attending classes you receive "Life Points" which can be redeemed in our Boutique for FREE items for your baby. Our Boutique is open to the public daily Monday – Friday from 11-5. All proceeds go back into the Pregnancy Center. We gladly accept new and gently used items of all sorts including, crafts, kitchen items, clothing all sizes, jewelry, men's items etc. Stop by and check us out. We are located at 560 Touvelle St. in Celina. For more information you can call 567-890-5433 or 419-733-4847.

Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown Blocking Nomination: President Trump's selection of Judge Neil Gorsuch to fill the Supreme Court seat vacated by the death of Justice Antonin Scalia offers the country a Supreme Court Justice with a record of faithfully applying the law and defending the Constitution.

However, in a move [out of touch with Ohio voters](#), Ohio's U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown immediately opposed Judge Gorsuch's nomination.

The abortion industry is cranking up its attack machine. The so-called "National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL), Planned Parenthood and the entire abortion lobby have declared war.

The battle field?? The U.S. Senate. The target? Supreme Court nominee Neil Gorsuch.

The lives of millions of babies may depend on the outcome.

It's not every day that the pro-life movement has a Supreme Court nominee willing to allow states the opportunity to defund the Planned Parenthood abortion business and who will stand up for the religious liberties of pro-life Christians who don't want to be forced to be involved in abortion.

It's not every day that the pro-life community has a Supreme Court nominee who appreciates the value and sanctity of human life. But that's what we have in Supreme Court nominee Neil Gorsuch. He is an Appeals Court Judge who every major pro-life group says he is the kind of justice they have been hoping for to replace pro-life Justice Antonin Scalia.

But the Planned Parenthood abortion business and the abortion industry understands the ramifications of this nomination. They are already out in force urging Senators to oppose Gorsuch because he would probably vote to overturn Roe v Wade. The pro-life movement needs to respond now.

The excitement of the pro-life movement today is palpable. That's because we have a real opportunity to put a Justice on the Supreme Court who has a Respect for the Constitution.

ABORTED LIVES MATTER!

Interested in helping Us cut the cost of our postage? If you like receiving our monthly Newsletter by regular mail service, that is wonderful, then you will continue to receive it. However, if you would be interested in receiving our monthly Newsletter by e-mail, Please let us know. Send an updated e-mail address to mercercountylife@gmail.com. Those receiving the Newsletter by e-mail will also be notified if & when an urgent message is received that needs immediate attention.

Also, If you know of someone that is receiving the Newsletter and they have moved, or have passed away, let us know. We will remove them from our Mailing List.

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