



Jan/Feb 2023

Meeting Date: The next meeting will be held on February 23rd, 2023 at 7:00PM, at Preferred Insurance Center, 809 W. Main St., Suite 2 (basement), across from Mercer Health Hospital in Coldwater. Please park in the back of the building. We would love to see you at our next meeting!

Upcoming Events:

- Life Defenders.....February 4th 9AM-12PM
- Sweetheart Dance.....February 11th
- Deadline to Submit Oratory Speeches.....February 17th
- Choosing Life Auction.....March 9th-11th
- Bringing America back to Life Convention.....March 10th-11th
- Oratory Presentation at Preferred Insurance Center.....March 12th at 1:00PM

Send-Off Rally: The annual send-off rally for those going to the National March for Life in Washington, D.C., was on January 19th at the Immaculate Conception Church Activity Center in Celina. We are so thankful for the many who showed up for this event. We had the privilege of hearing pro-life legislative updates from Ohio District #84 Representative, Angie King. We were also honored to have Margie Christie, President of Right to Life Action Coalition of Ohio, speak as well. Margie gave us encouragement as we begin the next steps in the pro-life fight and knowing that any of us can have a voice for the unborn. We are so thankful to have such courageous advocates in the pro-life battle!

It takes many hands to make the rally a success so thank you to everyone who helped out with this event! Thank you to Angie and Cami Stoner for singing and LeAnn Dorsten for accompanying them on the piano. We thank Shawn Meyer and Tom Sanford for opening and closing us in prayer, and Chad Stolly and Gary Borger for the bus organization and getting details figured out. We are also so thankful for our President, Connie Randall, for all her work and organizing this event. Her tireless efforts are much appreciated.

Friend of Life Award Winner: The 2023 Friend of Life Award was presented to Marie Heitkamp at this year’s send-off rally. The award is given each year to someone who is part of Mercer County Right to Life and who has made an impact in the pro-life movement on behalf of the unborn. Marie, pictured to the right with some of her family at the send-off rally, is well deserving of this award. She has been involved with MCRTL since 2010. In the last twelve years, she has served as president, helped to organize the rally and plan the March for Life trip, planned bus trips to the Kettering abortion clinic each year, and much more. She is well known for her work at the church. Marie was born and raised in Cranberry Prairie. She has been married to her husband, Steve, for 50 years. They have been blessed with 8 children and 24 grandchildren. Marie has served



on the pastoral council several times, served on the Funeral Lunch Committee, and has been a lector in her church for many years. She truly believes all life is precious and her tireless efforts have reflected her heart of love for all the Lord's people. Congratulations, Marie!

National March for Life: Mercer County sent down a full bus to the National March for Life in Washington, D.C. Thank you to all who took part in this march, and for those who organized this trip! Hope Sudman, who marched with us, wrote up an article about her thoughts from the trip:

“Our ‘little bus’ from Mercer County was one among thousands that joined in the first post-Roe National March for Life at the U.S. Capitol. As we marched, we met new people who came from all kinds of different backgrounds. We saw people from Kansas, Kentucky, Texas, and even California; those are just a few of the groups I talked to! I heard many stories about ‘Why I am Pro-Life.’ Among the crowd, though, people shared different ideas about what comes next, how to change the culture, and what kinds of laws to pass.



I believe that this protest is just as important in post-Roe America as it was before Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, which was last year's Supreme Court ruling that left states free to restrict/outlaw abortion. We got a huge victory when Roe was overturned, and it's very important that we celebrate these victories. However, that is only the end of the first phase of this battle. The next phase begins. Our focus shifts to the states.”

Choosing Life Online Auction: Choosing Life will be having their annual auction! We would love to have you take part in this and support our local pregnancy center. The Choosing Life Board writes:

“Choosing Life will be holding our 14th Annual Auction on March 9-11th. This year's auction will be all online again. We are hoping next year to have our auction back in person. The auction will start at 5PM on Thursday, March 9th and end at 8PM on Saturday, March 11th. Items will be available for pick-up on Sunday, March 12th from 1-3PM. If you are unable to come during pick-up hours, you can make arrangements for another time. We will have the items to view at least 1 week prior to the auction. We will be sending out reminder cards for all those who have participated in the past years. The card will have all the instructions you need in order to take part in the bidding of the auction. Please tell all your friends and family as this auction is 80% plus our annual income to help keep our center open and running. We sure hope you will support our fight in saving babies lives and we want to thank you for your continued support.”

Bringing America Back to Life Convention: The Bringing America Back to Life Convention sponsored by Cleveland Right to Life, will be hosted in Independence, Ohio, on March 10th-11th, 2023. This pro-life and pro-family program equips you with tools you need in order to go forth confidently against the tide of the culture and the threats on human life. You can register for this event and see the line-up of presenters at:

www.BringingAmericaBackToLife.org

2023 Oratory Contest: Mercer County Right to Life will facilitate their annual Oratory Contest for all juniors and seniors in Mercer County. Contestants are asked to research, write, and present an original pro-life

speech on abortion, infanticide, or euthanasia that is 5-7 minutes in length. Contestants are to submit a video entry of their speech by February 17th to: prolifegeneration.mercercounty@outlook.com. All contestants who submit a video entry will receive a \$100 participation prize! The top 6 contestants will be invited to present on March 12th at the Preferred Insurance Center in Coldwater, 1:00PM. The prize amounts for the top 6 finalists who present on March 12th are as follows: 1st place: \$1,000, 2nd place: \$750, 3rd place: \$500, 4th – 6th place: \$250. We ask that all interested contestants e-mail Julie.Link09@gmail.com for a set of complete rules. Thank you!

Pro-Life Victory in Lebanon: Pro-Life advocates won a victory for unborn babies in court on Thursday, January 12th. The federal judge dismissed a lawsuit challenging the abortion ban in the city of Lebanon, Ohio. Both sides reached an agreement to dismiss the lawsuit and a Cincinnati court approved the terms, which include keeping the abortion ban intact. The Sanctuary Cities for the Unborn ordinance makes it unlawful for any person to procure or perform an abortion of any type and at any stage of pregnancy within the city limits. Lebanon does not have an abortion facility, and since it is a sanctuary city, the ordinance prevents one from opening there. This truly is a victory! May we keep fighting faithfully for the lives of the unborn and see that the God-given right to life of the unborn are protected.

Ballot Expectations and Concerns: “Why We Must Act Now,” by Anne Schmiesing

“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 interest 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.

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 interest 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. Ohio Secretary of State, Frank LaRose 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.

According to Right to Life of Shelby County 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 Issues 1 and 2 in the 2022 general election, both passing with over 75% and preserving the integrity of Constitutional principles.”

Euthanasia: “An Issue of Equality,” by Titus Meyer, Created Equal Public Relations Coordinator

Many people think that society’s job is to eliminate suffering. We want to house the poor, feed the hungry, help drug addicts, and so on. But often, proponents of social justice causes also advocate for a darker idea: Euthanasia. And this practice is being supported by more and more Americans. According to recent polling data from 2018, a whopping 72% of Americans thought that Euthanasia should be legal in the United States for terminally ill patients.

But is it really ethical to eliminate the sufferer to stop his suffering? We would never kill the homeless to prevent them from sleeping out in the cold. Nor would we ever kill hungry children to alleviate starvation. And we wouldn’t execute the addict to save him from his addiction. We know intuitively that these “solutions” are unethical.

Human value does not hinge upon the amount of suffering one undergoes. The lives of all humans have equal value regardless of their circumstances. Euthanasia erodes true human equality and should not be legalized in any society.

You can email Kaylie Dameron at cc2023kd@gmail.com to send any information you would like to be put in upcoming newsletters.

Visit our web page at <https://www.mercerlife.org> or our Facebook page to get updates between the newsletters.

Respect Life at All Stages

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