



PENNSYLVANIANS FOR HUMAN LIFE

Education Services

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June 2019

Dear Friends of Life:

While there has been a slight gap in Newsletters, I assure you that the interim time has been well-spent. As I said at the Celebrate Life Banquet in February, PHL had to “step back” a bit in order to meet the advance of the 21st century. Our Executive Director, Karen Kopecky, has done an amazing job of evaluating and upgrading our systems. I proudly invite you to check out our new website Pennsylvaniansforhumanlife.org!

While I marvel at our technological upgrades, the heart and soul of PHL’s mission will always be focused on the “human” – specifically, the sanctity of all human life. We reinforce our unique mission through the human connection our speakers make with the students who benefit from our message. To that end, Karen and Clare Frissora, our newest Board Member, have taken the initiative to evaluate and strengthen our presentations. In a culture where young people receive mixed messages on the subject of life – or none at all – PHL must keep its message compelling. While the truth of life speaks for itself, it is our responsibility to ensure its accurate delivery.

I want to thank everyone who made the Banquet another resounding success. I was truly taken with our Speaker, Kristan Hawkins, who takes the pro-life message to campuses across the country. While PHL is more locally focused, Kristan’s drive re-dedicated me to our shared mission of education. I thank my fellow Board members who made the night memorable. Above all, I thank each of you. Without your support, PHL could not survive. Please continue to support us in any way you can. As mentioned at the Banquet, our raffle this year features an all-expense paid trip to sunny Bermuda. Please take a moment to review the enclosed tickets to enter and win!

While recent state legislation has buoyed the pro-life movement, PHL’s complementary mission remains critical – to open young hearts and minds to the powerful and simple truth of life. I thank you again for your support of that mission. Have a happy and restful summer. PHL will spend the break preparing for the school year!

Christopher Eric Paul Pushaw, Esquire
President, Pennsylvanians for Human Life

For over 45 years, Pennsylvanians for Human Life’s mission has been to educate persons of all ages about the dignity of human life from conception to natural death.

Through knowledge, PHL empowers youth and adults to achieve a future that **RESPECTS EVERY LIFE!**



News



Martha Short (left), receives the Margaret Way Hoffner Award at PHL's 31st Annual Celebrate Life Banquet on Feb. 24 from Anita Nardone (Margaret's daughter). Martha recently retired after serving as Executive Director for 20 years.

PHL's Celebrate Life Banquet hailed two amazing women!

Martha Short, PHL's long-serving executive director retired after 20 years received the Margaret Way Hoffner Award in front of 400+ guests at Springfield Country Club on February 24, 2019. Martha's passion for the unborn may be genetic. The eldest of four children, her parents were active with PHL in its early years. She well remembers about 10 years ago while visiting a school in Roxborough how a teacher mentioned she never forgot what she learned from a PHL speaker when she was a student at Cardinal O'Hara High School. That message led her to choose life when she was pregnant in college and her child is now a student at her school.

Martha said, "I feel very confident about the future of the pro-life movement, especially because of the many young people who attend our banquet."



Keynote speaker and President of Students for Life of America (SFLA), Kristan Hawkins captivated the audience with her energy, passion and enthusiasm. In her tenure since 2006, Kristan has built SFLA from 120 to 1,220 chapters on college campuses. They train and mobilize around 25,000 students a year. She challenged the audience and everyone in the pro-life movement with this message:

1. Envision a nation without abortion.
2. Be a "David".
 - a). Rush to the point of conflict (change only happens at the point of conflict)
 - b). Substitute effort for ability.
 - c). Think outside the box (slingshot)
3. Interrupt the cycle that Planned Parenthood and the abortion industry have set up for young people.



Kristan with Cardinal O'Hara Students, Father Masson & Marie Parker (Theology Chairs) and PHL's Board Member, Charlie Waldecker

Pro Life Victories

2019 did not start off well for the "Right to Life" movement.

In January, the state of New York passed the most horrific abortion bill in the history of our nation. In spite of a "Gallup Survey" showing only 28% agree with abortion in the 2nd trimester and 13% agree in the 3rd trimester, New York State legislatures voted to make abortion legal through the entire 9 month cycle even beyond actual live birth.

Although this legislative action appeared to be a major setback for the Pro-Life movement, it resulted in a groundswell of counter legislative actions by state governments across the nation. The following is a list of actions taken from January – May 31, 2019:

Arkansas
Legislation placing tighter restrictions on abortions
Florida
Introduced "Heart Beat Bill"
Georgia
Legislature passed "Heart Beat Bill"
Kansas
Legislation condemning NY Bill & placed tighter restrictions
Kentucky
Legislature passed "Heart Beat Bill"
Louisiana
Introduced "Heart Beat Bill"
Maryland
Introduced "Heart Beat Bill"
Minnesota
Introduced "Heart Beat Bill"
Mississippi
Passed "Heart Beat Bill"
Missouri
Introduced "Heart Beat Bill"
North Dakota
Legislation placing tighter restrictions on abortions
Ohio
Legislation passed "Heart Beat Bill" & denied abortion funding
South Carolina
Introduced "Heart Beat Bill"
South Dakota
Legislation condemning NY Bill & placed tighten restrictions
Tennessee
Introduced "Heart Beat Bill"
West Virginia
Introduced "Heart Beat Bill"



UNPLANNED sets BOX OFFICE RECORDS

The movie, Unplanned, has far outpaced expectations, not only on the box office ranking and gross receipts, but by the sheer influence it has had on influencing and changing views regarding lives of the pre-born.

Unplanned shares the story of Abby Johnson, a woman who dedicated her life's work to champion the rights of women and their health care choices. Through her work she transitioned her view of how best to help both women and children. Her story offers hope, redemption, forgiveness and love. And shares how God is there for everyone – regardless of what brings them to who they are today.

The opening weekend surprised all, with expected results doubling estimates and grossing \$6.4 MM and achieving #4 in national rankings. In May, it reached \$18MM in gross receipts! The Unplanned team anticipates numbers will swell as the movie transitions to DVD and private viewership. It is expected that private views will attract many who were afraid to see the movie in public, due to past wounds, or those who didn't want to be seen at a "pro-life" movie.

The Unplanned team has also reported that they have received over 100 calls from workers in the abortion industry for support to leave! They have offered help to many women considering their choices and also to those who are looking back on their abortion decision.

Locally, a team led by St. Mary Magdalen (Media), St. John Neumann (Bryn Mawr) and St. Pius X (Broomall) worked hard to enable over 700 people to see the movie on opening weekend! They also sought donations to help two crisis pregnancy centers and two respect life education groups. In total, \$5,400 was raised! Some donations were designated to specific organizations. PHL was excited to receive \$1,155.

We're going to keep our efforts on spreading the word about the pain that accompanies abortion and the deep inhumanity of taking another's life. We must encourage others to 'take another look' at the issue.



Featured Speaker – Pete DeMaio

As a member of the PHL board, speaker and father of 6 children and one on the way, Pete is extremely busy but knows that the most important thing he can do with his time is educate young people on their sexuality, relationships, pregnancy and sanctity of life.

Pete married his high school sweetheart Tricia, and together they feel that they were undereducated and underinformed when making decisions that would impact the rest of their lives. In March, Pete and Tricia were the keynote speakers at the Archdiocese Respect Life Leadership Day to over 400+ high school students. This year Pete spoke to 6 schools and close to 750 students. He is excited for next school year to begin!

Pete is a graduate of St. Augustine Prep in New Jersey and Temple University with degrees in Finance and Risk Management. In addition to family life and volunteering, Pete helps others as an Allstate Agency Owner.



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Save the dates!

*Sunday, November 3rd at Noon - Ninth Annual
Ladies Shopping Luncheon at Overbrook Golf Club,
Villanova*

*Ladies, mark your calendars and call the office for an invitation.
This annual luncheon includes a delicious three course sit-down
lunch, beautiful gift baskets, vendor shopping and an opportunity
to socialize with your friends. Bermuda trip winner to be
selected.*

Friday, January 24, 2020 – March for Life

*Sunday, February 23, 2020 – The 32nd Annual
Celebrate Life Banquet at Springfield Country Club*

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