

The Next Pro-Life Generation

By: Jenn Lee, SDRTL Executive Director



Hello, friends and colleagues in the pro-life movement! It's my first official month leading South Dakota Right to Life, and I'm excited and challenged by this opportunity. I am so grateful for all that I've learned from Dale Bartscher, as I've been walking alongside him these past several months. I am amazed at the time and energy he has passionately devoted to building up this grassroots organization, and hope to carry on the spirit and heart of SDRTL in this new season.

As I reflect on what my vision for the future will entail, I consistently find myself returning to these key thoughts:

1. The need to equip the next generation with pro-life education
2. The need to support mothers and fathers experiencing an unplanned pregnancy, and to promote adoption as a healthy option

I have been blessed by some of the young moms and dads that have already approached me and expressed interest in getting involved in SDRTL. It seems that the pro-life community has been emboldened over the past few years, in part due to key voices on social media. Facebook, Instagram and X have all helped spread the truth that science proves life begins at conception. (Have you seen the video circulating that shows the moment that an egg is fertilized, there is a sudden *burst of light*? Look it up- it will amaze you!)

Voices like Seth Gruber, Abby Johnson, Sean Feucht, Ben Shapiro, and many others, have been instrumental in reaching the masses with a powerful pro-life message. Their boldness and fearlessness has impacted so many of us, and has helped us move out of apathy and intimidation, and into a proactive stance on life issues. I believe it will be key to use social media in the days ahead to reach this generation—and to keep them engaged.

As some of you may know, I have hosted a youth group at my home for the past two years, and I can tell you this: the next generation wants the truth. They are rejecting the lies that secular culture has been trying to sell them, and they hunger for what is real. I have been so encouraged by their questions and the way they seek out knowledge. They can spot a fraud from a mile away. We must foster this quality in them—they have had enough of the false “compassion” of the mainstream culture and want to stand up for what is truly right. They will recognize the truth from the lies, if we will just take the time to engage, lead and empower them.

In the next issue of LifeFacts, I will dig deeper into point number 2: Supporting young mothers and fathers and promoting adoption as a healthy option. Please take the time to read the article by Anne Hanson, our Board President—it will inspire you! And make sure to join us at our SDRTL Annual Convention on September 26-27 in Pierre, SD, for incredible speakers, exhibits, and more! We would love to have you!



*Save
the Date*

~ 2025 Annual SDRTL State Convention ~

September 26-27...Pierre, SD...**Registration is Open**...Details Found on Page Five



We Have A GOAL and A PLAN

By: Dale Bartscher, SDRTL Associate Director



On Monday, March 31, SDRTL wrapped-up our time at the 100th SD Legislative Session where Jenn Lee and I served as your **'Lobbyists for Life'** for 38 days (report on page 6). Soon after this we have turned our attention to events across the state where our showing-up may well make a 'life and death difference'. Events such as these:

- May 2-3: Christian Homeschool Conference (Sioux Falls)
- June 14: SDRTL Board Summit (Chamberlain)
- June 19-21: NRTL Convention (Overland Park, Kansas)
- July 19-20: LifeLight Hills Alive Music Festival (Rapid City)
- Aug 3-9: Sioux Empire Fair (Sioux Falls)
- Aug 7-9: Clay County Fair (Vermillion)
- Aug 11-14: Turner County Fair (Parker)
- Aug 12-17: Brown County Fair (Aberdeen)
- Aug 15-23: Central States Fair (Rapid City)
- Aug 27 – Sept. 1: SD State Fair (Huron)

Friends of SDRTL - securing and keeping a "Culture of Life" in our great state takes ... ALL OF US...doing our part. Antoine De Saint-Exupery said it right:

'A GOAL WITHOUT A PLAN IS JUST A WISH'

We have a **PLAN** and with your help we'll reach our **GOAL** of raising **\$20,000** dollars during the month of May to assist us with this summer's added expenses of Fairs, Festivals, Conventions, etc.



A generous donor has stepped up to double **your** gift to SDRTL today. Please take advantage of this opportunity to see your donation matched dollar for dollar, up to **\$10,000** dollars. Don't put this off – the matching grant ends on **May 31st**. Make your contribution toward educating friends, of every generation, this summer go twice as far!

~ Please Consider Making a **Matching Gift** to SDRTL in the Month of MAY ~
Here are two ways for you to donate:

#1 - ONLINE: Use our SDRTL Donor QR CODE (simply hold your camera over the graphic and it should automatically take you to our donation page). Once there begin to make your donation and write in the 'Comment Box' these words... **'Matching Gift'**.



#2 - CHECK: Write your gift to either 'SDRTL Education Trust Fund' (tax-deductible) or to SDRTL (non-tax-deductible) and mail it to: SDRTL, 1107 Mt. Rushmore Rd., Suite 1-b, Rapid City, SD 57701. Write in the 'Memo Line' these words... **'Matching Gift'**.

SDRTL's Board of Directors Adds ONE

By: Dale Bartscher, SDRTL Associate Director



The SDRTL Board of Directors met in session on Sunday, February 2, following their annual 'Hour of Reflection' in Pierre, SD. They regretfully accepted the resignation of Jeannette Oliver of Rapid City (Region 10 Director). The Board then approved the two-year-term of Beth Spitzer, a returning Board Member from Region 10.

Beth and her husband, Bruce, live just outside Hot Springs, SD. Beth has been involved with the pro-life movement for a long time, even before she became "Auntie Beth" to a niece adopted from the Philippines and a nephew adopted from Russia. Beth is the current President of Hot Springs Area Right to Life. She previously served on the SDRTL Board of Directors for Region 12 for two terms and after a brief hiatus, is returning to that role. Fighting for pro-life values takes courage and Beth enjoys surrounding herself with other pro-life warriors, which the SDRTL Board of Directors are! We say -- "Welcome Back Beth!"

Phone 605.220.8678

southdakotarighttolife@gmail.com

www.sdRightToLife.org

Mt. Rushmore Rd, Suite 1-B,
Rapid City, SD 57701

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Jenn Lee

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
Dale Bartscher

OFFICERS

Anne Hanson
President

Jon Hansen
Vice President

Doug Post
Secretary

Spencer Cody
Treasurer

Dr. Fred Deutsch
NRLC Delegate

LifeFacts Editor

April Dusek

South Dakota Right to Life is a
non-profit, non-denominational
organization whose philosophy
is that all innocent human life is
inviolable and is to be
guaranteed protection from
conception until natural death.

Are You Brave Enough? We Know You Are!

By: Anne Hanson, SDRTL President



You're pro-life. I'm pro-life. We know this about each other. I wouldn't be writing a LifeFacts article and you likely would not be reading it if we didn't both believe that all life begins at conception and ends at natural death. But do your friends know you're pro-life? Your family? What about your neighbors or your co-workers? Some of us may wear our pro-life values on our sleeve. Some of us may be bold and speak out on a regular basis....but many of us may take a more reserved approach and rarely speak out. The abortion issue can be challenging to address, and it's common to shy away from discussing this topic. We prefer to steer clear of it in conversations to avoid upsetting others, particularly if there's a chance they have been directly impacted by abortion.

In spite of this, we must not remain silent. It is essential for each of us to be courageous and advocate for the sanctity of all human life. If we keep our pro-life values to ourselves, what purpose do they serve? We need to thoughtfully and sincerely strive to influence the hearts and minds of those who do not share our views. So how do we do this without feeling scared or embarrassed? How do we bring up this tough subject without fear and in a way that genuinely makes an impact? Let's take some relatively easy first steps and choose a couple of the ideas below. Have other ideas to add to this list? Send them my way and we can publish a part 2, written by you: hansonmarketing@wat.midco.net

1. **Listen.** Be invested in whatever conversation you are a part of at the moment. Listen for any chance there might be to respond with a phrase that subtly promotes life, no matter the topic.
2. **Share.** If you've never shared a pro-life post on social media, make a commitment to do so this week! Find a pro-life page you like and commit to sharing just one post this week. Social media is an important asset in our fight for life. You never know who might be impacted by your one click. When you take that step to publicly, yet subtly, share that you are pro-life, you just may be saving a life. Isn't that possibility worth being brave and stepping out of your comfort zone?
3. **Learn.** Research and memorize something that's currently going on in South Dakota or in our nation that relates to the topic of life. Bring up that current event in a conversation with a neighbor, co-worker, or family member this week.
4. **Wear pro-life merch.** There are tons of fun, positive, pro-life messages you can wear! It could be a t-shirt or a button or even your phone case! Here are a couple places to start shopping: shop.liveaction.org empowerlifeco.shop
5. **Signs.** Put a cling on your car, a sign on your desk, a sticker on your water bottle. Share the life message without saying a word. It's a very easy first step!
6. **Drink coffee!** Drink 'Seven Weeks Coffee' brand and tell everyone how much you love it. It's easy to talk about why you love your coffee and then mention the reason you first tried it: because they donate a percentage of their profits back to Pro-Life causes across the nation like SDRTL. Find out more at: sevenweekscoffee.com.
7. **Join.** Join your local Right to Life chapter. If you're not sure who to contact in your area, reach out to us and we can help.
8. **Teach.** If you have children or grandchildren, nieces or nephews, don't be afraid to talk to them about the sanctity of human life. It's up to parents to decide when their child is old enough to hear the truth about abortion, but there's plenty of life-affirming groundwork that can be laid without describing the horrors of abortion. As children grow up, it is essential we equip them with the knowledge not just that they SHOULD be pro-life, but WHY it is so important. Our culture is anti-life, and they will be bombarded by those messages when they go out into the world. Laying the groundwork for life from the start is essential. It is each of our responsibility to help the next generation develop confident pro-life convictions.
9. **Love.** Whenever you do get into a discussion about abortion, let every word that comes from your mouth be from a place of love for the child of Christ with whom you are talking. If your motivation is to prove why you're right and they are wrong, the message will never be received. But when you treat someone with grace, love, and compassion, even if they have anti-life views, you at least have a chance at touching their heart. You might even place a seed in their mind to help them start thinking differently.

It's been nearly 3 years since Roe was overturned, and thankfully there are children today who will never know our nation as a place where abortion is universally legal. But of course, you understand the fight will never be over. We must continue to work to protect life, as those against life also continue to work. We cannot avoid discussing abortion. We must proclaim a culture of life and engage in crucial opportunities to change hearts and minds. Lay the groundwork now – speak and show life and love to those around you. Right now is your time to bring light into darkness and be an advocate for those most vulnerable. Thank you for the difference you make in the lives of unborn babies!

**WILL YOU ALLOW YOUR COFFEE TO SERVE
A GREATER PURPOSE?**



**15% of every sale will be
donated to:
South Dakota Right to Life**

Scan the QR code to order!

SOUTH DAKOTA RIGHT TO LIFE PRESENTS

2025 VIDEO CONTEST

SUBMIT YOUR ORIGINAL PRO-LIFE VIDEO FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A CASH PRIZE & HAVE IT FEATURED AT THE 2025 SDRTL CONVENTION IN PIERRE ON SEPTEMBER 26-27!

- Ages 15-25
- 1st Place: \$400
- Videos 30 sec – 3 min long
- 2nd Place: \$300
- Deadline: August 30, 2025
- 3rd Place: \$200
- 4th Place: \$100

WATCH THE WINNING VIDEOS ON
SDRIGHTTOLIFE.ORG

SEND VIDEOS TO:
Jenn.SDRTL@gmail.com

Must Include:
-Full name
-Address
-Phone #

If under the age of 18, include parent name and school currently attending.

sdrighttolife.org

WINNERS RECEIVE FREE REGISTRATION TO THE 2025 SDRTL CONVENTION



NOW ACCEPTING ENTRIES!

2025 SDRTL YOUTH ESSAY CONTEST

JUNIOR DIVISION:
GRADES 6-8

SENIOR DIVISION:
GRADES 9-12

ESSAYS MUST BE 300-500 WORDS AND ARE JUDGED ON:
*ORIGINALITY
*CONTENT
*ACCURACY

EACH DIVISION WINNERS:

1ST PLACE: \$400
2ND PLACE: \$300
3RD PLACE: \$200
4TH PLACE: \$100

DEADLINE:
NOV. 1, 2025

THEME: WHY I'M PRO-LIFE!

sdrighttolife.org

EMAIL ESSAYS & ANY QUESTIONS TO: JENN.SDRTL@GMAIL.COM

National Right to Life

By: Dr. Fred Deutsch, NRTL Delegate



It's my great honor to serve as our state's liaison to the National Right to Life Board. The national board consists of one member from each state.

The position allows me to contribute South Dakota's pro-life values to the national conversation about life and bring back ideas to South Dakota.

From a national perspective, it's been nearly three years since the US Supreme Court returned authority to regulate abortion to the states. Some states, like ours, have enacted laws to protect unborn children and their mothers from the tragedy of abortion, while others like our neighbor to the east, Minnesota, have unfortunately enshrined abortion in their constitution through all nine months of pregnancy, or enacted laws to protect abortionists.

It's easy to think that because South Dakota is a pro-life state our unborn babies are protected, but the truth is our unborn babies aren't as safe as we'd like to think. For example, even though abortion is illegal in South Dakota except when the life of the mother is in danger, there is nothing to stop a woman seeking an abortion for any reason from traveling to a state like Minnesota where abortion is legal.

And equally as problematic and likely more common is the problem of obtaining mail-order abortion drugs. Throughout the US, and even in states like South Dakota, many abortions are now done chemically, with women obtaining the abortion drugs mifepristone and misoprostol via the mail.

Related to mail-order abortion drugs is the emergence of online-only abortion clinics that offer medication abortion services without a physical location – thus sidestepping state law; and the emergence of so-called shield laws meant to protect blue-state abortion doctors from enforcement under other states' abortion laws.

For us in South Dakota, we will continue to promote education and legislation to protect our precious unborn children, and will continue to offer hope and help to their mothers. There's more work yet to be done. Please join us.



Support Her



SD Right to Life Convention Sept. 26-27, 2025

Pierre Area Right to Life is excited to host the 54th Annual SD Right to Life State Convention Sept. 26 - 27 at Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church in Pierre.

Keynote Speakers

Lodging Options



Peter Northcott
Director for
State Strategies
National Right to Life



Joelle Maryn
Actress, Speaker,
TV Host



Ian Fury
SD Governor's
Advocate to the
Unborn



Super 8

605-224-1617
\$95/\$85
through 9/15



Governor's Inn

605-224-4200
\$100
through 8/25



Quality Inn

605-224-0377
\$115
through 9/18



Ramkota

605-224-6877
\$130
through 8/25



Clubhouse

605-494-2582
\$149
through 8/26



Great food, youth breakout session, adoption panel, special music, pregnancy center panel, basket row, chapter leader's luncheon, and 30+ exhibitors!

Register now at www.SDRighttoLife.org

Questions? Call the SDRTL Office: 605-220-8678
or email us: Dale.SDRTL@gmail.com.



2025 SDRTL Legislative Efforts

By: Dale Bartscher, SDRTL Associate Director



As 2025 arrived so did the 100th South Dakota Legislative Session. SDRTL was boots on the ground lobbying for appropriate legislation that helped protect the ‘right to life’ of all human beings from conception to natural death and opposed that which did not. To keep the public informed many followed our lobbying efforts at the Capitol by going to our website: **www.sdRighttoLife.org**. In addition, thousands of South Dakotans tuned into KNWC Radio (Sioux Falls) to hear our monthly SDRTL Legislative Update Reports. We also utilized the media through the use of Facebook and our weekly statewide email updates.

[NOTE: If you do not receive these weekly email updates then please sign-up on our website’s homepage today.]

The 100th Legislature consisted of #105 Members - that’s 96 Republicans and 9 Democrats. Over the course of the 38-day Session these Legislators dealt with some 524 bills and resolutions, not to mention a host of commemorations.

SDRTL was represented by Dale Bartscher and Jenn Lee who served as registered lobbyists during Session. Their work was also strengthened by the presence of Anne Hanson, SDRTL’s Board President, who made an appearance in support of the Cause. **Together we are ‘Reflecting on Our WINS!’**

SDRTL supported, and saw passed, a total of four pieces of Legislation during this Session. Our three bills passed both Chambers and two of them were signed into law by the Governor. The third was vetoed by the Governor. We also supported a House Joint Resolution (HJR5003) which also passed both Chambers. This Resolution did not require the Governor’s signature and will now be on the 2026 Ballot for a vote of the people of South Dakota.



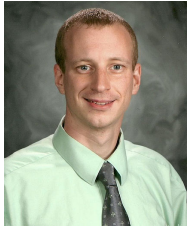
Overall this was a very good year for **LIFE** in the South Dakota Legislature. Check out our website’s Legislative Page (www.sdRighttoLife.org) to see how your district’s Senator and Representatives voted on these important Pro-Life Bills and Resolution. Yes, it makes a difference whom we elect to serve!

Bill	Description	SDRTL Position	House Floor	Senate Floor	Governor's Signature
HB 1044	An Act to authorize the use of a newborn safety device for the voluntary surrender of a newborn and to make clarifying changes.	SUPPORT	<u>PASSED</u> 68 to 0	<u>PASSED</u> 35 to 0	SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR
HJR 5003	A House Joint Resolution proposing and submitting to the voters at the next general election an amendment to the Constitution of the State of South Dakota, requiring that a constitutional amendment receive an affirmative vote of sixty percent of the votes cast before the measure is enacted.	SUPPORT	<u>PASSED</u> 61 to 5	<u>PASSED</u> 29 to 4	NOW ONTO THE BALLOT IN NOVEMBER OF 2026 FOR A VOTE BY THE PEOPLE
HB 1005	An Acts to modify the requirement for payment of a private home study by the Department of Social Services.	SUPPORT	<u>PASSED</u> 70 to 0	<u>PASSED</u> 33 to 0	SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR
HB 1169	An Act to modify the signature requirement for a petition to initiate a constitutional amendment.	SUPPORT	<u>PASSED</u> 60 to 9	<u>PASSED</u> 19 to 15	VETOED BY THE GOVERNOR

“A government cannot be truly “JUST” without affirming the intrinsic value of human life.” - Charles Colson

SDRTL Remains a Faithful Steward of Dollars Donated

By: Spencer Cody, SDRTL Treasurer

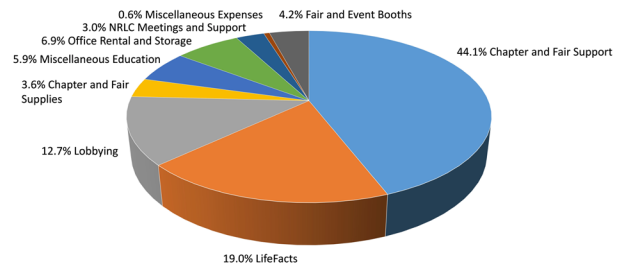


As we continue on in our new year, let us take a look at how South Dakota Right to Life has worked to ensure that the most is made of every contribution that we have received this year and hope that you will partner or continue to partner with us as a **sustaining member** in 2025. So far in 2025 approximately 44.1%

of your donations have gone toward providing staff in support of chapters, pro-life outreach, and coordinating exhibits and booths at fairs and other events including the convention. This

is an increase over the previous year to reflect the increases in organizational staff that we have made. Lobbying for pro-life legislation each session in Pierre has taken up another 12.7% of our budget. The *LifeFacts* that you receive goes to more than 17,000 households and makes up 19.0% of this year's budget. Every dollar that you donate gets fully and meaningfully utilized in the most impactful way possible. Thank you so much for supporting South Dakota Right to Life!

Where Your Donations Have Gone in 2025



Donations in Memory of:

LEOTA GOETZ.....	TERRY & LISA ACKERMAN
SYLAS GENGLER.....	JOHN & ANITA BEANER
RON AND BEV MINER.....	DAVID & CYNTHIA BEYER
WAYNE PUETZ.....	DAVID & CYNTHIA BEYER
LEOTA GOETZ.....	KEVIN & EDANE BOWMAN
JENIFER NACOLE KOLASCH.....	DALE & KAREN CARTER
FRANCIS DOOM.....	JEANETTE DOOM
J. D. MORGAN.....	DAVID & KAREN DUFFY
TERRY HANSEN.....	CAROL ENTRINGER
ELDON "GUS" BARNES.....	CAROL ENTRINGER
LIZ TAMMEN.....	DOUGLAS & JULIE EPPARD
KITTY WERTHMANN.....	HERB & CINDY FLAKOLL
MARGARET MINSON.....	MICHAEL & MELODY FLOREY
LORRAINE KIGHTLINGER.....	MICHAEL & MELODY FLOREY
ARLENE AND HELENE FUERNES.....	CHARLES & ELAINE FUERNISS
FRED AND LUCILLE GEISLER.....	CHARLES & ELAINE FUERNISS
ANDREA DESHEUQUETTE-SULLIVAN.....	CHARLES & ELAINE FUERNISS
DEBBIE PEASE.....	RACHELLE GERKIN
LEOTA GOETZ.....	LEE & PEG GOETZ
THE DEVINE AND GRAMM FAMILIES.....	SALLY GRAMM
JOSEPH SHORT.....	MIKE & SANDY JUNGWIRTH
WILLIAM "BILL" JOHN ESSER.....	MIKE & SANDY JUNGWIRTH
RAY RENELT.....	WILLIAM & BARBARA KLEIN
BABY AMELIA SPEICHINGER.....	LEON & CINDY KRUSE
ANDREA DESHEUQUETTE-SULLIVAN.....	JOHN & TERESA SULLIVAN
PETE KURTH.....	JUDI KURTH
ARDELLA GASSMAN.....	BEN AND BRENNAL BRUN
ROBERT LEIBEL.....	MERLE AND RENEE LEIBEL
JARRI LEIGHTON.....	CLAY LEIGHTON
DARLENE MCKEE.....	SUSAN MCKEE
RONNIE THYEN.....	MARILYN MENDENHALL
MARY LOU GOODFELLOW.....	GREG AND DEE ANNE MILLER
HELEN HOLSING.....	VI NIEDERBAUMER
LEOTA GOETZ.....	ABERDEEN CATHOLIC SCHOOL
PFAU AND DWYER FAMILY.....	SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Donations in Memory of: Submitted By:

BARB WESTOVER.....	ANDY & JOANN GROOS
JAMES "JIM" DOYLE.....	ANDY & JOANN GROOS
FRED LUCILLE GEISLER.....	JOHNNIE & BETTY GUINDON
LEOTA GOETZ.....	DALE & JEAN GUTENKAUF
LEOTA GOETZ.....	MARC & ANGELA HAMMRICH
LEOTA GOETZ.....	JEFFREY & CATHERINE HOLSING
ILA MAE FLOREY.....	MICHAEL & VIOLET HURKES
JOAN BORK.....	MICHAEL & VIOLET HURKES
JEANETTE JACOBSON.....	CHERYL J JACOBSON
LEOTA GOETZ.....	DANA AND BECKY RANDALL
ARLENE RANDALL.....	DANA AND BECKY RANDALL
MAE DONOVAN.....	DAVID ROGERS
SCOTT A SAUER.....	RENITA SAUER
DEBBIE PEASE.....	MARVIN AND JUDY SEYER
BETTY TEGETHOFF.....	TRAVIS & SHANNON TEGETHOFF
DOLORES SIBSON.....	JOHN & SONJA VAN ERDEWYK
MAE DONOVAN.....	BUTTE-LAWRENCE FAIR BOARD
BETTY TEGETHOFF.....	AURORA REFORMED CHURCH DORCAS SOCIETY

Donations in Honor of: Submitted By:

JOAN AHLERS.....	STEVEN & SUSAN AHLERS
DOLORES FIEGEN.....	STEVEN & SUSAN AHLERS
JENN LEE.....	DALE & JANET BARTSCHER
BETHANY SOYE.....	DALE & JANET BARTSCHER
DALE & JAN BARTSCHER.....	MARY GILL
DALE BARTSCHER.....	DERALD & KELLY HILL
DALE BARTSCHER.....	JENN LEE
DALE BARTSCHER.....	KEN & SUE JIMMERSON
THE LUDWIG FAMILY.....	KATHY PROUSE
SONJA VANERDEWYK.....	EUGENE & JULIE STREFF
DR. SCOTT ECKLUND.....	MARY VAN RAALTE
"ALL THOSE WHO FIGHT SALLY GRAMM FOR THE UN-BORN".....	



Non-Profit
US Postage

PAID

Rapid City, SD
Permit No. 618

South Dakota Right to Life

1107 Mount Rushmore Road, Suite 1-B

Rapid City, South Dakota 57701

52nd Annual



HOUR OF REFLECTION



**SAVE THE DATE: 53RD HOUR OF REFLECTION
FEB. 1, 2026**