

LifeFacts

*A Publication of South Dakota Right to Life
Volume 46, Number 3
Winter 2018*

*Comparable to a
gorgeous rose,
every human life
unfolds
with delicate
precision . . .
as a perfect plan
from a
Perfect
Creator*



Pro-life legislation marching on

By SDRTL Vice-President Spencer Cody

On Jan. 9, South Dakota's 93rd Legislative Session begins with South Dakota Right to Life's fulltime lobbyist and legislative committee prepared to continue the advance of the pro-life agenda.

Tighten assisted suicide laws

Riding high after a stunning victory in thwarting the assisted suicide petition from making the 2018 ballot, SDRTL and its pro-life allies seek to solidify their gains in what is promising to be yet another active session.

While the details on specific legislation still require some work, expect to see various pieces of legislation that help tighten safeguards against assisted suicide.

On another front, South Dakota's long-fought court case dealing with Planned Parenthood's (PP) dispute over the counseling provision from South Dakota's anti-coercion law passed in 2011 continues to yield vital information about how Planned Parenthood systematically violates South Dakota's laws concerning informed consent and anti-

coercion.

If it were not bad enough that Planned Parenthood has lost or conceded defeat on every point concerning South Dakota's informed consent and anti-coercion laws, the fact that they are hemorrhaging damaging information during their increasingly futile fight against the last remaining provision in the anti-coercion law seems to be oblivious to PP.

The final provision stipulates that a pregnant mother seeking an abortion must visit a state-certified pregnancy help center to have access to real alternatives to abortion with a legitimate second opinion that does not hinge on a bottom line that involves abortion profiteering.

Little credibility left

Ironically, in the process of blocking this pregnancy help center counseling provision, Planned Parenthood continues to undermine what little credibility (continued on page 3)

Great News!

South Dakota voters will not be voting on legalizing assisted suicide when they vote in November. Assisted suicide promoters failed to collect the necessary 13,871 signatures.

South Dakota Citizens Against Assisted Suicide, with SDRTL President Fred Deutsch and his wife Kathleen at the helm, were among pro-life advocates who deluged South Dakota voters with information exposing the deceitful nature of the attempted 2018 ballot initiative.

SDRTL Vice President Spencer Cody advised, and potential petition signers listened: "The assisted suicide proposal is stunningly negligent in providing any type of real and comprehensive safeguards for South Dakota's most vulnerable while leaving wide open the door for easy abuse and misuse."

Thank you to all pro-lifers who joined forces against the proposed ballot measure. Those who are vulnerable through illness, old age, or disability are a major step forward toward receiving compassionate support.

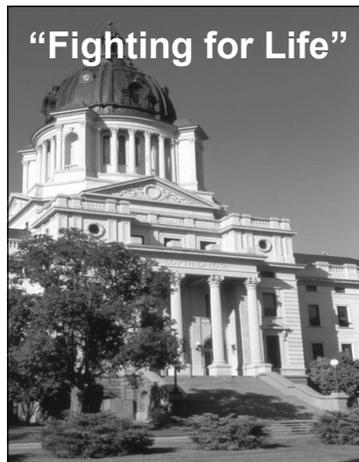
See in-depth information about the assisted suicide initiative on page 6.



FIRST, join fellow pro-lifers for the Jan. 21 **LIFE CHAIN WALK** around the State Capitol.

Meet in the Capitol's north parking lot for the walk which will be from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

Pro-life placards will be available—or you may bring your own. Chapter banners are welcome.



THEN, move inside to the Capitol Rotunda for the 45th Annual **HOURLY OF REFLECTION** beginning at 2 p.m.

Keynote Speaker is South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley. MC is Jason Glodt. Rev. Jesse Sternke and Rev. Ron Garry will offer beginning and ending prayers.

Priscilla Hofer will sing. A sobering presentation, "Sing a Little Louder" will be staged by a Hoven Readers' Theater group. The Hour ends with all joining in singing "God Bless America."

LifeFacts

South Dakota Right to Life maintains an office in Pierre at 314 S. Henry St. Write to SDRTL at P.O. Box 1032, Pierre, SD 57501. Phone 605-220-8678 during Mon.-Fri. business hours 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Website: sdrightrighttolife.org. Email: sdrightrighttolife@yahoo.com.

LifeFacts Editor Gloria Duenwald email: duenwald@venturecomm.net or phone 605-948-2163 or 605-759-7649.

SDRTL 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.

NOTE NEW SDRTL
PHONE NUMBER

605-220-8678



Plan to attend Jan. 22 activities in your area, to prayerfully commemorate the death of **more than 60 MILLION (60,000,000-plus !!!)** unborn babies since the U.S. Supreme Court on Jan. 22, 1973, legalized abortion-on-demand during the entire nine months of pregnancy.

Another motivating convention...



An animated Brian Johnson effectively engages his appreciative audience.

SDRTL annual convention goes, as usual, came away from the 2017 convention at the Abbey of the Hills in northeastern South Dakota with increased motivation to go out and help spread the pro-life word. Several speakers helped develop the Sept. 23 convention theme, "Protecting the Circle of Life."

Aware that assisted suicide petition circulators were combing South Dakota seeking to get that deathly initiative on 2018 ballots, convention sessions centered in end-of-life issues.

"The only freedom granted in assisted suicide is that it gives a third party the freedom to kill," according to convention Keynote Speaker Brian Johnson, western director of The National Right to Life Committee and chairman of the California Pro-Life Council.

SDRTL President Fred Deutsch and Attorney Sara Frankenstein covered "The State of Life in South Dakota." Jamie Gauer shared how her family coped after losing their infant Josef, whose short life is credited with greatly influencing the passage of the South Dakota Pain-Capable Child Protection Act.

Julie Sampson, director of Home Health and Hospice at Watertown's Prairie Lakes Hospital, explained how pro-life hospices help not just the dying but also their families when life's end nears. "If families aren't involved with the medically dependent, they will decline," according to Sampson.

Milbank Funeral Director Tim Mundwiler talked about the importance of his profession's empathetic involvement as loved ones are laid to rest.

At noon luncheon time, pro-lifers separated into their respective SDRTL regions and discussed what they had already done and where they planned to go with their pro-life efforts. Several organizations set up booths and displayed and gave away timely pro-life information.

South Dakota's lone member of the U.S. House of Representatives and candidate for the Republican nomination for governor Kristi Noem spoke, as did representatives of others aspiring to political offices.

Attendees with renewed pro-life vigor were on their way home at 5 p.m.



Unborn baby models emanate unborn humanity.



Rachel Dykstra appreciates her mother's (Kristin Tanner's) help with baby Diesel while Rachel tends the Alpha Center booth.

SDRTL Donation/Membership Form

SDRTL's life-saving missions depend solely on your generosity

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phones _____

Annual membership \$30; Lifetime \$300. Mail to SDRTL, PO Box 1032, Pierre, SD, 57501 or epay on sdrightrighttolife.org.

If you receive a printed issue of LifeFacts, please attach your mailing label here:

Congratulations, 2017 essay contest winners!

Regrettably, many major media sources, often by their own admission, are blatantly pro-abortion. (Hence, for instance, you continue to regularly read that we pro-lifers are not PRO-life but are instead negatively labeled as ANTI-abortion.)

It is vitally important that we pro-lifers not only continue but also increase our pro-life efforts to educate. With that goal in mind, among promoting a multitude of additional pro-life education efforts, SDRTL annually awards a total of \$1,000 to winners of junior and senior high school essay contests.

Essays submitted by Nov. 1 were judged on their originality, content, and accuracy. They were between 300 and 500 words and developed this year's contest theme, "Why Are YOU Pro-Life?"

With pride, appreciating the leadership of SDRTL Board of Directors Member Joyce Maras of Huron, SDRTL announces the following 2017 winners from among over 200 entries. First place winners in each of the divisions



This enlarged image of the Holy Family took center stage in the December 1 Hot Springs Right to Life "Christmas in the Hills" parade.

Senior High School Winners Grades 10-12

1st Place \$150 - Sara Cotey, daughter of Bill and Heidie Cotey, Rapid City

2nd \$125 - Katelyn Karhoff, Mitchell
3rd \$100 - Duncan Pease, Centerville
4th \$75 - Francesca Dyke, Rapid City
5th \$50 - Brigit Blote, Rapid City
Honorable Mention - Hannah Heuvelen, Miller

Junior High School Winners Grades 7-9

1st Place \$150 - Emily Whitehead, Marion, daughter of Tom and Karen Whitehead

2nd \$125 - Taryn DeJong, Sioux Falls
3rd \$100 - Maggie Farrell, Sioux Falls
4th Place \$75 - Tori Pease, Centerville
5th place \$50 - Kieran Harrell, Yankton
Honorable Mentions - Caden Mollman, Rapid City; Arin Wagner, Rapid City; and Ella Pease, Centerville

An excerpt from the 1st Place Senior Division Essay Entry

I am pro-life because I...can never meet the boy who should have been in my class; he committed suicide this summer because he thought nobody cared to hear him read aloud. I am pro-life because memories are worth making, and baby feet are worth tickling. I am pro-life because my grandmother was worth saving, even when both of her legs were the enemy. I am too in love with life to imagine dying as an answer, and everyone deserves that. Human dignity and responsibility convince me that every heart deserves to stay beating.

Pro-life legislation...

(continued from page 1)
it has left as more details concerning its operation in South Dakota come out in testimony.

While Planned Parenthood insists that it should be the only source of information for pregnant mothers during South Dakota's consent waiting period, it has become apparent through its own admission that PP does not use the State of South Dakota's scientifically-proven statements concerning the risks surrounding abortion and the development and humanity of the preborn child.

Rather than read what the state has

passed into law to protect pregnant mothers and what has been upheld in the courts in a legitimate effort to provide counseling for those seeking an abortion, Planned Parenthood continues to ignore South Dakota law and intentionally distorts almost every piece of information that is required during the informed consent process. PP makes little to no effort to insure that a pregnant mother understands any of the information presented.

Will bring PP lapse to light

SDRTL seeks to bring this brazen lapse in compliance to light through legislation this session.

Since developments happen quickly

during session, it is important that pro-lifers are aware of developments as they occur. Our lobbyist and legislative committee will be sending out time-sensitive updates for bill developments, bill hearings, and votes. Legislative updates will be available via email, Facebook, and Twitter.

Sign up for SDRTL legislative alerts at www.sdrightrighttolife.org. Your personal contacts, phone calls, emails, Facebook posts, and Tweets are vital to passing pro-life legislation. Contact information for your legislative representatives can be found on the South Dakota Legislative Research Council site at <http://legis.sd.gov/>.

South Dakota Right to Life appreciates its 41 chapters and looks forward to more. Interested pro-lifers, please contact SDRTL Field Coordinator Debbie Pease at 605-941-0685.



Brookings County Right to Life



Sturgis Area Right to Life



Hoven Area Right to Life



Rosebud-Sandhills Right to Life



Milbank Area Right to Life



Rapid City Right to Life



Watertown Area Right to Life

J O B O P E N I N G South Dakota Right to Life *LifeFacts* Editor. Publish four times annually. Work with Managing Editor Gloria Duenwald, with possibility of eventually assuming full responsibilities. Competitive wage. For details, call 605-220-8678 or send a resume to SDRTL Vice President Spencer Cody at spencercody@hotmail.com.



Abortion has never been about choice. It's about *escaping the consequences of one's choices by taking all choices away from another.*

Donald Trump is most pro-life president in the history of America

(Excerpted from LifeSite News)

...“The Donald” is the most pro-life, pro-marriage, and pro-family president in the history of the republic.

“President Trump has been the most pro-life president in modern history,” Concerned Women for America’s Penny Nance flatly told Breitbart News.

Even “Never Trumpers,” like Susan B. Anthony List’s Marjorie Dannenfelser, have come around after the fearless chief executive’s repeated --almost incessant, to the consternation of pro-abortionists--pro-life appointments, constitutionalist nominations, and religious freedom executive orders.

Hundreds attend sneak preview

Hundreds of pro-lifers proudly prayerfully took part on Sunday afternoon, Oct. 1, in the human Life Chain that stretched for several blocks on Sioux Falls’ busy 41st St.

After the Life Chain, most of the Life Chain participants gathered at the nearby O’Gorman Junior and Senior High School theater to watch one of the first showings of a full-feature film about Kermit Gosnell.

The notorious Philadelphia abortionist killed hundreds of infants born alive during abortion procedures. He was tried and convicted for three counts of murder and sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

In their book, *Gosnell, the Untold Story of America’s Most Prolific Killer*, journalists Ann McElhinney and Phelim McAleer detail the disgusting monstrosity of Kermit Gosnell’s abortion nightmare in Philadelphia.

Though the Gosnell movie will not be publicly released until later this year, its full length sneak peek in Sioux Falls was only the 23th of its kind, with hundreds more to follow. Sioux Falls was particularly favored, as Co-Author McElhinney was on hand for a lengthy question and answer session following the movie.

What actually happened in the Gosnell facility, McElhinney said, “was far

more dramatic” than the movie dare portray. The Gosnell book’s first printing sold out in three days. Sioux Falls movie goers waited in long lines to buy signed copies of the book.

“I strongly encourage pro-lifers to go to the first showing of the movie in their area,” McElhinney advised, “as the movie’s success will depend heavily on a strong opening.”

SDRTL *LifeFacts*

Editor Gloria Duenwald promises you will not be disappointed in going out of your way to see the movie, “sooner rather than later, if possible,” adding, “Not only is the story line dramatically intriguing, but casting and filming are equally professional and spell-binding. This is a great

When Gosnell, the Untold Story of America’s Most Prolific Killer, comes to a theater near you, you’ll be glad you took the time to attend

movie and not just because it has a riveting pro-life message.”

Gosnell, according to McElhinney, employed women who were broken, including lots of young women. Not only did Kermit Gosnell kill hundreds of the the most vulnerable in our society, unborn babies, but he also preyed upon broken women and lots of young women to carry out his gruesome trade.

The film was originally intended to be a made-for-TV film, but evolved instead into a full feature film. \$2.3 million was raised for the creation of the film.

Without LIFE all other gifts are meaningless



Welcome to SDRTL’s newest chapter, Winner Area Right to Life! Its Advent Baby Crib is filling up with the help of the junior and seniors from Immaculate Conception Parish led by Cassie Heim, Kelly Assman, and Father Kevin Achbach. All baby items will be donated to Plus One Guidance Center in Huron. In the back row are Hunter Shopene, Kelly Assman, Sam Marts, Ronae Klein, Abby Marts, Father Kevin Achbach, Brandon Volmer, and Tyson Westendorf. In front are Alexis Richey, Gabby Kocer, Rebecca Marso, Shea Connot, and Cassie Heim.

**NOTE
NEW
SDRTL
PHONE
NUMBER**

**605-
220-
8678**

Pro-life allies beat back suicide initiative

By SDRTL Vice-President Spencer Cody

Forces supporting the culture of death in South Dakota were dealt a withering blow this fall with the assisted suicide petition drive falling far short of the required 13,871 signatures to even be considered by the Secretary of State office for review for the 2018 ballot.

Despite having trained hundreds of petitioners to circulate their petition and being one of the first petitions to circulate starting in the early Spring of 2017, New Approach South Dakota, the sponsoring organization of the assisted suicide petition, upon realizing defeat lashed out against its supporters for only mustering a few dozen successful circulators.

When one takes the time to examine the issue and the seemingly endless technical and ethical problems associated with the petition's language, it should seem obvious to many as to why this initiative only garnered 8,000 signatures despite such ambitious efforts.

However, despite being riddled with countless legal and moral pitfalls, the assisted suicide initiative did not fall merely on its own weight. Let us rewind the clock a bit to further understand how we came to such a momentous victory and how we can continue to resist the culture of death's advances in South Dakota.

It was December of 2016 when the final language of the assisted suicide petition was filed and released. Considering South Dakota's low voter population totals and low thresholds in getting proposed laws on the ballot, this was a grave threat to the most vulnerable South Dakotans.

The petition enthusiasts had nearly a year to get 14,000 signatures. They started out with the backing of out-of-state assisted suicide groups bent on cutting and pasting Oregon and Washington assisted suicide laws into South Dakota's codified laws.

Initially, they had every reason to believe that they would succeed, but South Dakota Right to Life and its pro-life allies recognized the threat and quickly mobilized to oppose the initiative. A ballot opposition committee focused solely on opposing this measure and educating the public on assisted suicide. Citizens Against Assisted Suicide (CAAS) was born.

CAAS was formed from people of all political and ideological backgrounds who shared a common concern to protect South Dakotans against a poorly conceived assisted suicide initiative.

SDRTL was there from day one supporting this new ballot opposition committee. When CAAS was in dire need of financial backing for educational ads, SDRTL's

membership raised \$10,000 to help get the ballot opposition off and running. Many of SDRTL's chapters followed suit, pledging additional funds to fight the initiative.

Your support made all the difference. Because of your support, people of every walk of life all the way up to South Dakota's Medical Association were educated on the dangers of this initiative.

While providing financial support to CAAS to directly oppose the measure, SDRTL launched its own campaign to educate the public at local fairs, in media, and by sponsoring and circulating speakers on the topic.

As anti-assisted suicide forces mounted, it was becoming increasingly obvious that the strain of our campaigns were starting to have an impact. Circulators for recreational marijuana were refusing to circulate the assisted suicide petition even though both were sponsored by New Approach South Dakota.

The petition increasingly became more radioactive as the public became increasingly aware of what was in the petition. As funding and support for the petition

continued to dry up, New Approach South Dakota increasingly used the threat of lawsuits against anyone who would speak out against the petition.

Perhaps the final nail in the coffin for this petition drive came in the early fall with news that thousands of dollars were lost on forged petition signatures due to circulators paid by New Approach South Dakota. It should not have been a big surprise that many of those circulating a petition that callously targeted South Dakota's sick and disabled had to be paid to do their dirty work.

As the last week of the petition window came to a close, New Approach's erratic and frantic behavior in signature collection suggested that they still needed signatures. As the November 6 deadline came and went, the realization that the assisted suicide petition was successfully thwarted suddenly entered the minds of those who fiercely opposed it. It was an amazing day for LIFE!

Thank you to all of those South Dakotans who stood up to this threat at the very core of our humanity. Thank you to the SDRTL membership who made financing the opposition to this initiative possible, to see it through to a remarkable success.

Together we will continue to beat back the culture of death through our tireless education efforts and will continue to do so until our society's most vulnerable have permanently entrenched the protections they deserve.

The petition became more radioactive as the public became increasingly aware



As we bring this Christmas season to an end, rejoice in the value of every single human life. From conception until natural death. As the 2017 South Dakota Right to Life Convention theme states, we are all responsible for "Protecting the Circle of Life."



Thank You!

Welcome,
New/Renewing Members
Those donating \$30
or more are members

FOR DONATIONS IN MEMORY OF ...

Our Moms

from Don & Louella Jellema

Kenneth & Marjorie Beckl

from Barbara & David Overland

My brother, Murvin H. Perry

from Loran Perry

(Due to transitions in the SDRTL office, we cannot trace who some donations in the last several months memorialized and also some donations in the \$50-or-more category. We encourage those who gave qualifying donations that were not yet printed in LifeFacts to provide details to LifeFacts Editor Gloria Duenwald at 605-759-7649 so they can be thankfully acknowledged.)

FOR DONATIONS OF \$50 OR MORE ...

Aberdeen Wayne & Marlys Mardian, David & Bonny Merxbauer, Jordan Samson, Laura Sichmeller, Russ & Marilyn Stone, Dr. David & Marilyn Wachs; **Armour** Marvin & Patricia Mills; **Belle Fourche** Peggy Penning; **Beresford** Ronald & Jean Larsen; **Brandon** Don & Louella Jellema; **Brookings** Al Kurtenbach, Loran Perry, Fred Rittershaus; **Buffalo** Thomas & Mary Lou Holt; **Burke** Kay and Lance Matucha; **Corsica** Everet Adams; **Crooks** Martha Masgai; **Dell Rapids** Roger Wolles; **Egan** Mark & Helen LeBrun, David & Cynthia Sheppard; **Eureka** Paul & Mary Beth Kolar; **Flandreau** Robert & Linda LeBrun; **Fort Pierre** Jim & Edith Hoffman, Lyle & Phyllis Kenzy; **Gann Valley** Jerald & Ardiith Knippling; **Gettysburg** Daniel & Dorothy Smith; **Glenham** Ralph & Judy Rabenberg; **Gregory** Rosebud Sandhills RTL; **Harrold** Ken & Cindy Jaeger; **Henry** Carol O'Neill; **Highmore** Shirley Garrigan, Jane McCloud; **Hot Springs** Liz Meyer; **Hoven** Duane & Marilyn Karst, Adam & Tara Reuer; **Howard** Harold & Debra Eggert, Vivian Lynde; **Iroquois** Joseph & Lynette Spanbauer; **Kimball** Mary Thooft; **Lake City** Raymond & Georgia Janisch; **Madison** Gerald & Alice Lange; **Milbank** Donald & Patti Aesoph, Don Buth; **Mina** Spencer Cody; **Mitchell** Mitchell RTL; **Mobridge** JoAnn Omafrey, Mobridge Knights of Columbus; **New Effington** Margory Hoyt; **Philip** Lloyd & Marianne Frein; **Pierre** Doug & Joan Schueller; **Platte** Douglas & Glenda Veurink; **Prairie City** Iver & Beverly Heier; **Pukwana** Jan Urban; **Rapid City** Joseph & Bonnie Hilt, William & Pauline Jones, David & Cecilia Lang; **Redfield** Mavis McFarlane; **Rosholt** Northeast Roberts County RTL; **Selby** Dorothy M. Manke; **Sioux Falls** Bill & Linda Buck, Tim & Nancy Burns, Dan or Janet Costello, Beverly English, Roger Haugo, Lorna Muchow, Robert & Kristine O'Connell, Barbara & David Overland, Joanne Parkin, W.L. & Marie Van Tassel; **Tyndall** C.J. & Beverly Attema; **Vermillion** Donald & Marcia Hovden, Robert & Sharron Jensen; **Wallace** Nathan & Kathy Meland; **Watertown** Dan Becking, James & Ardys Berven, Lee & Donna Schoenbeck; **Webster** Eugene & Patricia Hoffman, Dwayne Sass, Webster RTL; **Whitewood** Jan Quickstad; **Woonsocket** Father Jim Friedrich; **Yankton** Rev. Russell & Mary Peirce; **Burnsville, Minn.** James & Marlene Winker; **Hamilton, Mont.** Bradley Williams; **Hillpoint, Wisc.** Louis & Luann Hoff.

(Updated to December 19, 2017)

@SDRTL



Follow us on Twitter

Follow us on Facebook



South Dakota Right to Life

South Dakota Right to Life
P.O. Box 1032
Pierre, SD 57501

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SIOUX FALLS, SD
PERMIT NO. 751

NOTE NEW SDRTL
PHONE NUMBER
605-220-8678

A CALL TO ACTION

Go to sdrighttolife.org and click on “SD Right to Life News and Legislative Updates” to sign up to receive information about timely pro-life legislation. South Dakota’s 2018 Legislative Session begins on Tuesday, Jan. 9, and ends on Monday, March 26.

We wanna wish you a Merry CHRISTmas (season)

from the bottom of our

(beating-long-before-birth) hearts



Your South Dakota Right to Life Board of Directors...
Fred Deutsch, Spencer Cody, Mansour Karim, Valerie Johnson,
Anne Hanson, Jon Hansen, Justin Smith, Shawn VanGerpen,
Debbie Pease, Jerry Flahaven, Dr. David Wachs, Joyce Maras,
Dan Hargreaves, Chris Newton, Doug Schueller, Don Rausch,
and Rev. Craig Werling