

## Looking Ahead With 20/20 Vision

I recently saw a sign hanging on the wall of a Café in Rapid City which read, “Family: a little bit of crazy, a little bit of loud and a whole lot of love.” Well, that pretty much describes our South Dakota Right to Life family. You see, we are crazy in love with “LIFE” – from conception to natural death - and we are unashamedly loud in proclaiming this truth with love and grace.

For over a year now I have been honored to serve as your State Executive Director. Thousands of miles have been put on my car traveling to the four corners of our state championing our Mission: Protecting the right to life for everyone from conception to natural death through education and legislation.

Along this 15-month journey there have been some amazing Pro-Life milestones to cherish:

- We currently have 18 dedicated Board Members representing the entire state of South Dakota. We meet in person three times during the year and keep in touch at other times through email and phone texts.
- SDRTL Offices have been established in both Rapid City (our headquarters) and Sioux Falls (our branch office). These are located on the two most trafficked roads in SD: Mount Rushmore Road in Rapid City, and 41st Street in Sioux Falls. Dedicated volunteers are assisting at both locations.
- We continue to update and expand our Data System making our communication’s efforts more effective and efficient. We currently have a mailing list of over 16,000 Pro-Life contacts statewide.
- Our nearly 40 community Chapters are making a difference where they live, work and play.
- SDRTL was present and accounted for at multiple county fairs, conventions, festivals and our own SD State Fair with booths filled full of resources for the general public’s information.
- The Hour of Reflection drew an amazing crowd of nearly 400 in our Capitol’s Rotunda with Governor Kristi Noem as our Keynote Speaker. Well over 150 youth and adult supporters enthusiastically participated in our March for Life even though the outside temperature fell into the single digits.
- Pro-Life Movies have been an inspiration, so SDRTL purchased screening licenses for GOSNELL and UNPLANNED. We continue to book screenings across the state for these to be shown and experienced.
- Our State Convention, in Hot Springs, was an educational, inspirational and life-affirming event.
- Our Legislative Lobbying effort continues to bear fruit as during the 2019 legislative session we encouraged the passage of six significant pro-life Bills (signed into law by our pro-life Governor) and two Pro-Life House Resolutions.

It was Winston Churchill who once said, “A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.” SDRTL’s Leadership is optimistic in every way and especially as it pertains to the Pro-Life Movement here in South Dakota. But here is the challenge we face as a mission: the economic engine for SDRTL has always relied on annual individual or couple membership donations.



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South Dakota Right to Life Committee  
1107 Mount Rushmore Road  
Suite 1-B  
Rapid City, South Dakota 57701

Phone 605.220.8678  
southdakotarighttolife@gmail.com  
www.sdRightToLife.org

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

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Dale Bartscher

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OFFICERS

Dr. Fred Deutsch  
*President*

Debbie Pease  
*Vice President*

Jon Hanson  
*Secretary*

Spencer Cody  
*Treasurer*

Valerie Johnson  
*NRLC Delegate*

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LifeFacts Editor  
April Entringer

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*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.*

## President's Column

*By: Dr. Fred Deutsch*



In the Declaration of Independence, the Founding Fathers observed that we are endowed “with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

The right to life is the first and foremost of all human rights. It affects all other issues and without it, a person never gets the opportunity to exercise any other right. Simply put, without Life all other rights and issues are meaningless. From time to time, people or organizations come along that encourage the right-to-life movement to take up the mantle of other issues by equating these issues with the paramount right to life.

By focusing on the single issue of life, we have been able to bring together a broad base of people – who may disagree on other important issues, but who are dedicated to ensuring that the protection of our laws are extended to the most vulnerable members of society.

The right-to-life movement provides a voice to the voiceless. South Dakota Right to Life remains committed to its work of protecting innocent human life from abortion, infanticide, assisted suicide and euthanasia. Thank you and God bless you for joining us in our fight.

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## National Right to Life Report

*By: Valerie Johnson, NRLC Delegate*

SDRTL and other state affiliates work together and form National Right to Life Committee (NRLC), which gives strength and coordination to the right to life movement.

As a member of the NRLC Executive Committee, I will be honored (and am super-excited!) to attend the dedication of our new NRLC office at 1446 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314, phone (202) 626-8800. I'll also be attending the NRLC Board meetings in January, which follow the March for Life.

NRL Convention 2020 is pleased to be at the Dulles Hilton Hotel in Herndon, VA! Convention days are June 26 and 27, 2020. Make plans to attend - there is something for everyone! <http://nrlconvention.com/>

Last but not least: Internships <https://www.nrlc.org/students/internships>. Every summer approximately 10 interns are selected to serve in one of NRLC's 14 departments. Interns quickly become part of the departmental staff and become invaluable to the day-to-day operations. Additionally, interns may be assigned projects by department directors to complete throughout the summer. In cooperation with the Blackstone Fellowship with Alliance Defending Freedom, NRLC also provides the opportunity for law students to clerk under the supervision of licensed attorneys in both the Medical Ethics and State Legislative Departments. For the most up-to-date pro-life news, make sure to sign up for NRL News Today. <https://www.nationalrighttolifeneeds.org/join-the-email-list/>





# Where Your Donations are Going

By: Spencer Cody, SDRTL Treasurer and Region 6 Board Member

As 2019 comes to a close, let us look at how South Dakota Right to Life has worked to ensure that the most is made of every contribution that we have received and hope that you will partner with us as a sustaining member in 2020. Roughly 44% of your donation goes toward providing staff in support of chapters, pro-life outreach, and coordinating booths and exhibits at fairs and other events. This does not include the 6% of our budget that goes directly into supplies and materials for our network of 40 chapters and the many fairs and events we participate in.

The LifeFacts that you receive goes to 16,000 plus households and makes up more than 16% of your donation. Lobbying for pro-life legislation each session in Pierre takes up another 14% of our budget. A remaining 12% of donations are spent on miscellaneous education outreach for fairs, events,

## 2019 SDRTL State Convention Recap

By: Beth Spitzer, Region 12 Board Member and Vice-President of the Hot Springs Area RTL Chapter

The 48th Annual Convention of South Dakota Right to Life was hosted by the Hot Springs Area Right to Life Chapter on Saturday, September 21, 2019 in Hot Springs at the Mueller Civic Center. There were 185 pro-life South Dakotan's in attendance.

The featured speakers at the convention were Alan Shlemon from Stand to Reason, Cheryl Sullenger who is vice president of Operation Rescue, and Joseph Bottum who is a writer and former editor of the Weekly Standard and also First Things. All of the speakers educated and offered a unique perspective on pro-life issues. In addition, there was also an Advocacy Panel, introduction of elected officials, and a youth break-out session attended by approximately 15 youth.

The Humanitarian of the Year Award was presented to Diane Ange, immediate past president of the Rapid City Area Right to Life Chapter. To close out the event, the Hot Springs Area Right to Life Chapter presented a check for \$1000 to South Dakota Right to Life. These funds were raised from their showing of the movie "Unplanned" a month earlier.



### SAVE THE DATE!

2020 SDRTL State Convention: 2020 Vision for Life

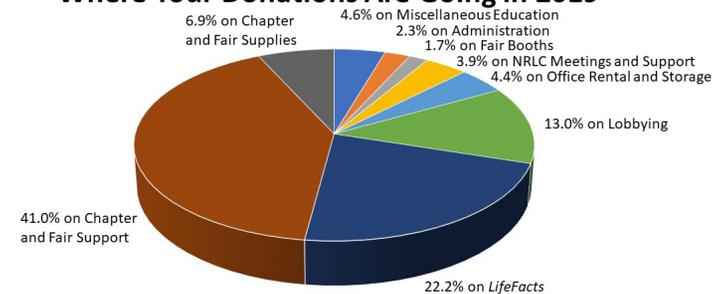
**Location:** Sioux Falls First Church

**Time:** Friday, Oct 2nd (TBD), Saturday, Oct 3rd 9:00am - 5:00pm

**Life Chain:** Sunday, Oct 4th 2pm - 3pm

and working with National Right to Life through meetings and conferences. Only 3.4% of your donation is being spent on administration of membership mailings, postage, and office supplies. Every dollar that you donate gets fully utilized in the most meaningful and impactful means possible. Thank you so much for supporting South Dakota Right to Life!

### Where Your Donations Are Going in 2019



## Teens Write Winning Essays

By: Debbie Pease, Essay Contest Coordinator and Region 5 Board Member

South Dakota Right to Life is thrilled to announce the winners of our 2019 Essay Contest. Each participant submitted a 300 to 500-word essay that answered the question "Why am I pro-life?" by the November 1st deadline. After several rounds of judging we congratulate the following winners who emerged as the best in South Dakota.

We are very grateful for all the students who took the time to write essays and those who encouraged them to do so, as well as all the judges who helped pick our winners. Thinking through why we are pro-life and what that means in how we conduct ourselves is an important exercise for all of us. Please help us recruit even more young authors to ponder this question for next year's contest. You can read the winning essays on our website: [SDRightToLife.org](http://SDRightToLife.org).

### Senior Division Winners (Grades 10 – 12)

- Malia Linde of Spearfish (10th grade) - \$150 prize
- Eden Goddard of Rapid City (10th grade) - \$125 prize
- Mercy Healy of Mitchell (10th grade) - \$100 prize
- Grace Weaver of Piedmont (10th grade) - \$75 prize
- Clare Dahlhoff of Vermillion (10th grade) - \$50 prize

### Junior Division Winners (Grades 7 – 9)

- Logan Mulder of Sioux Falls (8th grade) - \$150 prize
- Ariana Watts of Sioux Falls (7th grade) - \$125 prize
- Will Thorson of Sioux Falls (8th grade) - \$100 prize
- Phillip Schleich of Yankton (7th grade) - \$75 prize
- Tom Solano of Rapid City (9th grade) - \$50 prize

# SDRTL Opens Branch Office in Sioux Falls

By: Dale Bartscher, SDRTL Executive Director

IT WAS TIME...and the Lease Agreement has been signed! SDRTL now has 'East/West' South Dakota covered with our Office Headquarters' in Rapid City (1107 Mt. Rushmore Rd., Suite 1-b) and our Extension Office in Sioux Falls (Park Place Center, 3101 West 41st St., Office HUB 201A). The benefits of opening our Sioux Falls Office now are many:



- Although the plan to add a Sioux Falls Staff Member is down-the-line, this office provided another wonderful volunteer opportunity for the local chapter's eager members to be involved.
- Sioux Falls is the state's largest city with a media market second to none.
- Sioux Falls is home to the state's ONLY abortion facility - Planned Parenthood - which is located west of our office on 41st Street.
- This location offers more than a one-room office with these additional use spaces: Conference Room, Kitchenette, Restrooms and Lobby.
- This provides a location for your Executive Director to meet potential donors, elected officials and community leaders. It will also serve as a personal work space for him while in the Sioux Falls area.
- The local Sioux Falls Area RTL Chapter will have access to this office for their multiple leadership meetings.
- The 2020 SDRTL State Convention Committee will headquarter out of this office as the Sioux Falls Area Chapter will be hosting this Convention on October 2nd-3rd 2020. Mark your calendar!
- Location, Location, Location!!! The 41st Street office location is on the busiest street in the state and SDRTL's office will be advertised on the building's signage along 41st Street.

May God bless SDRTL with His Favor and Strong Finances as we expand our Pro-Life Influence across the great State of South Dakota and beyond.

## Youth Pro-Life Outreach

By: Cassidy Peters, SDRTL Youth Outreach Coordinator and Region 10 Board Member



As the Youth Outreach Coordinator, I have enjoyed looking back on this past year seeing how many youth were impacted by South Dakota Right to Life. I am a part of the younger generation so I see first-hand how important it is to raise awareness about pro-life issues to our youth. We will be the next generation of teachers, pastors, doctors, politicians and influencers so making sure we are reaching out and making a difference is critical.

This year, our Executive Director spent many hours at countless fairs and festivals across the state. A booth was set up at the Hills Alive Christian Music Festival which is where many middle-school, high-school and college kids show up. We also had a presence at multiple fairs including the Sioux Empire Fair, Central States Fair and the South Dakota State Fair. Participating in these events gives us a chance to interact with and involve youth across the state.

At the SDRTL State Convention held in Hot Springs this year, kids were able to attend and listen to speakers. It was an amazing opportunity for them to learn and interact with each other.

We are very proud to be active among the college students across South Dakota and this year was no exception. Dale Bartscher had the opportunity to speak to the Jacks for Life group at South Dakota State University. This group



also participated in the Sioux Falls Life Chain which is a pro-life social movement organization. This year at the Dakota Days Parade, the Right to Life Chapters of Vermillion, Beresford and Yankton gathered to walk the parade route along with a member of the Yotes for Life group. One of the most exciting things for me this year was seeing the new groups that were formed. Among them was

the new Rapid City Christian School "Comets for Life."

I am so happy to see what has been accomplished in 2019 but I can't wait to see what more work we can do in 2020! We have great plans that are in the works and I pray that we make a difference in every youth's life. Thank you for the support!



# South Dakota Right to Life HEADS TO THE CAPITOL

By: Dale Bartscher, SDRTL Executive Director



SDRTL is recognized as the state's flagship of the pro-life movement as we work through legislation and education to protect innocent human life from abortion, infanticide, assisted suicide, euthanasia and related issues. Thus, we will have 'boots-on-the-ground' during the 95th 2020 SD Legislative Session in Pierre, SD (January 14 – March 12)!

Former Kansas Governor Sam Brownback rightly said: "The place you change America isn't in Washington. It's in the states. ... That's how we'll change the life debate. It will be at the state level. Different states doing this, making very positive key changes until it can migrate to the federal level. And a court case can get up to the Supreme Court and Roe v. Wade be overturned. Which will ultimately happen. We have to keep pushing at these state levels."

Knowing this to be true - Dale Bartscher, SDRTL's Executive Director, will serve once again as a registered lobbyist at the State Capitol as we support appropriate legislation that protects the right to life of all defenseless human beings. Two of our SDRTL Board Members, Dr. Fred Deutsch and Jon Hansen, serve in the South Dakota House of Representatives. Together this trio will serve our cause with distinction.

Currently the SDRTL's Legislative Committee is looking at Pro-Life Legislation to be submitted for the Legislature's consideration. Our Executive Director will be utilizing social media (Facebook, Twitter, Emails, Radio Interviews, etc.) and our website at [www.sdrightrighttolife.org](http://www.sdrightrighttolife.org) to keep you, our SD Right to Life Partners, informed as to happenings at the Capitol during this Legislative Session.

## ~ SDRTL's Capitol Update ~

To receive our Executive Director's Weekly Capitol Email Update please email Him at: [Dale.SDRTL@gmail.com](mailto:Dale.SDRTL@gmail.com) or call/text 605-390-7319.

Thus, SDRTL needs your prayerful and financial assistance. Please consider TODAY either donating a 'Special Gift' or becoming a 'Sustaining Member' of our SDRTL family. In doing so you are encouraging and supporting our presence for the 36-Days of this up and coming SD Legislative Session. Thank You!

## Sanctity of Human Life Month

SD Right to Life gives a big 'Shout-Out Thank You' to SD Governor Kristi Noem for recently signing an Executive Proclamation designating January, 2020, as "Sanctity of Human Life Month".



### EXECUTIVE PROCLAMATION

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, to mark the 47th year since the United States Supreme Court's decision in Roe v. Wade, we join with President Donald J. Trump in mourning the millions of lives cut short, along with their tremendous potential lost, as a result of abortion on demand; and

**WHEREAS**, the Preamble of the Declaration of Independence states that "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness..."; and

**WHEREAS**, we recognize that without life, there is no Liberty. Without Liberty, there is no freedom in which the individual may pursue happiness. So, our policy must always be to defend human life at all stages; and

**WHEREAS**, South Dakota stands with the President's efforts to adopt Title X regulations to prohibit the use of tax dollars to fund abortion as part of "family planning;" and

**WHEREAS**, we must protect the lives of the most vulnerable among us, including people with disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, our Constitution and laws contain many protections for innocent life, and as Governor of South Dakota, I honor the rule of law, I will encourage the appointment of Judges who will protect and interpret the Constitution as written, and I will protect innocent life; and

**WHEREAS**, I encourage all South Dakotans to care for women with unexpected or unwanted pregnancies, to encourage responsible fatherhood, to affirm our state's pro-life pregnancy centers, to support adoption and foster care, and to ensure that every child can be raised to live and to have the liberty to pursue their own happiness.

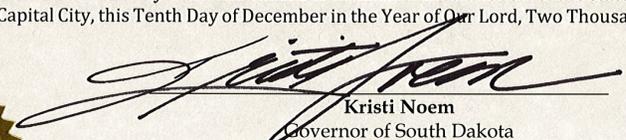
**NOW, THEREFORE, I, KRISTI NOEM**, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim January 2020, as:

### SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE MONTH

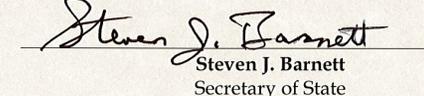
in South Dakota.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Tenth Day of December in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Nineteen.



  
Kristi Noem  
Governor of South Dakota

ATTEST:

  
Steven J. Barnett  
Secretary of State

# Pro-Life Billboards Going Up in South Dakota

By: Dale Bartscher, SDRTL Executive Director

Across the State of South Dakota, you will notice a host of Pro-Life Billboards thanks to our area RTL Chapters and other Pro-Life Organizations. The Sioux Falls Area RTL Chapter reminds us that RTL Chapters can place one of these billboards for \$250 - \$275 (Provided there is a billboard location that is 'out of a contract' in their area). The larger areas, Aberdeen, Watertown, Yankton, ect. may have more locations to select from. Shane Oien, Sioux Falls Chapter President, writes, "If anyone is interested and wants to do this we will help facilitate the first couple times until they get the hang of it, here's the process:



1. We'll send a file with the designs we have used including those from Pro-Life Across America as well as those we have designed.
2. Your Chapter selects the design(s) they like.
3. We will have Jeff at Lamar send a list of what billboards are available in your area.
4. The Chapter selects the location(s) they want.
5. Done. The Posters for the billboard are created, delivered, and placed at that point.
6. The respective RTL Chapter pays the invoice from Lamar / or Lamar and Pro-Life Across America depending on the design.

Visit the Sioux Falls Area RTL website, [www.siouxfallsarearighttolife.org](http://www.siouxfallsarearighttolife.org) or their Facebook Page to see all of their billboards placed to date.

**Interested?** Contact Shane Oien at: [ssoien@gmx.com](mailto:ssoien@gmx.com) or 605-759-6862.

## 47th Annual Hour of Reflection

"The Sanctity of Human Life"

Sunday, January 26, 2020 at 2:00PM (CST)

State Capitol Rotunda, Pierre, SD

Master of Ceremonies  
Dale Bartscher  
Executive Director SDRTL  
Rapid City, SD



Keynote Speaker  
US Senator Mike Rounds  
Pierre, SD

Guest Speaker  
Dr. Pat Castle  
Life Runners President & Founder  
Omaha, NE



– Walk for Life –

Sunday, January 26, 2020

12:30 - 1:30 p.m. (CST) State Capitol, Pierre, SD

Music; Refreshments; Our First Place 'Right to Life Essay Contest Winners'

**Donations in Memory of: Submitted By:**  
 DORAN BARTSCHER..... DALE AND JANET BARTSCHER  
 CAROL MYERS..... DALE AND JANET BARTSCHER  
 CHARLENE HUSTON..... DALE AND JANET BARTSCHER  
 GALE HOLBROOK..... DALE AND JANET BARTSCHER  
 GALE HOLBROOK..... DELBERT AND SHARON BECK  
 MANSOUR KARIM..... DR. CHAD AND ALLISON CARPENTER  
 MANSOUR KARIM..... WILLIAM AND ANN CRONSTROM  
 GALE HOLBROOK..... JEFF AND KATHY DAVIS  
 GALE HOLBROOK..... GARY AND BOBBI DREWES  
 MANOUR AND RUTH KARIM..... WILLIAM AND GLORIA DUENWALD  
 NANCY DUENWALD..... WILLIAM AND GLORIA DUENWALD  
 BUD GERRY..... DOUGLAS AND JULIE EPPARD  
 JULIE BURNS SCHULTE..... DOUGLAS AND JULIE EPPARD  
 DONNA BENSON..... DOUGLAS AND JULIE EPPARD  
 KANDI WENER..... DOUGLAS AND JULIE EPPARD  
 XAVIER ZIRBEL..... ORMA FIEBER  
 MANSOUR AND RUTH KARIM..... GRANT AND ANNE GORMLEY

**Donations in Honor of: Submitted By:**  
 THE YOST FAMILY..... KATHY YOST

**Donations in Memory of: Submitted By:**  
 CECIL MOUSEL..... ANDY AND JOANN GROOS  
 GALE HOLBROOK..... LYNN AND SANDYE KADING  
 MANSOUR KARIM..... MONNI KARIM  
 GALE HOLBROOK..... RONALD AND JOYCE KOTH  
 DONNA BENSON..... MARK AND HELEN LEBRUN  
 DARLENE KERN ..... MARK AND HELEN LEBRUN  
 RAY TEHLE..... MERLE AND RENEE LEIBEL  
 MANSOUR KARIM..... BURTON AND MARIANNE MILLER  
 MICHAEL SIMONS..... TODD AND DIANN NABER  
 DELORES FLANIGAN..... LOREN AND VI NIEDERBAUMER  
 JOHN SWANHORST..... LOREN AND VI NIEDERBAUMER  
 DUANE RAUSCH..... JANICE RAUSCH  
 GALE HOLBROOK..... BILL AND PAM SCHMAGEL  
 MONICA SOUKUP..... MARLA JEAN SOUKUP  
 JOHN SWANHORST..... DONNA SWANHORST  
 GALE HOLBROOK..... KEVIN AND DENISE MAHER  
 LOREN NIEDERBAUMER..... VI NIEDERBAUMER  
 RAY ENTRINGER..... ANDREW AND JOANN GROOS

*Thank You!*

## *Upcoming Events*

- January 13: The Movie – Unplanned – at the Elks Theatre at 7:00 pm MST (Rapid City)
- January 14 – March 12: SDRTL Lobbying at the 2020 SD Legislative Session (Pierre, SD)
- January 17-18: SDRTL’s Booth at the Sisseton Home Show (Sisseton, SD)
- January 19: Black Hills Area ‘Roe v Wade Memorial Observance’ at Open Bible Church at 2:00 pm MST, (Rapid City)
- January 26: Sanctity of Human Life ‘Hour of Reflection’ (Pierre, SD)
- January 27: Unplanned & Gosnell at Coyote Twin Theaters both movies showing at 5 and 7:30 pm (Vermillion)
- March 6-7: SDRTL Booth at Northern Plains Evangelistic Association Leadership Conference (Spearfish, SD)
- March 27-29: SDRTL Booth at the Black Hills Home Builders Show (Rapid City)
- April 9: SDRTL’s Executive Director to Keynote the 2020 Mayor’s Prayer Breakfast (Aberdeen, SD)
- June 26-27: 50th National Right to Life Convention (Herndon, Virginia)
- October 3: SDRTL State Convention (Sioux Falls, SD)

Follow us on Facebook- South Dakota Right to Life / Follow us on Twitter @SDRTL  
 Don't forget to check out our website [www.sdRightToLife.org](http://www.sdRightToLife.org)