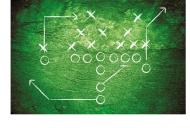
LifeFacts Elending human life from conception to natural death

A South Dakota Right to Life Publication | Winter 2024 | www.sdRightToLife.org

"Pro-Life Frontline Playbook"

By: Dale Bartscher, SDRTL Executive Director

For those interested - we are rapidly closing in on the end of our National Football Season. This we know...a sports team would never take the field without regularly practicing their **playbooks**, and **SD Right to Life** knows this lesson well as the Pro-Life Movement moves into 2024. You should know that we have a "Pro-Life Frontline Playbook". We are preparing to be the most effective we can



as we both promote and defend the 'Sanctity of Human Life' from conception to natural death here in South



Dakota and beyond.

Part of our playbook plan is the willingness of our Board of Directors to build new capabilities in our **Leadership Team**. The SDRTL Board recently presented an extension of 14 months to my contact and 'yes' it was signed and sealed. Then, they welcomed their new part-time 'Associate Director' on Staff (see Jenn Lee's article below). We have every confidence in Jenn Lee's ability to represent SDRTL and the Pro-Life cause with a sense of grace, love, truth and boldness.

As we begin this NEW YEAR we are more unified and organized than ever before to take on the BIG challenges that face us ahead. We will continue to champion the Pro-Life Mes-

sage through **'Education'** and **'Legislation'** and only ask that YOU continue partnering with us through your prayers, finances, time and talents as all that we do we do to the 'Glory of God'. We remain -- **Pro-life: With** every woman, for every child!

The Key with Jenn Lee!

By: Jenn Lee, Associate Director



As a new season approaches, often come new assignments. I am excited to begin my journey with South Dakota Right to Life, as their new part-time Associate Director. I look forward to learning and growing with all the amazing Life-champions from around our wonderful state.

For eleven years, I've had my own worship and teaching ministry while raising three boys with my husband, Darren. As my passion for protecting children and the unborn grew, I began volunteering at Pro-Life events. I became acquainted with Dale Bartscher while serving as the local chapter leader for 40 Days for Life. While serving in this position, I was continually blessed by the care and tenacity of the volunteers I met "out on the sidewalk." I kept returning to one thought: All of us, as protectors of the unborn, can do a little bit more. Never underestimate the value of your "small acts" of service.

While the tumult and confusion of the world continues to spin, together, we can change the narrative concerning issues that pertain to Life. Life is precious. I am so thankful for groups like South Dakota Right to Life that devote their time, energy and resources to defending the most vulnerable among us. I look forward to serving you!

Inspiration and Information Shared at SDRTL 52nd Annual State Convention

By: Debbie Pease, SDRTL President and Field Coordinator

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Spencer Cody Treasurer Valerie Johnson NRLC Delegate

LifeFacts Editor

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.



Well over 200 pro-lifers gathered for the South Dakota Right to Life State Convention at New Life Fellowship in Aberdeen on September 22-23, 2023. The Aberdeen Area RTL Chapter, led by President Jessica Lux along with New Life Pastors Rodney Johnson and Greg Fred put on an amazing convention with something for everyone. Our four keynote speakers including Melissa Coles – inspiration for the LifeMark movie, Ingrid Duran from National RTL, Camille Pauley

from Healing the Culture, and Life Defense Fund Co-Chair Jon Hansen and our panelists representing our South Dakota pregnancy centers and four of our ally organizations encouraged and educated the crowd. Our thirty exhibitors provided information and inspiration, and our Basket Raffle provided a fun way to donate to the cause.

We were delighted to honor our Humanitarians of the Year: Roxie Johnson who has served 35 years as the Director of Bella Pregnancy Resource Center in Spearfish and Gene Billingsley who has been a tireless volunteer in our Rapid City office for the last 5 years, maintaining and

constantly cleaning up our database. We are thankful for their continued service to the pro-life cause. We are also incredibly grateful for the work of Kassidy Peters who coordinated our Youth Convention, where 7th – 12th grade students got to hear directly from all our keynote speakers.

The success of this event would not have been possible without the passion and diligence of our South Dakota Right to Life Execu-



tive Director, Dale Bartscher, who worked for over a year planning and coordinating with the Aberdeen Area Right to Life Chapter. Many of the convention talks are now available on our <u>SDRightToLife.org</u> website. Be sure and take advantage of them. And please save the date for next year's convention in Yankton on September 20-21, 2024.

Education! Education! Education!

By: Valerie Johnson, NRLC Delegate



Founding members of SDRTL never stopped stressing the importance of education in the right-to-life movement. We need to continue that focus. Our mission involves changing minds and hearts. We want people to accept all human beings as part of society - to restore the God-given right to life which has been taken from certain segments of the population. To accomplish that goal, we might need to get outside our comfort zone a little. It's great for us to continue to build each other up within the right-to- life movement, and sometimes we need to

intentionally interact with people who don't agree with us - people who are okay with and support purposefully and electively ending the lives of unborn and medically vulnerable humans.

We can do an immense service simply by identifying ourselves, either in person or on social media, as pro-life or anti-abortion. If the topic comes up, you are able to politely say you disagree with it. If friends or neighbors say what they think, listen to their opinion (really listen) and then reply (in a loving and patient manner.) If they declare they are pro-choice, try to use words which encourage them to change their mind and don't shut down the conversation. If they try to make a point and you're not certain how to respond, let them know you will get back to them on that - and then check into it.

Some resources you might check for information are our social media and websites <u>SDRightToLife.org</u> and National Right to Life's website <u>NRLC.org</u>. There are many others, but Secular Pro-Life is another great resource. We don't need to be an encyclopedia of information; we can be a voice for the voiceless. Cheers to an informative and educational 2024!

"An Urgent Call to Action: Fostering the culture of love and support for families and defending life."

By: Representative Jon Hansen, Vice President of SD Right to Life/Co-Chair of the Life Defense Fund



My wife, Sheila, and I recently welcomed our 6th child into our family. Baby Samuel Hansen was born in September! He is very loved and has brought us and his brothers and sisters great joy (and less sleep).When Samuel was born, Sheila and I were overwhelmed with the amount of love and support our friends and family showed us. It's humbling when so many show up to help out around the house, cook meals, lend a hand with the other children, and so much more. The generosity and selfless love of those around us reminds me of what it means to live out our pro-life beliefs. We, pro-life South Dakotans, welcome children into the world as great gifts from God, and we support mothers and fathers as they journey into and through parenthood.

But for some mothers, an unexpected pregnancy can bring about great fear and uncertainty. And rather than being surrounded with support, some mothers in crisis are pressured into terminating

the life of their baby through abortion. For mothers who need help, pregnancy resource centers like the Alpha Center in Sioux Falls are there. The amount of dedication, care, and support shown for mothers every single day at pregnancy resource centers is absolutely astounding. Their life affirming work brings hope to what can sometimes feel like hopeless situations. They show that every human life matters—both mom and baby. And as a result of this amazing work, South Dakota lives are spared from abortion, and mothers and fathers get to experience the beautiful, sacred, irreplaceable, and invaluable relationship with their child.

We must never allow pro-abortion activists to convince others that we pro-life South Dakotans are merely "probirth" and don't care what happens to moms and babies after a child is born. That is a lie.

It is the abortion industry itself that shows no regard for mothers or their children. It is the abortionists who have one solution - terminate the life of the mother's precious baby to make a profit. It is the abortion activists who want unlimited, unsafe, at-home, pill-form chemical abortions with no doctors and no state safety protections for women. It is these abortion activists who approve late-term abortion up to birth in our own State Constitution. It is they who abandon the mothers who live with sadness and regret after having an abortion. **But in South Dakota, we are better than this.**

In South Dakota we love mothers and fathers and their children, and we back it up by our actions. **But we can** and we must do more. In 2024, we must significantly step up our commitment to building a culture of life and family.

As you are likely aware, pro-abortion activists are circulating petitions to amend our South Dakota Constitution to legalize abortion in our state, including late-term abortion all the way to the point of birth. What's more, the Abortion Amendment puts mothers' safety at risk by banning the most basic health and safety requirements for most abortions, including requirements that abortions be done by a physician at an inspected and clean facility. They actually want to take doctors out of the picture so that they can more easily sell and profit off of pill-form chemical abortions. If they can get the required 35,017 petition signatures, this deadly Abortion Amendment would be placed on the election ballot this November.

In 2024, countless lives hang in the balance. If the Abortion Amendment is written into our Constitution, an untold amount of lives will be ended by abortion. We cannot let that happen. Now is the time for you to get engaged. If you are reading this, we need you now. Don't make the mistake of sitting back and thinking that others are going to act so you don't have to—we need you.

We've established the Life Defense Fund to combat the Constitutional Amendment. The first and easiest way to put your pro-life beliefs into action is to go to www.LifeDefenseFund.com. Learn more about the Abortion Amendment and our education campaign encouraging South Dakotans to Decline to Sign the Abortion Amendment petition. Then sign up to volunteer and please make a donation. We need your investment to help defend lives. The value of just one life is priceless, and countless are at stake. Pro-abortion groups are preparing to flood the state with millions of dollars to pass their Abortion Amendment, and we need your help to match them.

Please act now. Visit www.LifeDefenseFund.com. If we push ourselves to become even more dedicated to life and family, we can defeat this Abortion Amendment and keep South Dakota a state that loves and protects both unborn children and their mothers. May God bless you and may we commit to defend life together in 2024.

Essay Contest Winners

You may read the essays from the TOP FIVE ESSAY WINNERS in each Division on our website at: www.sdRightToLife.org under ESSAY CONTEST.

2023 Senior Top 10

Rank/Prize	#/Name	Home Town/School	Grade
1 - \$300	S36 Emily Schutt	Huron - Homeschool	10th
2 - \$250	S33 Kathryne Hoff	Tea - Sioux Falls Christian	10th
3 - \$200	S1 Annelise Carley	Piedmont - Homeschool	12th
4 - \$150	S9 Allison Leber	Canistota High School	10th
5 - \$100	S16 Mariela Hyzer	Hurley - Homeschool	12th
6	S35 Lexi Cutler	Claremont - Homeschool	12th
7	S2 Hayden Thorton	Box Elder - Rapid City Christian	10th
8	S30 Kalee Dykshorn	Geddes - Dakota Christian	11th
9	S18 Rachel Heineman	Flandreau - Dell Rapids St Mary's	11th
10	S27 Garth Maas	Corsica - Dakota Christian	11th

2023 Junior Top 10

Rank/Prize	#/ Name	Hometown/School	Grade
1 - \$300	J14 Sydney Eide	Sioux Falls - O'Gorman JH	8th
2 - \$250	J31 Jerome Big Eagle	Ft Thompson - Sunshine Bible Academy	9th
3 - \$200	J29 Bella Sobotka	Whitewood - Little Way Homeschool	7th
4 - \$150	J15 Leah Martin	Sioux Falls - O'Gorman JH	8th
5 - \$100	J62 Bridget Lane	Hot Springs - Homeschool	7th
6	J60 Mary Rounds	Yankton - Sacred Heart Middle School	8th
7	J66 Hope Skoog	Rapid City - Homeschool	7th
8	J38 Olivia Brim	Yankton - Sacred Heart Middle School	7th
9	J67 Mia Alvear	Aberdeen - Aberdeen Christian School	9th
10	J56 Alice Petersen	Yankton - Sacred Heart Middle School	7th

"Pro-Life Frontline Playbook"

By: Dale Bartscher, SDRTL Executive Director



SDRTL is recognized as the state's flagship of the pro-life movement. We work through education and legislation to protect innocent human life from abortion, infanticide, assisted suicide, euthanasia and related issues. Thus, we will have 'boots-on-the- ground' during the 99th 2024 Legislative Session in Pierre, SD (January 9– March 7).

All the pro-life victories we have seen though, and will continue to see, are because of the work of all of you, and of the great people whose shoulders we stand on. We are so grateful you understand that life at all stages is precious and deserving of protection. Realiz-

ing the value of working together Mother Teresa said: "I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things."

Knowing this to be true SDRTL will be at the State Capitol alongside our SDRTL Board Members including Representatives Fred Deutsch, Jon Hansen and Senator Al Novstrup. Together we will represent SDRTL as we support, with your help, appropriate life legislation.

Currently I, along with our SDRTL's Legislative Committee, are considering several pieces of Pro-Life Legislation. I will be utilizing social media (Facebook, Emails, Radio Interviews, etc.) and our website at <u>www.</u> <u>sdRightToLife.org</u> to keep you, our SDRTL Partners, informed as to happenings at the Capitol during this Legislative Session.

To receive Weekly Capitol Email Updates' please go to our website at <u>www.sdRightToLife.org</u> and fill-in the SUBSCRIBE BOX. We would also appreciate your financial partnership. In doing so you are supporting our presence at the Capitol for the 38-Days of this coming SD Legislative Session. Thank You!

SDRTL's Board of Directors Adds FIVE

The SDRTL Board of Directors met in session on Saturday, September 23, following the 52nd SDRTL State Convention. In addition to taking reports from various working committees, and making plans for the future, the Board approved the TWO-YEAR TERM RENEWALS of these 4 currently serving Board Members: **Mary Unterbrunner**, Region 7; **Doug Post**, Region 3; **Jason Williams**, Region 10; and **Russ Enns**, Region 11. We also thanked four retiring, dedicated Board Members, for their years of service to the Board: **Shane Oien**, **Kassidy Peters**, **Donna Schaffer** and **Chris Newton**. SDRTL welcomed these FIVE NEW MEMBERS to the Board of Directors: **Lisa Ulmer**, Region 4; **Marie Dahlhoff**, Region 5; **Michael Boyle**, Region 8; **Spencer Gosch**, Region 9 and **Corey Chicoine**, Member at Large. You may read all of our Board Member's bios on our website at: www.sdRightToLife.org, under the 'About' tab.



LISA ULMER: Lisa lives in Hartford, SD, with her husband, Randy. She is happily retired from her financial career and continue to be involved in their Hartford-Humboldt Right to Life chapter. She tries to find 'soft ways' their chapter can engage with their communities and member churches. As St. Mother Teresa told us, 'We cannot all do great things, but we can do small things with great love.' Lisa hopes to learn and assist in any way possible as we work together to support and defend the dignity of all human life."

MARIE DAHLHOFF: Marie is a lifelong pro-life advocate who will always work hard to defend life from conception to natural death. She has been an active member of the Vermillion Area Right to Life chapter since its start up, where she has headed up their billboard campaign and helped with putting ads in the local paper and bringing pro-life movies to the local theater. Marie works parttime as a Home Health Physical Therapist for Avera and is very involved with church and her kid's school and 4-H activities. She and her husband Mark live in Vermillion where they are raising their 6 children who range in age from 14-23 years.

MICHAEL BOYLE: Michael is an ambassador for Jesus Christ. He serves as Pastor of Memorial Baptist Church in Parkston, SD. His wife Isabel is a great helpmate. With God's blessing they have a full quiver of children and are thankful for each one of them! Michael is passionate about seeing our God ordained institutions fulfill their God given purpose!

SPENCER GOSCH: Spencer is an American politician who served in the South Dakota House of Representatives. He served as the Speaker of the House during the 96th and 97th Legislative Sessions. Prior to that, he served as Speaker pro tempore during the 94th and 95th Legislative Sessions. He, and his family, resides in Glenham, SD.

COREY CHICOINE: Corey is a 6th generation farmer outside Elk Point, South Dakota. He works alongside his father Brian on the operation. Graduating from SDSU with an Agronomy Degree, Corey worked as a District Sales Manager for Prairie Brand Seed and later Dairyland Seed out of Sioux Falls covering over half the state before returning home to farm. Corey recently revitalized the Union County Right to Life chapter with other community members, where he serves as president. He enjoys hiking, hunting, and swing dancing with his wife, Kathleen.

TRAVEL AS NEED BE TO THE 'HOUR OF REFLECTION'

Sunday, January 28, '24 Pierre, South Dakota

Walk for Life (12:00 - 1:00 pm); Hour of Reflection (2:00 - 3:00 pm)

RAPID CITY AREA RIGHT TO LIFE (RCARTL) IS CHARTERING A BUS TO THE CAPITOL

MEET THE BUS HERE: FLYING J Travel Center at I-90 and Elk Vale Road

BUS SCHEDULE: 7:40 am begin boarding; 8:00 a.m. bus leaves; 5:30 pm bus returns

WHAT: Those who choose not to walk are welcome to stay inside the Capitol building and enjoy refreshments and displays.

COST: \$20 per person payment made on the bus either by cash or a check made payable to RCARTL. A free-will offering will be received on the bus to help with additional bus expenses.

RESERVE YOUR SEAT: Seating is limited so reserve your seat early! Email Cathy: savedbygrace109@aol.com, or call: 484-636-9458. Deadline to RSVP is **January 20**.

NOTE: Once you reserve a seat your cost of \$20 will be anticipated whether filled by you or not.

EXTRAS: Dress appropriate for the weather; Bring a sack lunch; Complimentary bottled water available on the bus; and Unaccompanied minors will need a signed parental permission form. PAGE 5



SDRTL Operates With a Flare of Financial Integrity

By: Spencer Cody, SDRTL Treasurer

As 2023 comes to an end, 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 re-

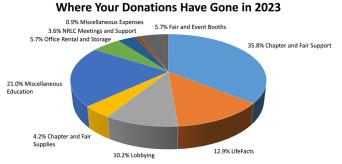
ceived this year and hope that you will partner or continue to partner with us as a sustaining member in 2024. In 2023 approximately 35.8% of your donations have gone toward providing staff in support of chapters, pro-life outreach, and coordinating exhibits and booths at fairs and other events including the convention. Lobbying for pro-life legislation each session in Pierre has taken up another 10.2% of our budget.

The LifeFacts that you receive goes to more than 16,000 households and makes up 12.9% of this year's bud-

get. A remaining 21% of donations are spent on miscellaneous education outreach, which includes combating the abortion-until-birth petition. 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!

Cut & mail to: SDRTL, 1107 Mt. Rushmore Rd, Suite 1-B, Rapid City, SD 57701

NameMail	ing Address
CityStateZipPhone_ Email	
My Special Gift in Support of Life: \$ My Sustaining Gift in Support of Life (check one) Bronze: \$10/mo. or \$120/yr. Silver: \$25/mo. or \$300/yr. Gold: \$50/mo. or \$600/yr. Platinum: \$100/mo. or \$1200/yr. Titanium: \$250/mo. or \$6000/yr. Titanium: \$250/mo. or \$6000/yr. Diamond: \$500/mo. or \$6000/yr. Diamond: \$500/mo. or \$6000/yr. Diamond: \$500/mo. or \$6000/yr. Diamond: \$500/mo. or \$6000/yr.	Thank You!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan. 7: Dale Bartscher to give a SDRTL Mission's Update (Faith and Eagle Butte)

Jan. 9 – March 7: SDRTL Lobbying at the 2024 SD Legislative Session (Pierre)

Jan. 14: Black Hills Area 'Sanctity of Human Life Memorial Service' at the Parkview Evangelical Free Church at 2:00 pm (Rapid City)

Jan. 19: SDRTL's Executive Director and Associate Director to attend the National March for Life (Washington, DC)

Jan. 20: SDRTL's Executive Director and Associate Director to attend the National RTL Committee's Board Meeting (Washington, DC)

Jan. 23: Family Voice's Action Day at the Capitol (Pierre)

Jan. 28: **51st Annual** Sanctity of Human Life **'Walk for Life'** at 12:00 noon, CST; and **'Hour of Reflection'** at 2:00 pm, CST; SDRTL Board Meeting at 3:30 pm (Pierre)

Feb. 4: Dale Bartscher to give a SDRTL Mission's Update (Faith and Eagle Butte)

Feb. 5: SD Alzheimer Association's Capitol Day (Pierre)

Feb. 11: Dale Bartscher to give a SDRTL Mission's Update (Milesville and Philip)

Feb. 14 - Mar. 24: 40-Days for Life Spring Campaign (Sioux Falls)

Feb. 18: Dale Bartscher to give a SDRTL Mission's Update at Open Bible Church (Rapid City)

Mar. 10 & 17: Dale Bartscher to give a SDRTL Mission's Update (Faith and Eagle Butte)

March 22-24: SDRTL Booth at Black Hills Home Builders Show (Rapid City)

Mar. 25: Veto Over-Ride Day (Pierre)

April 18: SDRTL Booth at the Faith and Hope Community Breakfast (Rapid City)

April 19-20: SDRTL Booth at the Northern Plains Evangelistic Association Leadership Conference (Spearfish)

April 19: SD Absentee Voting Begins!

April 26: Alpha Center's Descendants Dinner (Sioux Falls)

April 28-30: SDRTL Booth at the Knights of Columbus State Convention (Aberdeen)

May 3-4: SDRTL Booth at the Christian Homeschool Conference (Sioux Falls)

June 28-29: National Right to Life Convention (NRLConvention.com)

Sept. 20 - 21: 53rd SDRTL State Convention (Yankton)

Donations in Memory of:

Submitted By:

Wichnory of.	Submitted by.
JANICE RAUSCH	JANICE RAUSCH'S CHILDREN
ELLEN ALLEN	HAROLD &MATHEL AMBROSE
LINDA LEBRUN	DENNIS AND JILL ANDERSON
HARLAN MILLER	DALE AND JANET BARTSCHER
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LINDA LEBRUN	JOSEPH THORNELL
	DANIEL & MARY WITTE
	CYNTHIA THOMPSON
LINDA LEBRUN	TOM & KAYE REECY





Save the Date

53rd Annual SDRTL Convention September 20 - 21, 2024 Calvary Baptist Church Yankton, SD

Vermillion Right to Life

Host Chapters: Turner County Right to Life Union County Right to Life

Donations in Memory of:

Yankton Right to Life

MEMBERS OF GETTYSBURG RTL	. JIM & ROSE ANN NAGEL
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FRED AND LUCILLE GEISLER	JOHN &TERESA SULLIVAN
WILMER AND PHYLLIS ZVONEK	. JONNIE ZVONEK
NOAH ARTHUR MICHEL	. CONNIE BROWN
BABIES LOST TO ABORTION	. EVAN HETLAND
PETER J & SUSAN MACK	. PETER AND DONNA MACK
JACOB & ELMIRA JELLESMA	. PETER AND DONNA MACK

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Submitted By:

JOSEPH ARNTS.....LANCE & PATRICIA MATTSON BABIES SAVED FROM ABORTION......EVAN HETLAND

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