

FREE COPY

Special Anniversary Issue

Lifespan *news*

Volume 24 Number 8

Serving Southeastern Michigan Since 1970

Nov., Dec. 1995

25th Anniversary Celebration



*Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit
cordially invites you to attend a
Twenty-fifth Anniversary Celebration
on Saturday, the second of December
Nineteen hundred and ninety-five
Social Hour six o'clock
Dinner seven o'clock
Saint Hugo of the Hills Parish Hall
2215 Opdyke Road
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan*

*Cost \$17.50 per person
Reservation deadline November 27th
Remittance must accompany reservation
Make check payable and mail to
Right to Life - Lifespan
28200 Seven Mile Road, Suite 127
Livonia, Michigan 48152*

Remembrances

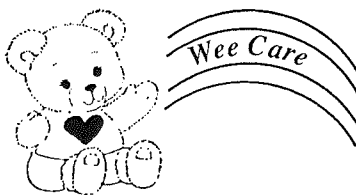
You can live on after death by helping those whose lives are threatened by abortion, euthanasia or infanticide.

A bequest in your will to Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit will be used to save the lives of many through our efforts.

Donations may be made in memory of loved ones who have died. A memorial card will be sent by Lifespan in your name to the family of the deceased.

Donations may also be made to honor someone special, and near and dear to you, for a particular occasion, or just because...

- In memory of **Antoinette Cirocco**, requested by Helen Kleinbrook.
- In memory of **Chester Sporka**, requested by Archie and Betty Queen.
- In memory of **Patrick Riley**, requested by Archie and Betty Queen.
- In memory of **Dorothy LaBarge**, requested by Mary C. Donohue, Leo M. Halpenny, Joseph Junglas, Harriet E. Kirken, Mr. and Mrs. J. Ralbusky, Jr. and Therese Flanigan.



It's almost Thanksgiving, the start of one of the busiest times of the year here at Wee Care. In the spirit of the season, I would like to thank everyone who has helped our babies this past year.

The next few weeks are going to be hectic at Wee Care, and we need our "angels" more than ever. Please help us if you can. Special needs are: diapers (all sizes) and newborn clothing.

We wish you all a beautiful Thanksgiving and a special Christmas filled with much happiness and love. God bless you all!

—Karen Patrosso, Director
Wee Care (313) 533-2727

A Program of Right to Life - Lifespan



Educational Center for Life

Pro-Life Resources for YOU

Sex and Love—What's a Teenager to Do? Mary Beth Bonacci talks, in this video, to teens about dating, relationships and love. She has given talks on chastity to audiences across the U.S. and internationally since 1986.

WHEN THE DOCTOR KILLS THE PATIENT! This brochure will help clarify some of the issues concerning euthanasia.

ABORTION IN AMERICA—A Life Cycle publication with an updated report on abortion including statistics and hard-case pregnancies.

FIGHT FOR LIFE — A PRO-LIFE STUDENT'S ABORTION DEBATE GUIDE—A powerful and comprehensive 17-page booklet provides pro-life students with direct and honest answers to very real questions. This handy guide is an excellent resource for a debate, talk or term paper.

The **ALERT TEEN CARD** lists many agencies available for counseling, including alcohol and drug abuse, child abuse, crisis pregnancy counseling, runaway services and suicide prevention.

Educational Center for Life
Coventry Place
1637 W. Big Beaver Rd., Suite G
Troy, MI 48084-3540
(810) 816-8489

Lifespan News

Nov., Dec. 1995 Vol. 24, No. 8
President & Editor - Ann R. Sands
Desktop Publisher - Marge Bradley
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MAIN OFFICE
28200 Seven Mile Rd., #127
Livonia, MI 48152-3736
(313) 533-9090



Calendar of Events

Student Essay Deadline Nov. 13
Educational Series:
Fetal Experimentation Nov. 18
Lifespan Offices Closed for
Thanksgiving Holiday: ... Nov. 22-24
Anniversary Dinner
Reservation Deadline Nov. 27
25th Anniversary Dinner Dec. 2
Lifespan Offices Closed for
Christmas Holiday: ... Dec. 21-Jan. 1
Detroit Rally Jan. 21
March for Life Jan. 22
Baby Shower Mar. 10

ABORTION...the ultimate child abuse

This year's billboard campaign consists of having a rotary bulletin positioned on metro Detroit's main arteries. Our message will be "ABORTION...the ultimate child abuse" with a picture of an empty cradle and Lifespan's phone number. It will move to a new location every sixty days. This gives us six different locations during a one-year period. This plan enables Lifespan to reach a large target audience. The total cost of this year's project is \$36,500. The total amount raised so far is \$11,441. We need \$25,059 to reach our goal. Will you, your family, church or organization "Adopt the Billboard" for a day for only \$100, or a week for \$700? But you can help by making a donation in any amount. For information, call (313) 533-9090. Please send your contribution to Right to Life - Lifespan, 28200 Seven Mile Rd., #127, Livonia 48152.

Enclosed is my/our donation to Lifespan's Billboard Campaign

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

"Adopt for a day" _____
"Adopt for a week" _____
Other _____
(Donations are not tax-deductible)

The Beginning

Right to Life - Lifespan was born on a frigid night in November 1970 at the Plymouth Grange Hall. Gloria Klein, a young housewife from Westland, chaired the meeting and became the founding president. About 100 concerned citizens who attended that first gathering formed the nucleus of the pro-life movement in southeastern Michigan.

Originally called "People Taking Action Against Abortion" (PTAAA), the group adopted the name of its newsletter *Lifespan* in 1973. Even then it was obvious that infanticide and euthanasia were irrevocably joined together in philosophy with abortion.

In the late 1970s "Right to Life" (RTL) was added to the beginning of Lifespan's name at the urging of the national organization. The idea was to have pro-life groups across the country easily identifiable by using the same prefix. Thus, the progression from PTAAA to Right to Life - Lifespan. However, whatever the name, the principles and goals have remained the same since that icy night in 1970.

In the words of Gloria Klein...

It was my issue, too

My fourth daughter was 9 months old when I began to worry about state laws against abortion that were tumbling down. The New York law, legalizing the procedure for 6 months, had touched off the sight of entrepreneurs providing jet services to that state and charging huge fees. The media told us that Michigan would be next, or so they had been coolly informed by the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL) which had been the architect of the law in New York.

I watched the scenario with mounting concern but knew of nothing happening in Michigan to oppose it. Then, of all



Gloria Klein

places, it was the Phil Donahue show that started me on the bumpy path I would follow—perhaps for the rest of my life.

Our children are indeed the "pearl of great price" for which we are expected to give everything we have to save. —Phyllis Sullivan

His guest was Juan Ryan, President of the National Right to Life Committee—then an adjunct to the United States Catholic Conference. I am a Presbyterian but I did not then, nor have I ever, considered this a "Catholic issue" as NARAL was calling it. It was my issue too. It is everyone's issue. So I wrote Juan Ryan, c/o the station, asking if he knew of anyone in Michigan who was "doing something" to stem the tide. He replied with the names of two women in Lansing who were trying to start a group there. I wrote to them and they supplied me with names of people in my area, and those names begat other names, but there was still no organization in S.E. Michigan.

...The importance of getting involved...has now become a way of life...

—Christy Wood

One of the ladies whose name was given me seemed to be most aware of the political nature of the challenge. With her I called a meeting at my house where we chose the name "People Taking Action Against Abortion" (PTAAA). I was asked to act as its head and proceed with the necessary legalities.

In November 1970 we called our first meeting at the Plymouth Grange Hall. It was six degrees above zero and slippery under foot. About 100 people showed up who formed the nucleus of neophytes who would now embark on political action—for most, the first time in our lives.

We did have two resources which proved invaluable; we had people, the most

dedicated people I have ever known; and we had faith. —Dr. Richard Jaynes



Richard V. Jaynes, M.D.

The attendees at the Plymouth meeting spread the word, and we were lucky enough to attract a number of professionals whose hearts were totally committed to the pro-life philosophy. They would go anywhere, talk to any number of people, large or small, to spell out the meaning and omen of permissive abortion. Usually, their crowds were small. The program chairman would present a panel of a doctor, a lawyer, perhaps a clergyman—only to find a handful of listeners. One of them remarked wryly that there were more people on the stage than there were in the audience.

After hearing the speech (on abortion), I thought "somebody should do something about that."

...It was Richard Jaynes, my ob/gyn, who convinced me that I was a "somebody."

—Alice Radwick

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The Beginning

continued from page 3

But the tide turned in April, 1971 when we rented the Veterans' Memorial Building in downtown Detroit for a Sunday afternoon and persuaded the well-known political writer, Dr. Russell Kirk, to be our guest speaker. He usually charged \$1,000 then per lecture, but he came to us free of charge—another illustrious professional with his heart in the cause. It drew 750 people and now we had an organization.

We have four adopted children. I could not begin to tell you how grateful I have been to the unselfish women...who have passed them into our arms.

—Mary Ryan

Senate Bill #3 was brought to the statehouse again and again. It would have legalized abortion in Michigan for the early months, but it never passed. Giving up on the statehouse, a pro-abortion coalition resorted to a popular referendum for the November, '72 ballot and began circulating petitions. Their local forces included Planned Parenthood, Zero Population Growth, NOW and the ACLU as well as Michigan Clergy Counseling Service—which was already referring pregnant women to abortion facilities outside Michigan.

History will view our abortion battle as a classic civil rights struggle and an anomaly to the feminist movement. —Carol Smith

"Voice of the Unborn"

We were opposed to this ballot question, called Proposal B, which would have permitted abortion for 20 weeks because we didn't believe a class of people could be exterminated, with justice, by popular vote. Neither did a lot of people. By September of '72 a coalition of pro-life forces began to arise across the state which called itself "Voice of the Unborn." We met in

Lansing and about 10 campaign offices traversing the state were set up—the vast majority in the basement of private homes, as mine was.

My house became an Oakland base station and clearing house for Proposal B. I have a wonderful husband who put up with the phone calls and the constant stream of people. We both thought then that the situation was temporary. How wrong we were! —Diane Fagelman

Both the electronic and paper media were aggressively pro-abortion and the rallying cry was "Reform!" The Executive Committee of Voice of the Unborn called in Richard Nixon's campaign adviser for counsel. He said we couldn't win because we were too far behind in the polls. The voters had already made up their minds. I told him



that people had taken their positions based on the misinformation in the media. He said it didn't matter. We didn't have time to re-educate.

From my kitchen to TV studios and from an audience of two to an audience of tens of

thousands, I have tried to represent Lifespan and the unborn in such a way that will help the listener to understand the importance of protecting human life.

—Diane Trombley

Who were we to ignore such an expert? His advice was to keep a low profile, avoid confrontation with the opposition which spelled POWER, discover the undecided voters and our own strength, and send them our literature.

If we had followed all his advice we would have lost, hands down. Instead, we followed part of it, and listened to other strategists who advised us to hold our fire until the last two or three weeks before the election so the opposition wouldn't have time to respond.

In 1972, I became chairman for my parish to work on the referendum. I thought it was

a temporary job...I was so naive.
—Marge Moleck

Our media campaign consisted almost entirely of radio and TV spots. We focussed on the fact that 20 weeks meant 5

months and how advanced the unborn child was at 5 months gestation.

We also ran a telephone survey (with our willing volunteers) that reached 50,000 homes. We were too unsophisticated at the time to buy registration lists so we worked from the Bresser directory.

One time, I heard Gloria (Klein) say that Frank and I had spent our honeymoon in her basement.
—Marie Gonzales

We thus discovered the undecided and pro-life voters. Our speakers went out to Sunday church services and collected money wherever they went. As word spread about the work, people swarmed to my basement in Westland. They brought money and asked for jobs. My basement walls were covered with precinct maps containing the names of chairmen who had volunteered to cover their areas with literature distribution. We would refer these people to chairmen in their area. The other campaign offices did the same.

Sometimes Gloria (Klein) and I couldn't get a car running for the ride to Detroit, so we would climb in my husband's ice cream truck and away we went.
—Bev Bettiga

The independent local pro-life groups across the state purchased huge quantities of the Hiltz brochure "Life and Death" (which had been authored by Dr. John Willke) and carried it from door to door. Some took it to factories and passed it out to workers coming off shifts. We estimate that more than 500,000 copies were distributed throughout the state and paid for by the local pro-life groups.

When Proposal B came on the ballot in November of 1972, we were able to man the polls all through the rainy day...it was a freezing rain too, but our workers never flinched from their task of handing out cards advising, "Vote NO on Proposal B." —Patricia Holscher

The final vote on the referendum showed 61.3% voting "NO" on Proposal B and, therefore, "YES" to life. The only counties lost were Washtenaw (home of the University of Michigan) and Oakland—one of the wealthiest counties. But we could not take comfort long because the Supreme Court ruled in *Roe v. Wade* two months later, tearing down all state abortion laws and making the procedure legal through all nine months of pregnancy.

On January 22, 1973...the 10 a.m. news came on the radio with headlines that the U.S. Supreme Court had ruled that abortion was legal in every state.

I...called Gloria Klein. She had not yet heard the news.

We both cried as if our hearts were broken, as indeed they were.

—Margaret Joyce

Much of the country thought the matter had been settled, and we would all go home and be quiet. That has not happened.

"Life is like an arch"

There had been a chilling line in the *Roe v. Wade* decision of January 22. It was "the capability of meaningful life." No one had defined meaningful life, so we could see the immediate danger of euthanasia—both of the elderly and the handicapped. Recalling the Nazi phrase, "useless eaters," and how the mentally handicapped were the first to go to the gas chambers in Germany, we thought it was time to abandon the name, People Taking Action Against Abortion, and chose instead the name that had been used on our newsletters—*Lifespan*. We had been intrigued with the concept since one of our earliest speakers and activists, Dr. Richard Jaynes, had declared to an open hearing in Lansing in 1968, "Life is like an arch. If you discard one segment as worthless the span collapses—the value of all life brought low."



A gifted Detroit artist drew up Lifespan's "Love Life" logo, which shows a child, a young female with a crutch and an elderly man with a cane, standing under the Tree of Life.

Standing room only
by Bob Ervin

After *Roe v. Wade*, the Right to Life people in Michigan hosted the first large National Right to Life Conference in Detroit (June 1973). My job was Chairman of Arrangements and that turned out to be a strenuous experience. Whereas, we thought that, with luck, we might have 400 or 500 attend, 1500 participants arrived. We ran out of almost everything, had standing room only in the workshops and gave the hotel the terrible task of providing a banquet for more than twice the number of people we had expected.

This was a real shot in the arm for us since having defeated Proposal B, we were really depressed when *Roe v. Wade* followed soon after. It was particularly stimulating to know that people not only came from many states, but they came from Canada and other countries as well.

Soon after I retired in 1975, I became Chairman of Lifespan, Wayne West and became a member of the Boards of the state organization and Lifespan. In the years that have followed, it has been an almost continuous adventure made of meetings, pro-life speeches and stuffing, sealing and stamping.

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1995 Christmas Cards

Your purchase represents support for pro-life activities during the coming year. To place an order, arrange for pickup at a location near you and/or for more information, call: Detroit Chapter at (313) 874-0432, Oakland County Chapter at (810) 816-1546 or Wayne West, Downriver Chapter at (313) 422-6230.



Babe in Swaddling Cloth

Inside Verse:

*As we rejoice at the birth of Baby Jesus
may our hearts be filled with joy and awe
at the wonder of God's gift of Life
Blessings to you at Christmas
and all through the year*

(Actual size 4 1/2" x 6 1/8")

\$5.00 per pkg. of 12

Holy Family (in bright colors, gold borders)

Inside Verse:

*May the love of the Holy Family
rekindle in our hearts
the comfort of hope
the warmth of peace
and the joy of Life
this Christmas and always*

(Actual size: 4 7/8" x 6 3/4")

\$12.00 per box of 18



Wise Men in Adoration (in vivid colors)

Inside Verse:

*Wise men still seek
The Light of the world
The Lord and Giver of Life
May His love shine upon you
This Christmas and always*

(Actual size: 5 3/8" x 7 3/4")

\$12.00 per box of 18



Chapter

detroit

Office hours

MW 10-2; TThF Closed
Carol Smith, Chairman
Mary Cascos, Ofc. Mgr.

Church reps honored

On October 7th the Detroit Chapter honored their dedicated church representatives at a special luncheon held at Assumption Grotto Church. A delicious lunch was provided by the Detroit Chapter Board and a very meaningful prayer service concluded our afternoon when we made a pilgrimage to the "Tomb of the Unborn" in Grotto's cemetery.

We'd like to again thank our Detroit Chapter reps:

Ilene Andrus, Andrea Baier, Barbara Baier, Ann Bonenfant, Pat Brennon, Leslie Cahill, Mary Cascos, Mary Dean Campsie, Margaret Cylkowski, Mary Debono, Joanne Emerson, Marge Elkins, Donna Flax, Anne Fracassa, Mike Herrin, Janice Hintz, Theresa Hryshko, Betty Kell, Bernice Malinowski, Herb Marz, Gerry Penxa, Madeline Satwicz, Sr. Marilyn Schneider, Mary Ellen Servitto, Bernie Skibinski, Carol Smith, Betty Queen, Marie Vorkamp, Ray Zdonkiewicz and Carol Zwolinski.

Rally for Life

Each January, to memorialize the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, in cities all over this nation, large groups of proliferators gather to show their respect for human life.

Lifespan needs you, your family, your friends, your church and your organiza-

tions to help us send a powerful message to the people of metro Detroit. We must let it be known that the Pro-Life Movement is ALIVE and GROWING despite what the media says!

We cannot accomplish this through wishful thinking. It will only take one hour of your time, and it might save a life! Please pray for, and COME, to our next Rally for Life which will again be held at **Kennedy Square in downtown Detroit on Sunday, January 21, 1996, from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.**

Let's have as many people at the Rally as we had at Life Chain. Call us at (313) 874-0432 to let us know you're coming.

Detroit Chapter
5930 Woodward Ave.
Detroit, MI 48202-3516
(313) 874-0432

oakland

Office hours

M, Th, F 9-3; T, W 1-7
Diane Fagelman, Chairman
Theresa Koehler, Ofc. Mgr.
Clare Schneider, Secretary
Diane Trombley, Volunteers/
Fundraising

Educational series

Thank you to everyone who attended the Oakland Chapter's first Educational Series program which featured abortion survivors Betty and Sarah Smith on October 21 at Highland Park Baptist Church. The presentation was very moving and worthwhile.

November's program on Fetal Experimentation will be held on Nov. 18, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, at Spring Arbor College, 675 E. Big Beaver Rd., in Troy. It will be presented by Margaret

Spas, a prominent scientist and professor at Madonna University. The program will be sponsored by six churches in Troy. Try to attend and pass the word; it will be very educational and timely considering recent current events.

There are several other Educational Series attractions coming in the following months. We need your help to schedule and publicize these events; call (810) 816-1546 if you know of any public places to hold these programs.

Volunteer appreciation

Thank you to Amy Davis, who has been in the Oakland office many times in the past few weeks to help us with our filing! Also, thank you to Bob Mullen, who has added many miles to his vehicle over the past year, especially this summer, making many trips and deliveries for us to the other Lifespan offices and to fair booths and member's homes all over the county. Also, thank you to our many, many church representatives for selling Christmas cards.

New board members

Congratulations to our newest Oakland County Lifespan board members: Virginia Czarnecki and Judy Ward. Welcome aboard!

Our board meetings are held every third Wednesday of the month and are open to all members. The next one is scheduled for November 15, 7:00 p.m.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Diane Fagelman, Oakland County Chapter Chairman, for her recent distinguished honor of receiving the Peace and Justice Award on Oct. 19 from Madonna University for her outstanding work in the pro-life movement for over twenty-five years. Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication!

Oakland County Chapter
Coventry Place
1637 W. Big Beaver Rd., Suite G
Troy, MI 48084-3540
(810) 816-1546

News

Office hours

M-Th 10-4

Patricia Holscher, Chairman
Linda Kourmoian, Ofc. Mgr.

25th Anniversary

Lifespan is celebrating 25 years of saving lives. Over the years, we've become friends because we have shared the same ministry—to help those whose lives are threatened through abortion and euthanasia.

During this time, some of you have had to lessen your involvement in Lifespan because of personal or family commitments, but your interest and dedication have never faltered. You are important. You care.

AND... You are needed to make this celebration meaningful, for without YOU, our organization would not have survived 25 years of service in southeastern Michigan. Join old and new friends for this silver anniversary celebration. See front page for details.

Pro-Life speakers

Recently, I had the good fortune to hear Charles Kleinbrook, Esq., a Lifespan speaker, speak on euthanasia at St. Maurice Church in Livonia. His talk was so knowledgeable and well organized that the congregation applauded afterwards.

The office has received many compliments about Charles, and he is available upon request for any pro-life gatherings or meetings. We are proud to have him in our Speaker's Bureau. Mr.

Kleinbrook courageously resigned from the American Bar Association because of their abortion policy and now belongs to the National Lawyers Association, a pro-life organization. If any lawyers are interested in learning more about this organization, you may call the Lifespan office.

Pro-Life billboard

Call our office to become a team captain for the "Adopt a Billboard" Campaign. You can solicit donations and encourage others to do likewise so that with a combined effort, you may purchase the billboard for only \$100 for one day or \$700 for one week. Join the thousands of other pro-lifers who work so hard to protect unborn children. Call, and we'll help you get started. See page 2 for more information.

Missing link

We need a few new church reps and city coordinators. You may be the vital connection between your community and Lifespan. It doesn't take much time, and you can receive "on the job training" like most of us have. The rewards will be great. Call now to volunteer and be the "voice for the unborn."

Christmas cards

Our beautiful '95 Christmas cards may be purchased in our office or from a distributor nearest you. Call early so you don't miss getting your favorite selection.

Renewals

Letters are in the mail asking for your renewed commitment to the Right to Life movement through your membership in Lifespan. Please respond.

Wayne County, West and
Downriver Chapter
27578 Schoolcraft
Livonia, MI 48150-2203
(313) 422-6230

From the President's Desk

This month we are celebrating Lifespan's 25th anniversary. Rather, we are celebrating all of the people who have given their time, talents and money over this past quarter of a century in the belief that human life is sacred and must be protected. Being involved in the pro-life movement is not easy, it requires sacrifice and dedication. After all, we are not politically correct or a popular movement. It's easier to go door to door for the Humane Society than it is for the Right to Life.

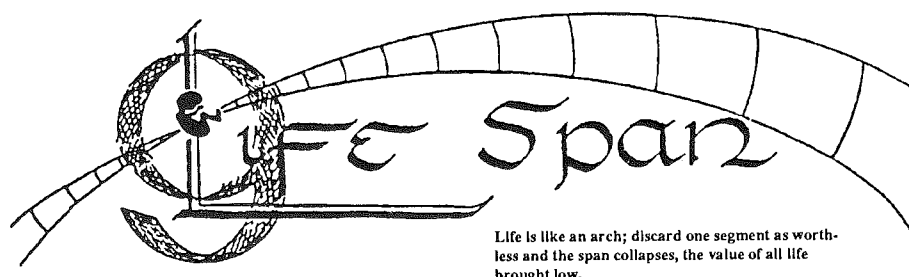
We are, however, called, sometimes even unwillingly like Jonah, to speak for those unable to speak for themselves. The truth must be told.

The *Roe v. Wade* decision was based on lies and deceit. Norma McCorvey, alias Jane Roe, said she was gang raped. That sounded a lot more important than the truth that her boy friend was the father of the baby she wanted to abort. The case went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court where seven judges with their own liberal agenda opened up the abortion floodgate that has killed over 33 million children.

There is a parable about a woman and a corrupt judge who gives into her demands because she is persistent. The parable doesn't say the woman was right or honest, just that she was persistent. We all know people like that, people who seem to get their way even if they lie and cheat, such as Norma McCorvey. They can always find a "corrupt judge" to give them what they want.

Yet pro-lifers are the most persistent people I know. Yes, it's true some get burned out, but the majority are in it for the long haul. And after 25 years, we need a little celebrating, for we are fighting the good fight, we will finish the course, we have kept the faith. And one day, the Just Judge will say, "welcome home, good and faithful servants."





Vol. 1, No. 5

October 1972

Via the pen

by Cathy Martin

At a meeting in 1971 I met Gloria Klein who had founded People Taking Action Against Abortion. She was utterly dedicated to the cause. She was seeking helpers for various tasks, and when she mentioned the need for a newsletter, I volunteered to be editor. My only qualifications were that I liked to write and that I wanted to educate via the pen. I had been a teacher, a college history major.

Having no journalism experience, the newsletter began for me as an attempt to reinvent the wheel. Unable to solicit much writing from my busy fellow activists, I did most of the writing myself. I named the paper *Lifespan*, inspired by the chalkboard visuals used by an ob/gyn, Dr. Richard Jaynes, pro-life speaker. He noted that life is like a bridge (or span), and destroying one segment as worthless (either young or old) causes the span to collapse and the value of all life to be brought low.

The design to convey this thought for the newsletter was drawn by sister artists at the Monastery of the Blessed Sacrament in Farmington Hills and became our paper's banner. The title later replaced PTAAA as the organization's name especially as we knew we were facing euthanasia legislation.

The political bug

by Marlene Elwell

In 1980 the National Right to Life Committee called Gloria Klein, remind-

ing her that the Republican Convention would meet in Detroit in July, and that it would be Michigan's responsibility to get some prolife language in the Republican platform. Gloria was pregnant with her sixth child, felt she couldn't do it, so she called me. I said "No" five or six times, and then gave in.

I had never been to a political convention—didn't watch them on TV (who has time to watch television?). It was March and the Convention was four months away. No one told me what to do. The National Committee gave me a few hundred dollars and I begged the rest.

I incorporated the effort as "The Pro-Life Impact Committee." We needed a downtown office in the worst way, but everything was taken. Someone found an old house in downtown Detroit—the front half of which was available. However, it turned out that the back half was a brothel. This would hardly do.

But then a lady (I don't know who she was) offered us a tiny office in the Book Building that she had rented but wasn't using. She also sent us a typist. The miracles were coming our way.

An aide of Jesse Helms wrote the language to go in the Republican platform. I called on 150 pro-life activists in the state for help. The job was to identify the attitudes of delegates coming to Detroit—especially those on the Platform Committee. Some of our workers polled the Michigan delegates. Then to one or two others I would assign a state to organize. We found one person in each state who was willing to carry the ball.

The secret was, don't give anyone a whole lot to do. Then they don't burn out, but they are playing a role in the

effort. By the time convention delegates arrived, we had one selected to introduce the language and another to second it.

There was the problem of getting the proposed language type set and printed, and I remember how, suddenly, it had to be ready tomorrow morning. I got our Lifespan printers (Pat and Bob Holscher) out of bed at 2:30 a.m. and picked up the piece at 5:30 a.m., to rush it downtown. Senator Helms said, "Who are these elves that work in the middle of the night?"

*There can be no doubt
that the question of abortion,
despite the complex nature
of its various issues,
is ultimately concerned with
equality of rights under the law.
While we recognize differing
views on this question among
Americans in general—and in
our own Party—we affirm our
support of a constitutional
amendment to restore protection
of the right to life for unborn
children. We also support the
Congressional efforts
to restrict the use of taxpayers'
dollars for abortion.
We protest the Supreme Court's
intrusion into the
family structure through its
denial of the parents' obligation
and right to guide
their minor children.
We will work for the
appointment of judges at all
levels of the judiciary who
respect traditional family values
and the sanctity of
innocent human life.*

**—Republican Party Platform
1980**

I was urged by my associates, and Dr. Willke of the National Committee, to drop the paragraph dealing with appointment of pro-life judges to the judiciary. They were afraid it would pull the rest down. I refused to drop it, and it passed. President Reagan stood on that platform plank and was faithful to it.



Margaret Joyce, Pat Nixon, Alice Radwick, Bob Holscher, Pat Holscher, Barb Schmid, Phyllis Sullivan, Pat Gleason, Diane Fagelman, Diane Trombley, Marge Moleck, Geri Burkett, Bob Ervin—October, 1981 Conference at Airport Hilton

And now...

Lifespan's original purpose—"to promote and enhance respect for life"—is still in place. It is time, on this 25th anniversary, to rededicate ourselves to that purpose. We need patience, courage, stamina to travel the entire route. Years ago, we sang an old song that proclaimed, "the best things in life are free." This is only partly true. Freedom is never free. Look at the Vietnam Memorial, Gettysburg, Flanders Fields. And the right to life is not free any more. We must win it back every day.

Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit Membership Form

Right to Life - Lifespan believes that human life has value in all stages of development from conception until natural death, and is committed to speaking on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves — the unborn, the aged, the incapacitated. Won't you please help in our struggle to preserve respect for human life? A contribution brings you the monthly newsletter as well as educational materials and special mailings.

_____ Annual Membership \$ 15.00
 _____ Student/Senior Member \$ 7.00

_____ Monthly pledge \$ _____
 _____ Century Club (\$100 & above) \$ _____
 _____ Other \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

City _____

Zip _____

Please detach at the dotted line and return to: Right to Life - Lifespan, 28200 Seven Mile Rd., #127, Livonia, MI 48152-3736.
 Donations are not tax-deductible.

HENRY J. HYDE

6TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1306

October 5, 1995

Ms. Ann R. Sands
President
Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit
28200 Seven Mile Road, #127
Livonia, Michigan 48152-3736

Dear Ms. Sands:

I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to the Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit on its 25th anniversary. Thank you for your support. Your efforts in support of the unborn is well noted.

It is the highest duty of society to protect its most helpless members, those who are voiceless and most vulnerable and might not measure up to someone else's definition of the quality of life. All human life is precious, and the law exists to protect the weak from the strong. Resistance to the tidal wave of abortion makes up the front line of the struggle for the future of America. Rest assured that I will continue to advance and support pro-life legislation, including an across the board ban on the use of federal funds for abortion.

So your activism is important. It is seen through the eyes of your friends and neighbors, who may well change their minds on this issue because of you and by the pro-life politicians you help elect.

I have often said that at the moment of judgement each one of us must stand before God. And at that moment, a terror will rip through our souls like nothing we can ever imagine. But I really think that those in the pro-life movement will not be alone. I believe there will be a chorus of voices that have never been heard in this world but are heard beautifully and clearly in the next world — and they, all the little aborted babies we fought to save, will plead for everyone who has been in this movement.

They will say to God, "Spare him, because he loved us," — and God will look at you and say not, "Did you succeed?" but, "Did you try?"

God bless you for trying. We may yet succeed.

Warmest Regards,


Henry Hyde

Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit
Wayne County, West/Downriver Chapter
27578 Schoolcraft Road
Livonia, MI 48150-2203



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