



## High School Senior Scholarship Contest

**Available to:** Graduating high school seniors who plan to attend college.

**Scholarship Amount:** Up to \$10,000 is available to be awarded between the applicants, at the discretion of the judging committee.

**Expectations:** Students must submit a written copy of an original speech (5-10 minutes in length) on the topic “Advancing Pro-Life Ideas to Next Generations: Goals and Strategies.”

Students must submit evidence of service hours logged in the cause of protecting human life. Students must submit one (1) recommendation letter describing individual commitment to some aspect of the DCRTL mission.

Please go to [www.dctrl.org/scholarships](http://www.dctrl.org/scholarships) for more information and to apply. The deadline to apply is Monday, February 26, 2024, at 11:59pm CST.

Finalists will be chosen by the quality of their written speech, as well as logged service hours, and the recommendation letter.

Finalists must be available to participate in a speech presentation at the DCRTL office on the morning of Saturday, March 30, 2024.

## Now Hiring! Outreach Coordinator

We are seeking a candidate who passionately wants to build a culture that protects the pre-born child, supports pregnant mothers, and advocates for the right to life for the disabled and elderly. We need an Outreach Coordinator to help us get our message out to the community. This is accomplished through a monthly newsletter to over 2,000 people, coordinating large and small events, running social media pages, setting up programs in the schools, connecting with key people in the community, and much more. No two days are the same. As one of the main people that our members and the general public will interact with, we are in search of someone who has strong interpersonal skills, while also working in a role that is results driven. The applicant must also have technology skills. As a small team, we also do the little things such as cleaning the office and keeping it organized. If you, or you know someone who desires to build a culture of Life in the Tri-state area, we would love to chat. You can apply by sending your resume and letter of introduction to Augustine Payne at [apayne@dctrl.org](mailto:apayne@dctrl.org). If you have any questions, you can email or call us at 563-556-5960.

# January 2024

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Published Monthly

### Office Personnel:

Augustine Payne  
*Executive Director*

Grace Van Petten  
*Outreach Associate  
(part-time)*

### Board of Directors:

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Colleen Myers  
Jessica Pennington  
Cassie Schetgen

### Contact Us:

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Dubuque, Iowa 52001  
(563) 556-5960  
dctrl@dctrl.org  
www.dctrl.org

### Office Hours:

Mon - Fri: 9am - 4pm  
Weekends: Closed

### Dyersville Office:

1657 15th Avenue S.E.  
Dyersville, Iowa 52040

Dubuque County Right to Life, Inc. is a non-profit, non-sectarian, education organization dedicated to preserving and fostering respect for human life from conception to natural death. We educate the public about the dangers of abortion, euthanasia and infanticide.

January 2024	
Monday, January 1	Happy New Year!
Tuesday, January 2	Office reopens at 12 noon and resumes normal schedule
Friday, January 5	Equipped for Life registration deadline for Tuesday course
Tuesday, January 9	Equipped for Life Course begins every Tuesday 9:45-11:15am DCRTL Office
Thursday, January 18	Board of Directors meeting
Friday, January 19	National March for Life
Thursday, January 25	Holy Hour - 7:00pm St. John the Baptist, Peosta
Monday, January 29	Equipped for Life refresher & practice. 6:00pm. Dinner included. Register by January 26

February 2024	
Thursday, February 15	Board of Directors meeting
Friday, February 16	Equipped for Life Refresher & practice. 9:30am. Coffee provided. Please register in advance.
Thursday, February 22	Holy Hour - 7:00pm St. John the Baptist, Peosta
Monday, February 26	Deadline to apply for the DCRTL High School Senior Scholarship. In-person 5:00pm CST, or online at 11:59pm CST



## Wish List Postage stamps



## A NOTE FROM AUGUSTINE PAYNE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Last month, I took a pause from writing on abortion after the 20th week (when most scientists agree that the child can feel pain) in order to provide thoughts on what happened in Ohio's ballot measure.

This month, we will cover Part 3 of abortions later in pregnancy and answer the question: Are abortions that happen later in pregnancy usually the result of a prenatal diagnosis, or the mother's life is at risk? All reporting is voluntary regarding abortion and is collected by the CDC and Guttmacher Institute (the research arm of Planned Parenthood) through surveys. What I will share with you today is answering the question through reviewing pro-choice/pro-abortion sources.

Back in 1997, Ron Fitzimmons stated in The New York Times article that abortions later in pregnancy were happening more than led to believe "on healthy women bearing healthy fetuses." In 1997, Ron Fitzimmons was serving as the executive director of the National Coalition of Abortion Providers.

Fast forwarding to 2013, there was a published study called Who Seeks Abortions at or After 20 Weeks? by abortion rights activists and university professors Diana Greene Foster and Katrina Kimport, which found no significant difference in the reasons people who are seeking abortion after 20 weeks.

Though it is ten years old, it is a well-cited study conducted by pro-abortion activists that refutes the claim that the abortion industry would like to promote, which is that abortion later in pregnancy only happens when the mother's life is at risk or there is something "wrong" with the baby.

Diana Greene Foster is also mentioned in a 2018 Congressional Research Service report stating she "believes that abortions for fetal anomaly 'make up a small minority of later abortion' and that those for life endangerment are even harder to characterize."

Earlier this year, a late-term abortionist out of Boulder, Colorado, Warren Hern, did an interview with The Atlantic. The article's author, Elaine Godfrey, states early in the article that "many women visit Hern's clinic do so because their health is at risk—or because their fetus has a serious abnormality." Assuming the author is stating this based on fact, this would be evidence to support the argument that abortions later in pregnancy only happen because of a prenatal diagnosis or that the mother's life is at risk.

If the reader continued reading the article, they would learn that the abortion provider, Hern, said that "at least half, and sometimes more, of the women who come to the clinic do not have these diagnoses." As we mentioned earlier, reporting is voluntary, and abortionist Hern doesn't care whether there is a diagnosis or not.

In Texas, there was a woman who was trying to challenge the Texas law because her child was diagnosed with Trisomy 18. Art covers that in more detail on page 5. I can't imagine how hard it is to receive a prenatal diagnosis. To have the excitement that you have another child but later to learn that your child is not healthy and will likely die soon, is a substantial burden to carry. We can acknowledge, and we must acknowledge that weight as pro-lifers who care about Mom, Dad, and Baby. We can sympathize with those in this situation and seek to help them in any way we can without agreeing with the idea that abortion is the solution to these tough cases. For those who have attended the Equipped for Life Course or Love3 seminar, you will recognize this as acknowledging common ground without agreeing to the solution.

*Continued on page 4*



# Executive Director's Note

Continued from page 3

If you have not attended either of these trainings in the past or would like to attend again to go deeper, what better way to start the New Year than by learning more about having productive conversations with pro-choice people?

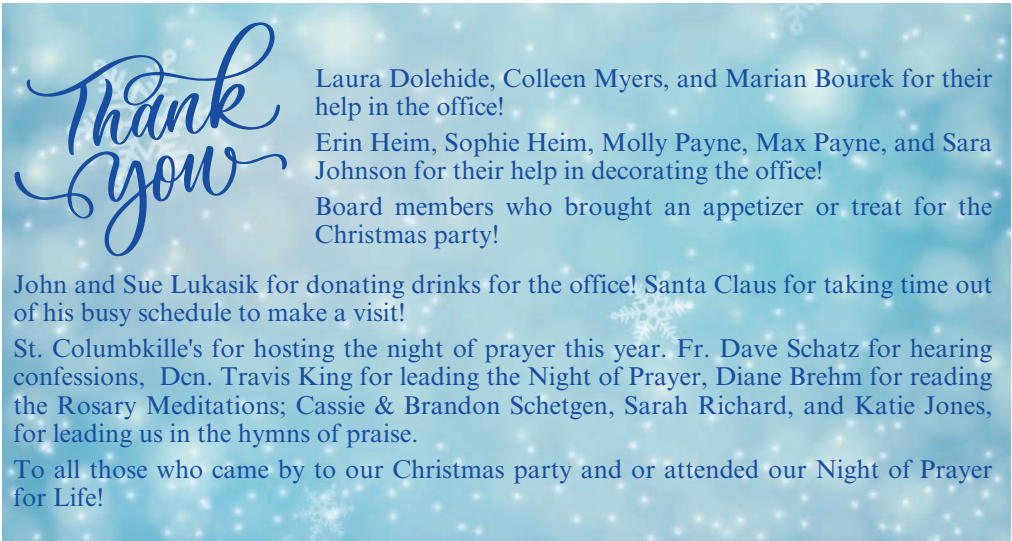
You can learn more about upcoming offerings on page 7. If these times are not good for you but you are interested in learning the material, please let me know. If the online format is best for you, I highly recommend JFA's (Justice For All) Love3.

As we conclude 2023, to all those who have been part of this mission, from reading this newsletter, to sharing the pro-life message with others, to donating your time and treasure, I thank you for all you have done.

I hope you had a great Christmas and have a happy and blessed 2024!

*Augustine Payne*

P.S. We are still seeking an Outreach Coordinator if you know anyone who is interested in working in the pro-life movement.



*Thank you*

Laura Dolehide, Colleen Myers, and Marian Bourek for their help in the office!  
 Erin Heim, Sophie Heim, Molly Payne, Max Payne, and Sara Johnson for their help in decorating the office!  
 Board members who brought an appetizer or treat for the Christmas party!

John and Sue Lukasik for donating drinks for the office! Santa Claus for taking time out of his busy schedule to make a visit!  
 St. Columbkille's for hosting the night of prayer this year. Fr. Dave Schatz for hearing confessions, Dcn. Travis King for leading the Night of Prayer, Diane Brehm for reading the Rosary Meditations; Cassie & Brandon Schetgen, Sarah Richard, and Katie Jones, for leading us in the hymns of praise.  
 To all those who came by to our Christmas party and or attended our Night of Prayer for Life!

## MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS



### *In Memory of:*

- Tony Boland.....Ed & Mary Kluesner
- Jim Golby.....Colleen Myers
- Kay Hughes.....Mike & Judy Meyer
- Sr. Lois Lehman.....Jack & Maria Smith
- Jim Ward.....Dr. Virgil & Marian Bourek

### *Memorial Christmas Tree:*

- Helen Beckett.....John Beckett

### *In Honor of:*

- Daniel, Emily, Olivia, Virginia, & Will.....Keith & Becky Krapfl
- Ironworkers 89.....Donald & Lucille Usher
- Grace VanPetten.....Catholic Daughters #1460



## PRO-LIFE COURT & LEGISLATION UPDATE

by Arthur F. Gilloon, DCRTL Board Member & Attorney



Dear friends of Life –

There's lots of news to talk about...

As you may have read, Senator Tommy Tuberville of Alabama gave up his fight to delay the confirmation of most of the Department of Defense military promotion nominees. He objected for nine months to group approval of the recommended promotions due to the military's insistence on subsidizing abortion-related travel for military personnel and their families. Tuberville rightly believed this defense policy flew in the face of the Hyde Amendment, which prohibits federal funds being used for abortions except in very limited circumstances. Unfortunately, it became clear recently that a Democrat proposal to make a one-time exception to Senate rules to override Tuberville had enough Republican support that it was going to pass if Tuberville did not alter his position. Tuberville released his hold on the promotion of over 400 officers but kept it in place for certain high-ranking officers. He had made his point, however, and continues to fight to protect unborn babies and women from abortion.

In court news, the U.S. Supreme Court on December 11, 2023, refused to hear the appeal of Debra Vitagliano, a 65-year-old occupational therapist and sidewalk counselor in White Plains, New York, who sued the county of Westchester after it passed a law prohibiting sidewalk counseling. The law created a "bubble zone" prohibiting pro-life counseling within 8 feet of a person who is within a 100-foot radius of any abortion clinic. The court may have declined to hear the case because in August, 2023, Westchester County repealed the "bubble zone" portion of the law. Vitagliano asked the court to still consider her lawsuit because it was an opportunity for the court to overrule a 2000 Colorado "bubble zone" case that erroneously failed to consider the first amendment rights of sidewalk counselors. A different case in the future may give the US Supreme Court the opportunity to do so. Read more about Debra's case at this link.

<https://www.reuters.com/legal/us-supreme-court-declines-chance-restrict-abortion-clinic-bubble-zones-2023-12-11/>

Read more about the 2000 Colorado bubble zone case at this link.  
<https://www.oyez.org/cases/1999/98-1856>

In other U.S. Supreme Court news, the court has agreed to hear the Biden administration's appeal of a lower court ruling that puts restrictions on the FDA's approval of the chemical abortion drug mifepristone. Four pro-life doctors have sued the FDA arguing that the FDA's approval of mifepristone in 2000 was unlawful, disregarded or did not fully test for the drug's dangers, and used an approval process that violated the FDA's own internal rules. A lower federal appeals court has put on hold any changes to the FDA's current approval of the pills, which governs the age when a baby can be killed and whether the pills can be distributed by mail and/or without an in-person doctor visit. The United States Supreme Court will review the entire case and issue a decision regarding the regulation of the abortion pills sometime in 2024.

In state news, numerous recent news reports have falsely claimed that the Texas Supreme Court overruled a doctor's opinion that an abortion was necessary to save a mother's life, forcing the woman to leave the state of Texas to obtain an abortion of her unborn child, who was diagnosed with trisomy 18. This is not true. Texas law has an exception that allows abortion to save the life of the mother. The doctor never opined that the mother's life was in danger. The lawsuit was a sham attempt to somehow show that the mother was forced to flee Texas for an abortion. That is a lie. To read the court's actual decision, go to this link.

<https://www.txcourts.gov/media/1457645/230994pc.pdf>



There are lots of other things going on in the state courts out west. The Arizona Supreme Court is determining whether a 1964 total protection law should apply or whether a more recent 15-week law should apply to abortions. The New Mexico Supreme Court is being asked by pro-abortion lawyers to nullify county and city ordinances that protect unborn children and their mothers from abortion and counteract New Mexico's state abortion on demand policy. In Wyoming and Idaho, the state supreme courts are being asked to loosen their pro-life state abortion laws. So the fight continues, and it makes a huge difference in these states whether the state's attorney general and legislature are pro-life or not.

Finally, attorneys general in South Dakota, Arkansas, and Florida have all nixed pro-abortion proposals for constitutional ballot initiatives in those states. These three pro-life attorneys general found that the language used in the proposed ballot was misleading. You can read about it at this link:

<https://www.foxnews.com/politics/red-state-ags-move-block-abortion-ballot-language-pro-life-group-says-deceptive-goes-farther-than-roe>

I'll close with some good news. In our neighboring state of Illinois, pro-abortion Senate Bill 1909 was passed by the Illinois legislature and signed by the governor last year. SB 1909 accused pro-life pregnancy centers of using so-called "deceptive business practices" simply because they provide accurate information about alternatives to abortion. The bill gave the attorney general of Illinois the power to fine them and shut them down. But a well-respected Illinois judge halted the law, saying it was "both stupid and very likely unconstitutional." The good news now is that the attorney general of the state of Illinois has announced he will not appeal the judge's ruling. That means SB 1909 is dead and buried, and pro-life pregnancy centers in Illinois are alive and well!

As always, please keep reading and watching for pro-life court and legislative news in this column, and in the newspaper, on the Internet, and on TV. It is our duty to stay informed, and DCRTL is here to help.

Arthur F. Gilloon

### **Going South for the winter??**

Please contact the DCRTL office ([reception@dcrtl.org](mailto:reception@dcrtl.org); 563-556-5960) with your winter address and the dates during which you will be gone. You may choose to have us discontinue the monthly newsletters or have them sent to your winter address. We can also make sure you receive it via email!



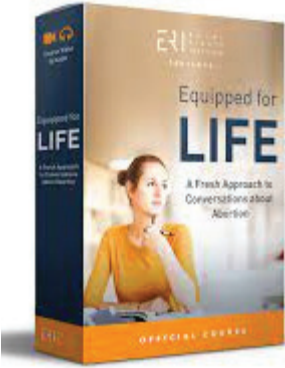
### **Ambassadors for Life**



The Ambassadors for Life was started by Dubuque County Right To Life, Inc. (DCRTL) to get high school students involved in the pro-life cause and give them an opportunity to gain leadership experience that they will take with them and build upon for the rest of their lives. If you are a high school student who is pro-life and wants to make an impact, join us.

Ambassadors for Life will meet once a month on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 6:15pm to 8pm, with dinner provided. The Ambassadors for Life three pillars are Activism, Formation, and Fun. By participating in The Ambassadors for Life, you will not only be helping build a culture that respects LIFE, but with the experience you will also have things you can talk about in future job, college, and scholarship applications. If you are interested, or want to learn more, contact Augustine Payne at [apayne@dcrtl.org](mailto:apayne@dcrtl.org) or 563-556-5960.

## Equipped for Life Course



The Equipped for Life Course provides a fresh approach to the dialogue about abortion. Equal Rights Institute developed this method from thousands of conversations with pro-choice people. We want to continue to introduce this approach to our members. The seminar will help you have charitable dialogues with anyone regardless of their religious or political beliefs.

Each meeting will include learning the topic of the day, time for discussion, and practicing with fellow pro-lifers. If you can't attend a certain day during the course, we have a plan for you. The topics we will cover are: Habits of Highly Ineffective Pro-Lifers, Practical Dialogue Tips, Trot Out a Toddler, The Biological Case for the Unborn, The Philosophical Case for the Unborn, The Question of Rape, and Bodily Rights Arguments.

This is FREE and kids are welcome.

### Upcoming training sessions are:

- Every Tuesday - January 9th - February 20th - 9:45am -11:15am (7 sessions)
- Two Saturdays - March 2nd & 9th - 9am - 1pm (2 sessions - Lunch is provided)

## Equipped for Life Refresher and Practice

Several people have attended our Equipped for Life training seminar. Most times, people would like more practice time and or discussion time to go deeper on a particular topic. Below are times that we will be offering a refresher where we will discuss YOUR questions and or practice the topics of YOUR choosing. If you have any questions on what this will look like, please reach out to us.

- **Monday, January 29th** – 6:00pm – 7:30pm - Dinner will be included.  
*Please register by January 26th.*
- **Friday, February 16th** – 9:30am – 11am – Coffee will be provided.  
*Please register ahead of time.*
- **Thursday, March 7th** – 12pm – 1:30pm – Lunch will be provided.  
*Please register by March 6th.*



**MARCH for LIFE**

This year, DCRTL is not hosting a trip to the March for Life in Washington DC in January. Instead of the trip in January, we plan to host a bus trip in June for the Celebration for Life Rally in Washington D.C. on June 22nd.

The plan is to experience the Celebration for Life Rally prior to making plans for future years on whether to attend the March for Life in January. We are currently arranging informational meetings in mid-February for those who are interested in attending. Stay tuned for those dates and more information in our February Newsletter.

Note: The Iowa State March for Life in Des Moines is also happening on June 22nd. We will have a bus to go there as well.



## Memorial for the Unborn

You may recall that one of our projects for 2023 was adding a Memorial Stone to the Memorial Garden at Mt. Olivet Cemetery (Dubuque, IA) where people can name those who have passed away through miscarriage, stillbirth, or abortion. Our unveiling date was going to be in April 2024, but due to some backlog in shipping we will probably be unveiling in September 2024.

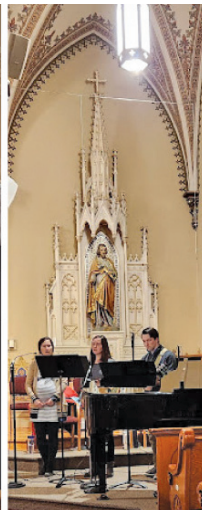
This memorial is dedicated to the memory of our children who are gone too soon. Many parents are unable to hold a memorial service or funeral, and this is a way of remembering them. While our children did not have the opportunity to grow up and explore their endless possibilities, their brief lives made an incredible impact. We as parents join together to remember and celebrate the precious lives of our children.

The stone will be a black granite with simple plaques to honor and preserve the memories of our babies lost to abortion, miscarriage, and stillbirth. It serves to enhance this peaceful sanctuary where mothers, fathers, and other family members may dignify their beloved babies. This garden provides encouragement along with associated peace and healing dedicated to generations who have suffered pain with the loss of a child.



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Jeremiah 1:5*

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