

TEACHERS SAVING CHILDREN® of Pennsylvania, Inc.

A Voice for LIFE in Education

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A Word from Robin Ross Executive Director

Following a car recently, I read the license plate; instead of the usual Pennsylvania designation, it had "Choose Life." I thought, yes, choose life, but also choose truth. How appropriate in light of the political rhetoric we hear now. May we be quick to discern truth from lies and to see genuine integrity in those who are seeking our vote.

What an excellent yardstick to measure a candidate's worth. Does he advocate choosing life? Does he speak the truth? Does his life reflect integrity? In contrast, I recently read in the September 2008 *PSEA-Retired Statement* an article which stated, "We are duty-bound to listen to the (PACE) rationale, put personal issues aside and then follow their lead." (PACE is an acronym for Political Action Committee for Education, a fund of the Pennsylvania State Education Association.)

I respectfully disagree. Instead of blindly following PACE board members' suggestions, I advocate voting for candidates who choose life!



Think About Your Vote!

In a thought-provoking newspaper editorial, Steve Cornell proposes that we think not only about *who* we plan to vote for in the coming presidential election, but also *why*. Cornell writes, ". . . responses to the campaigns have been distinguished for their absence of thoughtful and honest analysis. A renewed cultural commitment to thinking is badly needed."

Steve points out that feelings are dominating our reactions to the presidential candidates. Referring to influences such as media sound bites and opinion polls he states, "When substance is lost in superficiality, people become dangerously gullible. Think for yourself. Do your own homework," and, "Let's research these predictions instead of emotionally reacting to them. Look beyond hype to the facts."

Voting for our country's leaders is indeed both a privilege and a responsibility. Please vote, but we urge you to look closely at the candidates' positions on issues related to the protection of life and other social considerations which are of vital importance to us as a society. As you are aware, the next president will likely appoint some new Supreme Court Justices which could well impact pro-life issues. Please be an informed voter. As Steve Cornell points out, ". . . we need good leadership in this difficult, complex and dangerous world." (Adapted from "Beware the Political Frenzy," *Lancaster Sunday News* 9-14-08. Used with permission.)



PACE and You Jeff Remington, Asst. Executive Director

The Political Action Committee for Education (PACE) is the Pennsylvania Education's (PSEA) political action fund. Money contributed to this fund goes toward lobbying and other political activities of the PSEA and National Education Association (NEA). Your local association will ask members to contribute to PACE early in the school year. In so doing, you may be supporting the pro-choice position. If you feel as though you do not want to contribute to PACE because of the NEA-PSEA's position favoring abortion, you may decline your PACE contribution and submit a letter of explanation such as the following:

Dear PSEA/NEA:

I respectfully decline to contribute to PACE due to the NEA/PSEA stance on abortion as evidenced by NEA policy and past practices stated below:

New Business Item 1990-65

"NEA will oppose any legislation which will erode the status of Roe v. Wade and or which impedes access of choice. . ."

Resolution I-15

"NEA supports. . . reproductive freedom."

Hospitality Center for Reproductive Freedom

- *The NEA headquarters in Washington has been a hospitality center for those participating in reproductive freedom protests in the past.*
- *Some NEA state associations have sponsored transportation to such events.*
- *NEA has a history of backing political candidates that are strong opponents of pro-life issues.*

Respectfully,
(Your signature)

The first *NEA Today* issue of the school year always has an application for the position of delegate to the summer NEA Representative Assembly, the legislative body of the NEA. If you want to make a difference in changing NEA policies, a good place to start is in becoming an NEA-RA delegate. Please consider becoming a delegate.



Making the Case for Life

Not only does Scott Klusendorf have pro-life views, he also knows how to explain and defend those views. . .and he suggests that we give some thought to this matter, as well. He recommends three steps for rationally and simply speaking to the abortion issue and, at the same time, explaining our pro-life point of view.

Clarify the issue. Many people think the abortion issue is hopelessly complex. Pro-life advocates contend that elective abortion unjustly takes the life of a defenseless human being. This helps to simplify the abortion controversy by focusing on just one question: Is the unborn a member of the human family? If so, aborting him or her to benefit others is a serious moral wrong, treating that human being as a disposable object.

Arguments based on “choice” miss the point entirely, Mr. Klusendorf points out. However, he advises that we remind pro-life critics that we are vigorously pro-choice when it comes to women making a variety of choices. We support a woman’s right to choose her own doctor, to choose her own husband, to choose her own job, and to choose her own religion, to name a few. But some choices are wrong – like killing innocent human beings simply because they are an inconvenience and cannot defend themselves.

Defend your pro-life position with science and philosophy. Scientifically, we know that from the earliest stages of development, the unborn are distinct, living, and whole human beings. Scott relates that Dr. Alan Guttmacher, former Planned Parenthood president, prior to his abortion advocacy was perplexed that anyone, especially a medical doctor, would

question this. He wrote in his book, *Life in the Making*, “This all seems so simple and evident that it is difficult to picture a time when it wasn’t part of the common knowledge.”

Challenge your listeners to be intellectually honest. For example, when critics say that it is birth that makes the unborn human, ask, “How does a mere change of location from inside to the outside of the womb change the essential nature of the unborn?” Some people will ignore the scientific and philosophic case you present for your pro-life view and argue for abortion based on self-interest. Remind them that if we care about the truth, we will embrace the facts, even at the cost of our own self-interest.

(This article has been adapted from “The 5-Minute Pro-Lifer.” Scott Klusendorf is President of Life Training Institute. His essays can be found at www.prolifetraining.com and www.caseforlife.com.)



A Re-introduction

Our newest board member is Pat Bartow. If her name sounds familiar, it’s because she was introduced in February 2004 as our newsletter editor for Teachers Saving Children® of Pennsylvania. Pat lives in Lancaster County, PA. She and her husband, John (a retired teacher), have a daughter and an “honorary” son whom they informally adopted when he was a teenager. John and Pat find great pleasure in grand-parenting three grandsons and one granddaughter, two of whom are adopted.

Pat’s professional experiences include working as a registered nurse and teaching in Lancaster General Hospital School of Nursing before she transitioned to working as a middle school counselor, which she did for 23 years. She is also a licensed psychologist and has worked in that discipline most recently.

The article, “Our Journey to Adoption,” in our October 2006 newsletter was the story of the Bartow’s daughter, Renee Harnish. That experience confirmed Pat’s dedication to the pro-life position. Becoming actively involved in Teachers Saving Children®, Pat says, gives her an opportunity to concretely express that commitment.



The Rest of the Story

In his January 2008 newsletter, psychologist Dr. James Dobson speaks to the fallacy of the thinking that legalized abortion somehow results in better lives for women. The facts tell a very different story, he relates. He is of the opinion that what many have touted as the ultimate expression of women’s rights has actually victimized women, and he supports his opinion with research findings.

The American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists conducted an in-depth study in July 2007 titled, "Long-Term Complications Associated with Induced Abortion." It contains extensive research demonstrating the negative physical and emotional effects of abortion. Their study report opens with this statement: "We are aware of no studies that demonstrate a better mental or physical health outcome for aborted women, compared to those who choose to deliver. On the contrary, there is ample evidence that induced abortion in many cases is associated with significant degradation of emotional health, physical health and reproductive health."

In his newsletter, Dr. Dobson cites additional studies that verify physical and emotional difficulties for post-abortion women. Sadly, he points out, "The facts are buried or ignored and we are told that the right to an abortion is the hallmark of female empowerment."

A more positive observation cited by Dr. Dobson is that public opinion polls continue to show that the American people are increasingly embracing a pro-life perspective. The use of ultrasound technology in Pregnancy Resource Centers nationwide has led to a dramatic increase in the number of women who choose to deliver their babies. (Dr. James Dobson is Founder and Chairman of Focus on the Family, www.focusonthefamily.com and www.fotf.org.)



**Board Members Help Show
"The Wonder of Life"**

Board members Julie Myers and Jeff Remington (pictured above) helped staff "The Wonder of Life" booth at the 2008 National Education Association Expo in Washington, DC, in July. Joining Teachers Saving Children® National executive director, board members, and other volunteers from across the nation, Julie and Jeff helped raise awareness of the wonder of human life. Free educational materials such as books, posters, and DVDs were given to interested educators. Many visitors to the booth expressed appreciation for our continued presence at the annual summer Expos. If you would like to contribute, volunteer, or find out more about "The Wonder of Life" exhibit, please contact Connie Bancroft, Executive Director of Teachers Saving Children® National at tsc-life@juno.com.

The Pennsylvania Board of Trustees met on September 20 in Lewisburg. We dealt with several important issues. We passed a 2008-2009 budget, and we changed our Constitution and Bylaws to reduce board size from seven to five. We installed the following officers at our May 2008 meeting:

- Robin Ross, Executive Director
- Jeff Remington, Assistant Executive Director
- Julie Myers, Secretary
- Patricia Yamrick, Treasurer

Robin Ross will attend the National Board meeting in October in Columbus, Ohio.

**Financial Report
Teachers Saving Children® of Pennsylvania
September 1, 2007 – August 31, 2008**

Balance September 1, 2007		\$1161.71
Receipts:	\$779.50	
		1941.21
Disbursements:		
Administrative Expenses	420.81	
Postage	43.03	
Public Relations		
Newsletter	125.00	
Miscellaneous		
Donation, TSC-Nat'l.	100.00	
		688.84
Balance August 31, 2008		\$1252.37



**Budget
September 1, 2008 – August 31, 2009**

Beginning Balance:		\$1252.00
Expected Revenues:	\$1200.00	\$2452.00
Expected Expenses:		
Rent	\$100.00	
Travel	200.00	
Postage	75.00	
Newsletter printing	150.00	
Accounting	150.00	
Supplies	100.00	
Reserve	1677.00	\$2452.00

Are you aware of **Pray the Vote 2008**? Check it out even at this late date at www.PrayTheVote2008.com.

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A VOICE FOR LIFE IN EDUCATION



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Prayer Calendar

Sunday: Ask the Lord to give us the same determination as Joshua had when he declared, “But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.” (Joshua 24:15)

Monday: “Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (John 8:32) Pray for the knowledge of the truth and to have the courage to act on it.

Tuesday: Pray Asa’s prayer, “LORD, there is no one like you to help the powerless against the mighty. Help us, O LORD our God, for we rely on you. (II Chronicles 14:11)

Wednesday: Ask that many will choose life. “Now choose life so that you and your children may live.” (Deuteronomy 30:19)

Thursday: Rejoice that we can “Be confident of this, that He Who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion.” (Philippians 1:6)

Friday: Pray that we may trust in the Lord with all our heart and not lean to our own understanding. May we always look to the Lord and trust Him to lead us. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Saturday: Ask the LORD to increase our membership so that we can be a strong VOICE FOR LIFE!

TEACHERS SAVING CHILDREN® of PA, INC. BOARD OF TRUSTEES

If you have questions regarding Teachers Saving Children® of Pennsylvania, Inc., or concerns for the attention of the board, please call the board member that lives nearest to your area.

Robin Ross (Exec. Director), York County	717-292-2021
Patricia Bartow, Lancaster County	717-872-7283
Patricia Brock, Elk County	814-834-6976
Julie Myers, York County	unpublished
Jeff Remington, Lebanon County	717-838-7538
Patricia Yamrick, Indiana County	724-349-7489

This newsletter is a publication of
Teachers Saving Children® of Pennsylvania, Inc.

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Pat Bartow, Newsletter Editor

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