



Teachers Saving Children® Inc.

Pro-Life Voices in Education..

Volume 27, Number 4

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August 2017

IMPORTANT NOTE: This issue is being sent to all members as well as to anyone who has ever expressed an interest in Teachers Saving Children®



THOUGHTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Connie Bancroft

“The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and He delights in His way.” -Psalm 37:23 (NKJV)

It has been exciting to watch the Lord move in and through this small entity. It has also been exciting to see His hand in guiding this organization to influence hearts and lives across this nation. God has not called us to be successful, but obedient and faithful to that which He has called us to do. The results are in His hands. Thus, what a blessing it has been – not only to serve, but also to connect with wonderful people from across the nation.

It is now time to say my good-byes and officially transition the leadership to a new team of officers. Please support the new leadership that God is putting into place as the work of this organization continues moving forward. Please support them with your prayers, ideas, and financial support.

Thank you for your respectful support and for allowing me the opportunity to serve as the Executive Director. It has been a blessing that I will always treasure. May the Lord’s blessing be upon each of you as you continue to unite with the many “Pro-Life Voices in Education...”

THOUGHTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ELECT

Frank Ebiner



“Trust in the Lord forever! For the Lord is an eternal Rock.”
-Isaiah 26:4

Trust is a quality that allows us to do things which otherwise would be stymied by fear or uncertainty. And so it is with our transition in our Executive Director for Teachers Saving Children®. Our long-time Executive Director, Connie

Bancroft, as you are well aware, will be leaving her position on August 31st. There is not enough space here to describe all the kindness, guidance, and love Connie has shown to all with whom she encounters. She has a passion to be a voice for the most vulnerable in our society.

As teachers, we entered the profession to make a positive difference in the lives of our students. All of us, whether in education or another profession, realize that some of those in our society are more vulnerable in life, and the pressures of living, than others. Connie has been steadfast in her support and devotion to speaking the truth as our Executive Director for the past 27 years.

At our June 17th Board of Trustees meeting, I was asked to follow Connie as Executive Director of Teachers Saving Children® upon the expiration of her current term on August 31st. I am absolutely aware of the big shoes I will have to fill. Connie will continue to advocate for the dignity of all human life from conception to natural death. Please pray for me, all of our members, and all whom we meet that we may be a light of truth and mercy so that God’s love can shine through us and our ministry will open the hearts of those whom we encounter. *“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”* –John 1:5

So, one might wonder, is Teachers Saving Children® going to change, now that there is a new Executive Director? First, I would say that I have Connie’s phone number on speed dial. She has generously offered to mentor me as the need arises. Our mission remains the same. We are the role models in our classrooms and communities. We witness to the truth of the gift of life. In the classroom, we can infuse the pro-life message within the context of our lessons. In our communities we can live the pro-life message in how we treat others, demonstrating patience, kindness, and selflessness to others, especially the weak and vulnerable in our homes and communities. In the classroom, we can demonstrate the pro-life message in how we treat our students, particularly the struggling and special needs students. Outside the classroom we can spread the pro-life message through prayer and active participation in ministries through our churches.

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IMPORTANT – PLEASE NOTE:

The address and phone number for Teachers Saving Children® will remain the same!!!!

THE BATTLE IS NOT OVER!

2017 National Education Association Representative Assembly (NEA-RA)

Boston, Massachusetts July 2-5, 2017

By Frank Ebner

“Though I walk in the midst of dangers, you guard my life when my enemies rage. You stretch out your hand; your right hand saves me.” –Psalm 138:7

The annual National Education Association Representative Assembly (NEA-RA) was held this year in Boston during the Independence Holiday week, July 2nd through July 5th. Teachers Saving Children® did not participate in the NEA Expo this year, but I attended the event as a first-time delegate from California. I had never attended any NEA-RA, so I traveled to Boston with hopes of learning how policy is determined by the largest teachers’ union in the United States.

I learned a number of things beginning with my arrival on June 30th to commence caucus meetings for the California delegation. A small portion of the 4 days of the NEA-RA were spent voting on amendments to the NEA Constitution and Resolutions. Constitution amendments were voted on by secret ballot. Another small portion of the 4 days this year were for election of officers (President, Vice-President, etc.). The vast majority of the time was spent on introduction, debate, and voting on *New Business Items (NBI’s)*. Virtually all the votes are voice votes (most voices/loudest voices win). If the voice vote is inconclusive, then delegates are asked to stand, first in favor, then opposed; if still inconclusive, a roll call vote is made. This year no roll call vote was taken for any NBI.

First, let me say, that I am a firm believer that teachers are good at heart. The approximately 7,000 teachers who were delegates this year represent virtually every region of our nation from all fifty states. I wondered how well the votes cast by delegates represented the views of teachers back in their home region.

The vast majority of NBI’s were, in my humble opinion, obvious ideological items with minimal relevance to the average education professional. There were 159 NBI’s this year. NBI 44, for example, was a relatively rare general educational NBI in that it advocated for greater implementation of Career Technical Education-Vocational /Trade Programs for students. Other NBI’s included wording such as “climate justice”, “affirming gender diversity”, “death blow to Trump’s executive order”, “institutional racism”, “illegal occupation of the United States in the Hawaiian Kingdom”, etc. As the days went by, less time was devoted to debating each NBI due to the lack of remaining time for the RA. Most NBI’s, nevertheless, were passed.

Amendment 6 to NEA’s Resolutions “I-24 Family Planning” specifically dealt with the pro-life issue. The amendment which was adopted, added wording to section I-24, supporting continued funding of family planning facilities, including Planned Parenthood, which profits from abortions and abortion referrals.

Even though Teachers Saving Children® did not have an exhibit table this year at the NEA Expo, I did engage in conversations with a variety of caucuses, exhibitors, and vendors. I handed out Teacher Saving Children® business cards to interested teachers and vendors. Christine Nowak from the Educators for Life caucus was a positive presence throughout the NEA Expo and NEA-RA. It is possible that we will collaborate with her caucus in the future.

If you are a union member, I encourage you to speak with your union representative(s). Find out how they voted, and share with them any concerns you have regarding future NEA-RA agenda items. In so doing, YOU can be a “A Voice for Life in Education.”

“WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT!”

Connie Bancroft’s first leadership position in Teachers Saving Children® was as coordinator of the Ohio affiliate when it was formed in 1991. She became the National Executive Director when leadership passed from the founder, Bob Pawson, in 1994. Since then, Connie has modeled a Christ-like heart of service and dedication for those who have served along with her on the Board of Trustees. Her knowledge, organization, and attention to details have been a large part of the success of this organization. She set a high bar of excellence for all of us as we seek to serve the Lord and impact our profession with life-affirming love in action.

In her final report to the Board as she stepped down from the position, Connie described “the blessing it has been to me personally to serve”, including “a very small portion of the impact this organization has had on so many lives.” She stated that “God has used this ministry in a mighty way. It has always been His ministry.”

The photo at left shows long-time Board member Gary Winney presenting Connie with a commemorative plaque and clock in appreciation for her over twenty-five years of service. If you would like to honor Connie’s years of service, please consider making a contribution to either the General Fund or the Educational Outreach Fund when you renew your membership.



MEET THE NEW BOARD MEMBER



Jan Luke was born and raised in LaSalle, Illinois. She received her Associate of Arts degree from Illinois Valley Community College. She then attended the University of Northern Colorado and completed a Bachelor's degree in Speech-Language Pathology. She furthered her education in Speech Pathology while attending Illinois State University. She received her Master of Education degree from Ashland University.

Jan worked as a Speech-Language Pathologist for the Stark County Board of MRDD for three years. She was employed by Marlinton School District as a Speech-Language Pathologist for 22 years. Jan has also been an Independent Provider to many people (multiple handicapped, stroke patients, people involved in accidents) for 25 years.

Over the years, Jan has been involved in Evangelism Explosion (E.E.) Ministry. This ministry trains people to share the Gospel in a simple-to-understand manner that emphasizes the basic Gospel message. After her own training, Jan became a Trainer and has provided E.E. training in several local churches. She also started and taught the Discipleship Training to follow-up the people that commit their life to the Lord through E.E. Jan has been involved in Vacation Bible School in churches that she has attended.

Jan has been a member of S.I.G.N. (Signing in God's Name) Ministry for 11 years (since its inception). This is a Sign Language Choir that ministers in churches, nursing homes, and at special events. Mission trips to New York, Virginia, and Southern Ohio have enabled the choir to minister to a variety of audiences.

Jan has four married children and seven precious grandchildren. Jan's heart is for the unborn. She has always believed that life starts at conception. She has supported the National Right to Life and Teachers Saving Children[®] for many years. She has attended the March for Life two years. She has helped with the Teachers Saving Children[®] exhibit at two NEA Expo and at the most recent Students for Life of America East Coast Conference in January 2017.

JUNE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

The Teachers Saving Children[®] National Board of Trustees met in Uniontown, Ohio on June 17, 2017 for their regularly scheduled Summer meeting. The following are highlights of the meeting:

1. A **candidate for the Board**, Jan Luke, was interviewed at the meeting. Mrs. Luke was unanimously elected to serve as an at-large member of the Board.
2. The **resignations of John Saxe and Ruth Boyatt** from the Board of Trustees were regrettably accepted, effective August 31, 2017. Each had cited personal reasons for the need to resign. It was noted that the Board must find at least one more member by September 1st to meet the requirements of its Constitution and Bylaws.
3. A **financial report** dated May 31, 2017 was presented. The current general balance was \$869.98; the balance in the "Educational Outreach" fund was \$1064.47.
4. The Board of Trustees approved a **change in the organization's Constitution & Bylaws** to modify the end-of-year financial review procedures used in order to significantly cut costs. Several minor **changes to the Corporation's stated Policies and Procedures** were made to reflect the dates of newsletters and the elimination of State Affiliates.
5. Following the Executive Director's Report of Activities, **Connie Bancroft was recognized** and thanked for her many years of faithfully serving in the position of Executive Director.
6. **Election of officers** for fiscal year 2017-2018 was held: Frank Ebner will serve as the Executive Director; Charles Hlavaty Jr will serve as the Assistant Executive Director; John Gordon will serve as Secretary; Gary Winney will serve as Treasurer. Several appointments were made: Greg Roth accepted the position of Membership Chairman; and Jan Luke accepted the position of Chair of the Educational Outreach Committee.
7. The **Fall Board of Trustees meeting** is planned for Saturday, October 7, 2017 with an alternate date of Saturday, October 21, 2017. The location is tentatively scheduled to be Canton, OH. All members of Teachers Saving Children[®] are invited to attend. If interested in attending, please contact the National Office for details.



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Pro-Life Voices in Education...

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Gratitude and thankfulness are two words which can drive the decisions we make every day. Students often ask me, “Mr. Ebner, how are you today?” My usual reply is, “Every day is a gift.” We can choose to complain or we can choose to be thankful for the gifts we are given, for we entered this world with nothing. Everything we have is a gift from God. Being grateful and thankful for our many blessings is good for our spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being.

I will need help, of course, in leading Teachers Saving Children® with you. I ask of you three things: (1) please email your suggestions, thoughts, and comments to info@teacherssavingchildren.org, or call (330) 821-2747 (the phone number will remain the same until further notice). If you have a pro-life story that you would like to share in future newsletters or email blasts, please do share it with me; (2) Let others know about Teachers Saving Children® and the fact that there are, indeed, pro-life public school teachers; and (3) keep us in your prayers as you pray for the unborn, and all who are vulnerable who need our voices for their lives.

In the upcoming year, let me know about pro-life events in your community. Participate. Let me know how things went. Teachers Saving Children® plans on expanding our visibility in more events throughout the country. If you would like to be one of our ambassadors at an upcoming pro-life/respect life event, please let me know.

I look forward to being your new Executive Director and walking together in our life journeys as we advocate for the sanctity of human life.

“STRENGTH IN NUMBERS”

According to a report dated May 31, 2017, membership in Teachers Saving Children® was 263, which was 16 higher than last year. While this growth is encouraging, we need to expand our ranks for our organization to flourish. We especially need to recruit younger persons.

We pray that you will renew your membership for the 2017-2018 year. Current members should have received a letter with a renewal form in early June. You should also have received a membership form as an insert in this newsletter. Please consider sharing the insert with someone you know who might be interested in joining our organization. **Perhaps you might consider using the \$15 coupon to give a first-time membership to that person.**

Thank you for your continued support in being one of the many “Pro-Life Voices in Education.”

This newsletter is published by Teachers Saving Children® Inc.
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Connie Bancroft, Executive Director
Frank Ebner, Executive Director Elect

National Board of Trustees:
Ruth Boyatt * Judy Bruns * John Gordon * Charles Hlavaty
Jan Luke * Greg Roth * John Saxe * Gary Winney

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