



December 2011



A Word From the State Director Choose Life!

I just did it! I bought my “Choose Life” specialty car license tag. Since 1999 CWA has been working with Texas legislators to pass legislation establishing this benefit to adoption costs. Not until the recent 82nd Session did lawmakers sense the urgency to provide this help for pregnancy resource centers, maternity homes, and adoption agencies who assist pregnant women considering adoption rather than abortion. The plate costs \$30 yearly in addition to your regular

registration fee. Of that, \$22 goes directly to the Office of the Attorney General who will distribute the funds to qualified organizations. The \$8 covers state and county administrative costs. Wherever I drive now, people will know that I support life!

You can do this, too! You may go to your county office of the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles and place your order. The plates will arrive at that office approximately 30 days later,

and they will call you to pick them up. At that time your current registration fee will be pro-rated, and you will pay the difference so that in the future both fees will be due at the same time.

However, you choose,
CHOOSE LIFE!



Ann Hettinger
State Director
(972) 658-4204



Make it easy - Order your “Choose Life” license plates online today!

Simply fill in the forms and the plates will be mailed to you. [Click here](#) to start.

Texas Redistricting Maps Re-Drawn By Federal Judges

In an audacious moment of judicial activism, a federal three-judge panel in San Antonio threw out the State House, State Senate and U.S. Congressional redistricting maps drawn and passed by the 82nd legislative session and signed into law by Gov. Rick Perry ignoring our constitutionally provided way for redistricting which occurs every ten years. In this breath-taking grasp of power, this panel of un-elected judges has completely redrawn the district lines to suit their

political agenda. ([Click here](#) to view these lines.) Because of the delay, filing deadlines for these offices have been moved to November 28. Even some of the District numbers have been changed. Be sure to check your district boundaries for each of the three offices serving you.

Attorney General Greg Abbott has asked the U.S. Supreme Court for an emergency stay on these maps. He said, “to apply the law, not to make policy” is

the responsibility of the courts. CWA of Texas believes that not contesting this flagrant usurping of the will of the Texas voters would be a disgrace, and we applaud the efforts of our attorney general. If, however, that stay is granted, it will mean a further delay in filing deadlines and possibly the primary elections now scheduled for March 6, 2012.

You are Invited!

Join us to celebrate a landmark for life ... 10 years in the making!

Choose Life specialty plates

Thursday
December 8, 2011
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Dallas

Go to page 5 for more information!

State Legislative News

Reemphasizing Expectations

Recently I was informed that Sen. John Cornyn had attended a fundraiser for Log Cabin Republicans, an advocacy group for homosexual rights (i.e. special protection for those who live a lifestyle that Christians feel is not according to Biblical principles). At the November meeting in Houston, our action item involved sending the following message to our Senator, who bills himself as a conservative legislator.

"As we enter the second decade of the 21st century, I am grieved to see the great inroads gained by those proclaiming homosexuality as an attractive option. Six states have already caved in to pressure to accept same-sex "marriage".

Insecure teens are encouraged

to explore and accept homosexuality. The actual percentage of dedicated, exclusive homosexuals is less than 3 percent, yet media has presented a picture of a much larger group. We need government representatives who are not swayed by lobbying efforts and financial incentives from powerful, well-funded pro-homosexual groups."

To give the Senator the benefit of doubt, we did not specifically claim that he has been one to move toward accepting their demands to receive special treatment but rather, we just want to reemphasize our expectation that our Texas officials should adhere to the pro-marriage platform of the Republican Party of Texas.

In addition, we sent another post card asking both Senators to oppose the deceptively named "Respect for Marriage Act of 2011" (S. 598) that will abandon the traditional definition of marriage defined in the Defense of Marriage Act signed into law by President Clinton. We must stand firm against efforts to push religious institutions that object to homosexual "marriage" out of the public square.

Beverly Roberts
State Legislative Liaison



Central Texas Area News

Understanding the Out or Session Work of Texas Legislators

So, what do our legislators do when they are not in session? Do they really work only six months out of every two years? Not exactly. In addition to continuing where they left off in their personal employment when not working in session (i.e. some have law practices; others may be physicians or own businesses), the legislators return to their districts, meet with their constituents, and begin planning for their next trip back to Austin. Let's take a look at the reasons why your state representative will be returning to the Capitol during "off-season."

All of the members of the House are assigned to work

on a committee by the Speaker of the House. Most of the time, they will be assigned more than one committee. They are given a list of "interim charges" to study by the Speaker. Committees can make suggestions as to the charges they wish to study, but ultimately the Speaker makes the final decision as to what will be studied by each committee. Then the committees will orchestrate their schedules and determine how many meetings will be needed. Generally, the legislators will need to make one or two trips a month to Austin, and the meetings can last several days. So what are "interim

charges?" They are a list of issues to be studied and researched that provide a blueprint for the next legislative session. The committees are required to study the effectiveness of various state programs and to gather data as to the success or failures of laws that have already been passed. For example, with the House Committee on Business and Industry one of their charges is to review existing lien laws in Texas and make recommendations for improvement. Another example of an interim charge would be the House Committee on Corrections review of the current parole supervision strategies to

ensure that resources are being used efficiently and to maximize the state's need for public safety and rehabilitation. The various committees are asked to review ways to strengthen the economy of Texas, review transportation infrastructure, address water challenges, improve wildfire response, and find ways to improve public and higher education.

This may sound like just another day at the office, and may seem as if we do not need to really start praying until the 2013 Legislative Session begins – right? Well, again, not exactly. The charges require extensive

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ACTION

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ALERT

Stay Informed
on Issues,
Events and
More!

Sign up for state
E-ALERTS
by e-mailing us at
director@texas.cwfa.org

Or, to receive *both*
national and state
E-ALERTS go to
concernedwomen.org
and sign up in the
upper right hand
corner.

Don't miss out on
making your voice
heard -
Sign up today!

Prayer Requests

- ◆ Pray for our Prayer/Action Chapter Leaders that God will open the eyes of neighbors and friends about the condition of our culture.
- ◆ Pray for our Home Team Captains that their communications will find receptive spirits.
- ◆ Pray for our CWA of Texas leadership that God's plan for our state will be evident. Lead us to accomplish important work in salvaging our national purposes.
- ◆ Pray for the finances of our state and move in the hearts of people so that we will be able to accomplish His work.
- ◆ Pray for our national office staff. Give them fruit for their efforts.

North Texas Walk for Life

First Baptist Church
1707 San Jacinto
Dallas

January 21, 2012

9:00 - Open House

10:30 - Rally
Center Stage

12:00 - Parade
to the Federal Court
House Where *Roe V. Wade* was Filed

South Texas Area News

Listening, Learning and Taking Action

Concerned Women for America had a wonderful event at our last Action Breakfast meeting for the fall. Michael Newman, founder of Christian Coalition for Reconciliation, a ministry to homosexuals and their families - "Serving Those Breaking Free" was our speaker. He spoke about his experiences in ministering not only to homosexuals and their families, but also to the church on the subject both in America and around the world. In 1985, homosexuals were white college graduates, whereas today they are more likely to be black or Hispanic teens or younger. This change is reflected in the population of the famous Montrose area in Houston. Parents bring eleven-year-olds who are very open about their life for counseling, and often the counselor has only one chance to reach them. Since it is often difficult for churches to talk about ministry to homosexuals, Newman is

willing to go to churches and teach them how they can most effectively reach and help them and their families.

To find out more about Michael Newman's ministry go to www.ccrhouston.org.

Popular author and speaker Eleanor Clark, who spoke on "Liberals or Liberties," emphasized the need for Christians to ask the Lord how He would have them help educate America about our historic Christian values. For her part, she felt led to write novels for school-age children based on her family history. Each book in the Eleanor Series features a young girl from each generation. Clark has also written a fascinating book for boys, *The Legacy of Lord Baden-Powell*, the man who started the Boy Scouts of America.

In order to fulfill her calling, Clark was brave enough to go back to school to learn how to

write novels. Her book-selling tours led to an invitation to be a *Fox and Friends* guest on Fox News.

View and purchase Eleanor Clark's books at www.eleanorseries.com.

Our morning ended with Beverly Roberts helping members write postcards to Sens. Cornyn and Hutchison on voting "No" on S.598, the "Respect for Marriage Act," as well as folks lining up to buy Eleanor's books as Christmas gifts for children and grandchildren.

If you live in the Houston area, and would like to attend our next Action Breakfast, please contact me.



[Pat Hanson](#)
(979) 543-5215

West Texas Area News

Why Should We be Concerned and What Can We Do

About the APA?

Last month's article answered the question "What is the APA doing?" This month's article will answer the questions "Why should we be concerned?" and "What can we do?" In 1973, when the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) II came out, homosexuality was no longer considered a mental disorder. Thirty eight years later homosexuality has been so normalized in our society that

there are very few channels on TV that you can watch that will not have a homosexual character in at least one of their prime time programs, schools are changing their sexual education classes to include homosexual behaviors, the definition of the "family" is being redefined, and the list goes on and on. Why should this pattern concern us? I have a Master's Degree in Counseling with a work

history that has primarily dealt with people under the age of 18. For a time period, I worked with several youth who were sexual offenders. A majority of those youth had been molested themselves at a young age. When we look at the history of the APA normalizing deviant sexual behaviors and how that behavior became a societal norm, then take into consideration that people who are molested at a young age

have a higher risk of becoming a molester themselves (if not treated for the trauma), we are setting our society up for a downward spiral that can be nothing but disastrous for our children and grandchildren.

So, what can we do about it? The best thing we can do is learn and educate. There are several articles on the CWA website (www.cwfa.org) that speak to this issue. The American Psychiatric Association (APA) has a website (www.psych.org);

however, if you are not a member, finding information can be difficult. There is a contact address on the "Contact" tab at the top right of the screen. If you know a psychiatrist, psychologist or counselor, please contact them and let them know what you have learned. They may not know this is happening. The DSM V is scheduled for release in May 2013. There is a website maintained by the APA that tracks the progress of the DSM V. That site is <http://www.dsm5.org/Pages/Default.aspx>. You can go

there to see what changes are being made and when the site will be open to accept comments from visitors. Right now, they are scheduled to receive comments in the spring of 2012. That sounds like a long way off, but is really just around the corner. We need to get ourselves, our psychiatrists, psychologists and counselors, our legislators, pastors, friends and community at large educated so that we can stand ready to protect our children.

Though this is information

that is hard to deliver and hard to absorb, it is always a comfort to go back to our foundation – Jesus Christ. Blessings to you and your family as you celebrate the birth of our Lord in Whom we receive all peace and comfort. Merry Christmas!



[Keri Ann Thompson](#)
(806) 928-0664

535 News

We All Have A Duty

Project 535 had no lobby days in November and December, so I'd like to take this month's newsletter entry to share about my new role in our community as a party precinct chair. For those of you who may not know what that is, like I didn't, your county is broken up into precincts, and the Republican and Democrat party have people represent them in each precinct to encourage voting in general and to lobby for their perspective candidates in elections. It is a new role for me, and I'm still learning, but I wanted a way to participate in the upcoming elections and learn more about the process. Here's a quote from Anthony Gierzynski in *Saving American Elections: A Diagnosis and Prescription for a Healthier Democracy*. "The United States has perhaps the most complicated electoral system in the world.

Voters are asked to make more decisions and asked to do so more frequently than citizens of other democracies. This Byzantine electoral structure in the U.S. does provide the greatest opportunity for input, but at a cost. By demanding so much of the public, it means that many are overwhelmed by the complexity of the system and ultimately fail to vote."

There is so much truth to this statement, our structure is a blessing and a curse, but I believe we all have a duty as citizens to educate ourselves to the best of our ability and go make those choices. With the internet, it is easier than ever, albeit overwhelming, to get educated about issues and candidates.

I now attend a monthly precinct meeting with our party chair, and I'll soon be

learning more about talking to residents in my precinct, recruiting block chairmen, and other precinct volunteers to support me as a team, and about the Precinct Convention following the Primary election in March.

I'm excited about serving in this way to help our country work toward leadership that has conservative, Christian values. If you have any questions about this role, please contact me, and I'll be glad to help. If I don't know the answer to your question, then we'll figure it out together. Or contact your party's local office and see how you can help. I guarantee they will have a place for you to serve!



Cindy Bianucci
State 535
Coordinator

Important Dates For Your Calendar

Nov. 28-Dec. 15
Candidates filing
deadline

February 2
Last day to register to
vote in Primary

March 6
Primary Election

March 6
7:00 p.m.
Precinct Convention

March 24
Senate, District, County
Conventions

October 9
Last day to register to
vote in General election

November 6
General election

Important information about Texas issues makes up the CWA of Texas newsletter.

We need you contribution to help in distributing this information monthly.

Please mail Your tax-deductible gift in the enclosed envelope.

Or, go to texas.cwfa.org and click on [Donate Now](#) under the director's picture.

Thank you!

East Texas Area News

Give Thanks To The Lord!



[Click here](#) to view interview.

For so many this time of year is one that is really hard. Many are putting a smile on just to make it through the Thanksgiving and Christmas season, but inside they are desperately missing someone either through death, military service, or job related. Most are sitting down to a golden brown turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, stuffing from a generational recipe, sweet potatoes, green bean casserole, cranberry sauce, an assortment of pickles and fresh vegetables, and pumpkin or sweet potato pie with lots of whipped cream. Whether you eat a traditional feast, a TV dinner, or fast this Thanksgiving and Christmas, today's verse points out the most important thing is that you give thanks to God.

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever." Psalms 107:1. Remember this, no matter what is going on in your life our Lord will never leave you

or forsake you. His love truly endures forever.

This month I was honored to work together with Texas Right to life in a joint effort to publicly ask Susan G. Komen to stop funding Planned Parenthood. In some ways it felt like David going against two Goliaths. It was nice to know that in all things, God is fully in control. This was my first TV interview. I prayed God would protect my words and use my voice to deliver His truths. I am so thankful today that He did just that. You can watch the interview on the link provided, and please share this with all your friends.

There are so many things for which we can be thankful to the Lord. I would like to say, I am thankful this year for our State Director, Ann Hettinger, who received the honor given at the National Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. for Texas having the

"Best State Organization." That happened directly because of her wonderful Leadership of all of us and because of the wonderful team God has brought together here in Texas. I am so thankful to each of my Prayer Chapter Leaders. I am thankful that you allow God to use you to speak the truth in love about issues concerning our faith and family. It really does take just one voice to make a big difference.

As we look forward to December, we must stop and thank God for the precious gift of His son Jesus Christ. We know He works for the good of all who love Him and that His love endures forever. What a way to praise Him; just thank Him for His never-ending love for us. Have a blessed Christmas with your family and pray this year is merrier than all the rest.

[Michelle Smith](#)
(972) 835-9506

You Are Invited to a Celebration!

Thursday, December 8, celebrating the launch of Texas' new *Choose Life* specialty plate. The 10-year effort to create the *Choose Life* specialty license plate has met with success!

Thursday, December 8, 2011

7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Knights of Columbus Hall
10110 Shoreview Drive, Dallas, TX 75238

RSVP to chooselife@texasallianceforlife.org or call 512-477-1244.

There is no charge for this event.

Texas Alliance for Life will be honoring the authors of the bills that led to the issuance of this plate – State Senator John Carona and State Representative Larry Phillips – who plan to be in attendance at the reception.

This event is sponsored by BirthChoice, the Catholic Pro-Life Committee of North Texas, Concerned Women for America of Texas, Liberty Institute, The Heidi Group, Pro-Life Texas, Republican National Coalition for Life, St. Joseph's Helpers, and Texas Alliance for Life.

North Texas Area News

Disrespect for Marriage Act

Merry Christmas!

A concern to remember this December is the Respect for Marriage Act being considered in Congress. Despite its deliberately deceptive name, the "Respect for Marriage Act" insidiously seeks to destroy the historical, traditional definition of marriage. It seeks to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). DOMA does not prohibit states from recognizing same-sex "marriages"; it just defines marriage as we have always known it, the union between one man and one woman. DOMA also protects states from being forced to

recognize same-sex "marriages" from other states. The Respect for Marriage Act runs contrary to the will of the majority of Americans who support marriage as the union between one man and one woman. It circumvents the will of the 30 states (including Texas) that have already voted to protect marriage as the union between one man and one woman in their state constitutions, forcing the states to go against their own public policy goals to recognize same-sex "marriages" from other states.



The Respect for Marriage Act forces states to recognize *any* kind of marriage that another state decides to sanction. It is by no means limited to same-sex "marriages". Please pray for wisdom for our elected officials as they consider this issue in the House (H.R. 1116) and in the Senate (S.598).

Christmas will be especially joyous this year as my son, Sgt. David Mutranowski USMC, will be home for Christmas for the first time in two years. Having all the children home for Christmas is a joy most parents can

share; but not all. Be aware of those in our midst who have lost loved ones this year or in years past who may be sorrowful this Christmas. Even those who for other reasons won't be together as a family may need encouragement. As you celebrate the birth of our Savior, please remember to pray for those who don't yet know Him. May you all have a blessed Christmas.



[Kia Mutranowski](#)
Area Director

Continued - Reemphasizing Expectations

research, and the committees will need to be in unity on how to move forward with each recommendation. We also need legislators who understand our United States and Texas Constitutions, how they apply the charges they are given, and what laws should be drafted based on these charges. For example, in the House Committee on Urban Affairs and the House Committee on Agriculture

and Livestock, legislators are to evaluate the role of community gardens and urban farming efforts that increase access to healthy foods and examine the possible impact that state and local policies have on the success of these types of programs. They also are to determine the feasibility of policies to support these efforts, especially in high-population areas. Is this really the role

of government? Are they to be interfering with community gardens and deciding healthy foods? What happened to the private sector deciding these things, and why does our government need to be involved? Another example is the House Committee on Technology examining ways to create incentives for technology companies to come to Texas, including the feasibility of

public-private partnerships. Now hold on partner! Legislative bills that want to use public tax dollars to help only certain businesses succeed? These are just two examples of how the constitutionality and application of the charges will be discussed and debated in the committees.

As you can see, much prayer is still needed for those in authority in our Texas government, and not only while they are in session every two years. If you want to be more involved in this process, contact your Texas representative and ask which committee(s) they are on, a list of the interim charges they've been assigned, and after reviewing the charges



give them your thoughts!
[Cindy Asmussen](#)
(512) 300-5322



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

May this Christmas season be filled with a refreshed knowledge of the gift of Christ.

*For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder.
And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Isaiah 9:6*