



CONCERNED WOMEN FOR AMERICA OF VIRGINIA NEWSLETTER

Protecting the Rights of the Family Through Prayer and Action

Summer 2010

INSIDE

Meet Holly Rich, Interim State Director	3
A Time for Reflection	3
Encourage-A-Legislator Program	4
LU's CWA Chapter Thrives	4
New Leaders Strengthen CWA-VA	4
Update on Lisa and Isabella Miller	5
In God We Still Trust Save the Date-Oct. 28	5
Year in Review	6
Now More Than Ever, We Must Be Involved	8
Rep. Perriello's Town Hall	8

Virginia Leads Nation with Health Care Freedom Act CWA-VA Lobbies, Tracks Legislation in 2010 Session

With only a limited staff of volunteers, CWA-VA was still able to track a handful of key bills and carry out two lobby days in 2010. One of these lobby days was technically “snowed out,” but members who live in Richmond faithfully visited our legislators when other volunteers were unable to get to Richmond.

The Health Care Freedom Act (HJ 7) was the most notable legislation of the session. It was introduced earlier this spring by Delegate Bob Marshall (R-10, Manassas) to exempt Virginians from the unprecedented individual mandate to purchase health insurance coverage—a basic feature of the health care bill signed into law by President Obama March 23.

The Virginia Act protects the right and power to participate or to decline to participate in a health care system or plan, prohibiting the adoption of any law that

imposes penalties for failure to participate. On March 24, all eyes were on Virginia as Gov. McDonnell signed the crucial Health Care Freedom Act into law, making Virginia the first of several states to take steps to exempt their citizens from the most onerous provisions. Heartfelt thanks go out to Gov. McDonnell, the General Assembly, and the bill patrons for their hard work in making history and protecting Virginia families.

The legislators chiefly responsible for this achievement are: Senators Jill Vogel (R-27, Winchester), Steve Martin (R-11, Chesterfield), and Fred Quayle (R-13, Suffolk); Delegates Bob Marshall (R-10, Manassas), John O’Bannon (R-73, Henrico), and Chris Peace (R-97, Hanover). Please let these representatives know you appreciate their far-sighted actions toward protecting Virginia families.

See Legislative , page 2

CWA-VA’s Amanda Haas Wins Susan Anthony Young Leader Award

On March 29, Amanda Haas, leader of the Prayer/Action Chapter of Liberty University, received the Susan B. Anthony List Young Leader Award for her pro-life work, at the Susan B. Anthony List Gala in Washington, D.C.

“Though everyone there was definitely upset about [the recent passage of the Health Care Bill], there was a spirit of hope and determination to keep pressing on,” said Amanda. “We will win the fight. I hope and pray that God keeps giving me the opportunities to see that my generation will be the one to end abortion in America.”

The Award recognized Amanda Haas for her exceptional work in a

new generation of trailblazers on behalf of women and unborn children.

As Executive Secretary for the Student Government Association at Liberty University, Amanda helped put on the largest pro-life conference ever held on a college campus. She led a fundraiser on campus to benefit CompassCare and actively campaigns for pro-life conservative candidates. A government major, she plans to continue working in politics fighting for the unborn after graduation.

Commented Janet Robey, Director of Concerned Women for America in Virginia, “...the award given to this deserving young lady lifted our spirits. It was a nice reminder of our upcoming generation that is serious about pre-born children.” ❖



Amanda Haas (right) holds award. LU Chapter member Allie Carico is on left.

National attention has focused on Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli as he fights the federal government takeover of our health care system. Please take the time to drop him a note thanking him for his efforts in defending Virginia law and the Virginia and United States Constitutions.

CWA-VA monitored several additional bills this past session:

CWA-VA Supported

HB 334 – Robert Marshall, Patron, Abortion Informed Consent –

Requires information on the effects abortion may have on future pregnancies to be included in the information required for informed consent. Passed the House; Senate Health and Education Committee passed over indefinitely.

HB 393 – Matthew Lohr, Patron, Abortion clinics; licensure and regulation – Requires all abortion clinics, defined as any facility other than a hospital or an ambulatory surgery center in which 25 or more first trimester abortions are performed in any 12-month period, to be licensed and regulated by the Board of Health. Passed the House; killed in Senate Health and Education Committee.

HB 1033 – Kathy Byron, Patron, Human infant; independent and separate existence – Provides that for the purposes of homicide, a human infant who has been born alive and is fully brought forth from the mother has achieved an independent and separate existence, regardless of whether the umbilical cord has been cut or the placenta detached. Passed both House and Senate; enacted with Governor's Recommendation.

HB 686 – Jackson Miller, Patron, Eliminating requirement for HPV vaccine – Eliminates the requirement. Eliminates the requirement of the human papillomavirus vaccine

(HPV) for females. Left in Health, Welfare and Institutions Committee.

SB 56 – Steven Martin, Patron, Prayer at public events – Provides that whenever an individual is requested to provide prayer, invocation, or benediction at a public event that is sanctioned by a governmental agency, such governmental agency shall have no authority to regulate how that individual refers to God in prayer or to prohibit the religious content of the individual's prayer, invocation, or benediction, provided such... is not used to advance a particular religion or to disparage another faith or belief. Senate: Passed by indefinitely in Courts of Justice.

SJ 17 – Stephen Martin, Patron, Memorializing Congress; state sovereignty – Urges the Congress of the United States to honor state sovereignty under the Tenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. Left in Senate Rules Committee.

HJ 7 – Robert Marshall, Patron, Constitutional amendment (first resolution); health care freedom – Protects an individual's right and power to participate or to decline to participate in a health care system or plan (see earlier in this story).

CWA-VA Opposed

HB 1287– Kenneth Plum, Patron, Virginia Human Rights Act; sexual orientation – Adds sexual orientation to the definition of unlawful discriminatory practice in the Virginia Human Rights Act. The bill defines "sexual orientation."

Left in General Laws House Committee.

HB 1142 – James Scott, Patron, Hate crimes; sexual orientation – Includes within the definition of hate crimes a category of acts committed against a person or property because of that person's sexual orientation. Also included are (i) the right of a person who is subject to such act to bring a civil action for damages or injunctive relief and (ii) no liability for internet provider for good faith restriction of access to material that the provider considers intended to incite hatred on the basis of sexual orientation. Left in Courts of Justice House Committee.

HB 1116 – Adam Ebbin, Patron, Public employment; nondiscrimination – Prohibits discrimination in public employment based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, age, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, or status as a veteran. Defines "sexual orientation" as a person's actual or perceived heterosexuality, bisexuality, homosexuality, or gender identity or expression. "Sexual orientation" shall not include any person's attraction towards persons with whom sexual conduct would be illegal due to the age. Contains technical amendments. Left in General Laws House Committee. ❖



CWA-VA members join the Lynchburg TEA Party, April 15, 2009.

Steering Committee

Interim State Director
Holly Rich

State Director
Janet Robey

Records Correspondent & Encourage-a-Legislator Coord.
Kay Hawkins

Intercessor
Donna Matts

535 Coordinator
Dr. Ayvonne Reese

E-mail Alerts/Technical Advisor
Mark Sell

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**Membership Reminder
Renew or join now!**

By Web:
<http://states.cwfa.org/states/detailsnew.asp?organization=va>
Follow instructions on the right to pay by credit/debit card
OR Mail to CWA-VA, P.O. Box 1465, Bedford, VA 24523
Mark in memo area:
Renew or New \$25.00
Holly Rich, Virginia Interim State Director, Concerned Women for America, (434) 401-8852.



Graceanne—a gift of God.

Introducing Holly Rich, Interim State Director

People become “active citizens” for various reasons. Two decades ago, a new friend asked Holly if she knew that her daughter could obtain an abortion without her permission. Holly’s daughter had recently been required to have her mother’s written consent to have her ears pierced—a trivial procedure compared with an abortion.

Holly told her new friend, “You do not know what you are talking about.”

Then the new friend challenged her to do some research and find out which of them did not “know what they were talking about.”

Thankfully, Holly’s new friend became a mentor, and over the next 20 years Holly served as president of the local Right to Life Chapter, became founder and president of Neighbors Educating for Tomorrow (a pro-life/pro-family organization), and co-hosted an alternative-news television program. She volunteered in the political arena serving as Republican Precinct Committeeman and worked on numerous political campaigns.

Holly Rich comes to us from CWA of Illinois where she served on the Illinois State Steering Committee for more than a dozen years. During that time, she served as Legislative Liaison, Chapter Coordinator and Encourage-A-Legislator Coordinator. Among her many treasured memories is receiving the CWA Outstanding Steering



Holly Rich, CWA-VA Interim Director.

Committee Member Award in 2001 from Beverly LaHaye.

Holly and her husband Larry Rich have been married for 43 years and are active members of their church and their community. They are enjoying living close to their two sons and having the opportunity to be involved in the lives of their grandchildren.

Holly is looking forward to serving CWA-VA as Interim State Director, supporting the Prayer/Action Chapters in Virginia, and working with the dynamic Virginia leaders. ❖

A Time for Reflection

—By Janet Robey

As I write this, I am amazed at how God’s grace is interwoven in my life and my family. After spending my first full day watching my 10-week-old granddaughter Graceanne, I am reminded of God’s infinite love and provision that is beyond understanding.

Graceanne is truly a gift of God that no one expected. Humanly speaking—and according to the fertility doctors—she should not exist. Yet she does! Because of this unexpected gift from above, I found it compelling to take a six-month sabbatical from Concerned Women for America of Virginia.

You could say I’m just following my own advice. For, as I speak to and recruit leaders across the state, my mantra has always been “family first.”

I started transitioning into my sabbatical on April 1st and again God’s grace was evident. God had moved a CWA person from

Illinois to Virginia about a year ago. When we rode back from leadership conference in September of 2009, I shared with her that God was leading me to take a break. After prayer and reflection, Holly Rich agreed not only to be Virginia’s Prayer/Action Chapter Coordinator, but also to assume the role of interim State Director during my sabbatical.

God’s provision came in His time, which was perfect, not too early and not too late.

Rest assured, our state organization is in good hands with a wonderful steering committee and Holly. I am enjoying my grandchildren and giving much needed help to my daughter and her husband. I am looking forward to returning in October, refreshed and renewed.

God speed! ❖

Encourage-A-Legislator: A Big Success —By Kay Hawkins



Tapping into the cookie's true encouragement potential.

CWA-VA Chapter at Liberty University Thrives — By Amanda Haas

CWA has seen important accomplishments this year at Liberty University.

We started out with just about 50 people on our Facebook group and now have around 200 members who receive our regular updates and information about events.

Our chapter also has an e-mail list to whom we send updates and announcements; we also have girls who do their Christian Service hours for Liberty through our chapter's events.

Attendance at our Concerned Women for America of Virginia bi-weekly prayer meetings continues to grow.

Last fall we were able to raise over \$1,000.00 for a Christian non-profit crisis pregnancy organization called CompassCare. Our members also have helped minister at the Liberty Godparent Home, and we held an end-of-the-year banquet to show what the organization is doing and why we do it. We also honored all those who have helped us this year. ❖

We ask that you pray for Karen Zbinden, as she had been sidelined with physical issues which prevented her from being active during our last legislative session. We are praying that she makes a full recovery.

— Janet Robey

Thanks to all of you who participated in our Encourage-A-Legislator program this past year! It was a tremendous success! When Janet Robey, our State Director, asked if I would head this up, I was excited to do so. Even though we may not agree with all of our elected officials, they still need to know there are people who are praying for them, and we all need encouragement! We had hoped to get at least 40 volunteers to cover our state Senators. I am happy to report that over 59 people signed up to send encouraging post cards.

Because of this response, we were able to send cards not only to all our Senators, but to our Delegates as well. A few Encourage-A-Legislator volunteers actually received letters from the one to whom they were sending cards!

On February 22 we made our first, and hopefully annual, CWA cookie drop to

New Leaders Strengthen CWA-VA —By Janet Robey

Legislative Liaison

Our new Legislative Liaison, Karen Zbinden, began a serious walk with Christ during her third year of college. She graduated from the University of West Georgia in 1985 with a B.S. in Computer Science and from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in 1991 with a Masters degree in Religion and Education.

Karen has worked for IBM in new product development and as an internal auditor for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Georgia and Union Planters National Bank. She also worked as a middle school drama and Bible teacher. She and her husband, Zack Zbinden, have served with the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. Zack pastored Briarwood Baptist Church in Ringgold, Georgia, for nine years and is now Senior Pastor of Salem Baptist Church in Crozier, Virginia. Karen currently works as a substitute teacher in Goochland County Public Schools where their four children attend school.

In addition to her involvement with CWA, Karen is active in the children's ministry in their church, assists in a Good News Bible Club, and serves on the Adult Ministry Team for Young Life in Goochland. Her passion is to serve Christ through individual evangelism and discipleship and through the legislative process.

legislators in the way of tangible encouragement.

I am looking forward to our next session, and I am praying that we can get 140 volunteers so we can once again cover all of our Senators and Delegates. Please, if you participated last year, recruit one friend, and we will reach our goal.

If you are interested in working on this most worthwhile project, please do not hesitate to contact me or Janet Robey. We will be gearing up for this project in December with packets to go out the first few days of January.

Again, I extend my heartfelt thanks to all who helped.

Reach Kay Hawkins,, Encourage-A-Legislator Coordinator
Waykayh@gmail.com ❖

Prayer/Action Chapter Leaders.

Nancy McGreer has taken the leadership on of our Prayer/Action chapter in the Lynchburg/Forest area.

Prayer/Action Chapter Coordinator & Interim State Director. Holly Rich is serving as Prayer/Action Coordinator and Interim State Director (see article, p. 3).

Facebook Coordinator. Aubrey Blankenship, a 2009 graduate of Liberty University, is the CWA-VA Facebook coordinator. Now studying in a graduate program at Liberty University, she served as the Liberty University chapter president in the spring of 2009.

Church Liaison & Home District Liaison. Jamie Curran, a High School physical education teacher, is now serving as CWA Church Liaison and Home District Liaison in the Portsmouth area. She is our point person for Congressman Randy Forbes.

Help Wanted – Work with Your Congressman. CWA-VA needs Home District Liaisons, who will contact their Congressman at their District office as the need arises. ❖

Across from my desk hanging on the wall is Isabella's school picture. Each morning as I sit before the Lord, I glance at the photograph and wonder where He has her hidden. I can almost hear her giggling. She was quite adamant about never going on another visit with Janet Jenkins, her mother's former lesbian lover who has now gone to court to take Isabella from her mother.

So far, so good.

When my prayer time is over, I slide the laptop close and turn it on. As the screen comes up, a snapshot of Lisa and Isabella appears as an icon. I have it there as a reminder to never forget about them—my sisters in the Lord. Although I have faith that Lisa and Isabella are fine because they are in the shadow of the Almighty, I can't help but wonder where His hiding place is.

It would appear to some that Isabella and Lisa are like insects stuck in the web that a spider has spun—trapped with no way of escape. Not so, though. God has always rescued Lisa and Isabella from the webs spun by their predators.

Often Lisa quoted Hebrews 11:1,

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen."

In the Old Testament story of King Solomon's wise judgment when two women claimed to be the mother of one infant, the king ordered that the child be cut in two and each woman given half.

The biological mother cried out to the king to give the child to the other woman, risking it all. But because of her reaction, Solomon knew that she was the real mother, trying to preserve the life of her own child. He ordered the child be restored to her. What seemed at first to be a disaster turned into victory.

In the *Miller vs. Jenkins* case, we again have two women claiming to be the mother of one child.

The biological mother, Lisa, however, has demonstrated she is the real mother. She was willing to give up everything. When she went into hiding with Isabella, she went with just the clothes on her back.

"The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe."

Proverbs 29:25

Recent Developments

in the Case. *In the Vermont Court:* The Vermont Supreme Court conducted a hearing on June 23rd to hear oral argument from Liberty Counsel asking the Court to reverse the transfer of custody of Isabella from her biological Mom to the former lesbian partner as had been previously ordered by Judge Cohen. A twenty-five minute audio of the hearing can be found at <http://www.vermontjudiciary.org/LC/Shared%20Documents/SupAudio-Jun10.pdf> (number 13).

In the Virginia Court: There was a Status Hearing May 19 in Bedford County. Since there was no news by anyone on Lisa's



whereabouts, the next follow up hearing is scheduled for November 17, 2010.

It appears this case will not end until it is heard by the United States Supreme Court.

For continuing updates on Lisa and Isabella please sign up at <http://www.facebook.com/#!/group.php?gid>

Setting the record straight: Recently there were news article stating Lisa and Isabella were in South America. There is no credibility in those reports. ❖

Concerned Women for America of Virginia Presents

In God We Still Trust

<http://www.cwfa.org/images/content/vaingodwestilltrust.pdf>

Thursday, October 28, 2010

~SAVE THE DATE~

Brookhill Wesleyan Church

1043 Cifax Road Forest, Virginia 24551

Find out how you can make a difference.

**For more information visit our Web site at <http://virginia.cwfa.org>
and join our Facebook group
We look forward to seeing you!**

Bring a friend!

The year 2009 saw an unprecedented outpouring of citizen meetings—Tea Parties and Town Hall meetings. They provided citizen input on then-pending health care legislation and to support traditional values, lower taxes, and smaller government. We encouraged our CWA-VA members throughout the state to attend these meetings. In this newsletter we provide on-the-spot write-ups on the Lynchburg Tea Party held April 15, 2010, and Virginia Congressman Tom Perriello's Town Hall, August 8, 2010.

Commonwealth Prayer Breakfast, January 13, 2010. A friend of mine, Tanya Villani, writes: "God is a Sovereign God; He is the Almighty, All Powerful El Shaddai and Elohim Creator God." He created in the hearts of those who prepared this day specific Scripture passages: Isaiah 61:1-3 and Matthew 25:31-4-40.

The day before this prayer breakfast, January 12, at 4:53 p.m., a 7.0 earthquake hit Haiti. Talk about timing! Our hearts were with those who were suffering, confused, in search of loved ones and afflicted. God sees everything, He is the El Roi, the God who sees and hears. He used these passages to remind me of His sovereign control, and the comfort HE brings to those struggling through a calamity. However, I must confess, I did not see the connection right away.

We awoke to frost on the ground and frost on the car, something I am not familiar with, as I keep my car under a carport. When we arrived, the warmth in the Richmond Conference Center immediately melted our hearts as we became united with others there to offer prayer support for our legislators.

It was amazing that there were over 1,000 people there! God brought to one table Megan Young, a representative from Townhall Magazine (Townhall.com), who had heard about CWA and wanted to see what we were all about. Who knows what the Lord will do with that connection in the future.

Each prayer built on the one before it, and it was so inspiring. God moved in the hearts of everyone there.



Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli, CWA-VA State Director Janet Robey, and CWA President Wendy Wright at "Now, More Than Ever," 2009.

The last song sung by the VMI Glee Club was *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*. One of our members said she had wanted to stand up for the last stanza, but could not muster the courage. There is a lesson here. If God stirs your heart to do something where others might make fun of you, obey and DO IT, because it not only encourages others to share in the joy of the Lord, but it brings glory to God!

The keynote speaker, Art Monk, NFL Hall of Famer, shared from his heart. Mr. Monk shared that, at the Hall of Fame Memorial, he was reminded of all he had been through. He said, "At one time in my life, I looked great on the outside, but inside I was facing serious inner turmoil and bondage." He shared how God had brought him through, and he was so grateful not just to God, but those who stuck by him. He said he still meets regularly with the small group of men that over 20 years ago met weekly for Bible study and accountability. As women and as men, we all could use a support team like that.

Former Gov. Kaine explained that certain people are prepared to do certain things at certain times. The peaks and valleys go together, he said, and he felt he was chosen as governor for a time period. He said he is now being "recycled," as Gov. Robert McDonnell steps in. Kaine offered two words of

encouragement and prayer for the incoming Governor:

1. "Behind every decision you make there are human beings who stand in need of service. I pray for you to have a compassionate heart as you govern diligently with good judgment in dealing with the budget, clemency issues, and all else you will be responsible for."

2. "You have a strong marriage. You are committed and faithful. After four years, may your marriage be even stronger. Your example of a good husband and father is one to follow. May you, Maureen and your five children draw closer."

As the event ended, we each received a copy of the movie, *Amazing Grace*.

Members of the CWA-VA group then shifted gears to prepare for our next assignment, lobbying. The teams gathered, we got our marching orders, we prayed together, and off we went.

VA Campaign for Liberty Rally/ Family Foundation Lobby Day, January 18.

On January 18, 2010, several members of CWA split their time between two events, the Virginia Campaign for Liberty Rally and Family Foundation Lobby day.

At the rally, held at the Bell Tower on Capitol grounds, Patrick Henry impersonator Mike McHugh of the

Continued on page 7

Review, continued from page 6

Virginia Gun Owners emceed. Dressed in period costume, McHugh gave the famous Patrick Henry speech.

The distinguished keynote speakers included: Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli, Delegate Charles (Bill) Carrico, Delegate Robert (Bob) Marshall, Delegate Scott Lingamfelter, and Senator Jill Vogel.

At the Family Foundation Lobby Day CWA-VA participants received a briefing on key family legislation and then met with their legislators.

NOT Snowed Out on February 15 Lobby Day. CWA-VA had scheduled a lobby day on February 15, in what turned out to be the middle of the record 2010 snowstorm. Although our volunteers from out of town could not be there, Cathy Tankersley and Jean Ann Grimes made it through and were able to visit twelve delegates. At most offices they were able to speak to legislative aides and leave talking points (Oppose HB 1142), as well as our [Rainbow brochure](#).

At Courthouse, CWA-VA Prays for Protection for Lisa and Isabella Miller, Feb 17. On February 17, 2010, CWA-VA joined the Protect Isabella Coalition and other conservatives at the Bedford County Courthouse in prayers to support Lisa Miller and her daughter, Isabella (for more information see update, p. 5).

Although not allowed in the courtroom—the judge had honored an ACLU request to deny access to the public—the group prayed with Pastor Wiley Drake of Buena Park, California, and others across the country on the Telephonic Prayer Line during the court proceedings.

CWA-VA Joins Press Conference, February 18. Janet Robey, Virginia State Director, participated in a Virginia Christian Alliance press conference on Thursday, February 18, 2010, at the General Assembly Building, Richmond.

The Virginia Christian Alliance presented to the Virginia Assembly the pastor's signatures they had collected on a petition asking that the Commonwealth of Virginia defund Planned

parenthood. Several pastors stood beside the speakers as they explained why, now more than ever, Planned Parenthood must no longer receive public funds.

The speakers included: Dean Nelson, Association of Politically Active Christians; Pastor Joe Ellison, outreach for Virginia Christian Alliance; Jerome Hancock, Nazarene Churches of Virginia; Elaine Scott, Virginia Christian Alliance chaplain; and delegates Bob Marshall, Brenda Pogge, and Chris Peace.



Praying for protection for Lisa and Isabella Miller, February 17, at the Bedford County Courthouse.

CWA-VA Delivers Home-Baked Encouragement to Legislators, February 22. As a tangible means of encouraging the Old Dominion's legislators, CWA-VA traveled to Richmond on February 22, 2010, to drop cookies at each legislator's office, as part of our Encourage-A-Legislator Program (see story, p. 4).

CWA-VA Booth at The Awakening, April 15-16. CWA-VA joined the Freedom Federation as it held [The Awakening](#) 2010 at Liberty University, April 15-16, 2010). Our state chapter operated a booth staffed by Interim State Director Holly Rich and several members of the Liberty University CWA chapter.

The two-day event, simulcast on the World Wide Web and featuring 52 nationally recognized speakers, opened at Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg.

Speakers included Virginia Attorney General, Ken Cuccinelli; Liberty Counsel founder, Mat Staver; Ron Luce of Teen Mania, and CWA's very own Wendy Wright, who



Holly and Larry Rich operate the CWA booth at "Now More Than Ever," 2009

participated in a panel discussion covering what women want in public policy.

Participants heard via video from Israeli Vice Prime Minister Moshe Ya'Alon. During Friday's convocation program at Liberty University, Rev. Samuel Rodriguez of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference spoke on remaining strong in our religious and political convictions.

On Friday afternoon, breakout sessions covered subjects such as: immigration; the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender agenda; the millennial generation; social justice; abortion; pastors and political activity; African American and Latino values; religious liberty, and Supreme Court nominations.

The conference concluded with a Liberty and Justice Rally held at the Thomas Road Baptist Church on Friday night. ❖



Liberty University graduate student Aubrey Blankenship is the CWA-VA Facebook coordinator (see story, p. 4).

“Now More Than Ever, We Must Be Involved”

Concerned citizens from the Lynchburg/Forest area gathered on October 15, 2009, to be educated and encouraged to be involved at the “Now More than Ever, We Must Be Involved” Conference held at the Brookhill Wesleyan Church.

Chris Freund, Vice President of Policy and Communications for The Family Foundation and Ken Cuccinelli, Virginia’s State Senator, joined Wendy Wright, President of CWA, to encourage listeners to return to their Biblical foundation.

“The purpose of the event tonight was to educate and to let [the audience] know the issues that were the



“Now More than Ever:” Kathy Byron with Chris Freund, V.P. of Policy and Communications for The Family Foundation, one of the speakers.

the most pressing and to give them hope,” Janet Robey, Virginia State Director said. “We’re not in this alone. This conference helped let people know that they do have a voice.”

Freund emphasized the importance of the upcoming local and gubernatorial elections, and he urged attendees to vote on November 3. Cuccinelli and Freund said that in addition to fighting abortion, it is important for individuals to protect the Marriage Amendment.

Cuccinelli said we are the defenders of the Founder’s vision and suggested that we should pray for the President and the leaders of our country.

He said that conservatives can win by standing on their principles. “There is evidence of when life begins; it’s a matter of denial or acceptance.”

Cuccinelli fought to pass a bill allowing drivers across the state to purchase pro-life license plates.

“Many people, Christians especially, don’t realize how much government affects us and public

Town Halls: Are People Waking Up? — By Janet Robey

An August 8, 2009, Town Hall meeting, hosted by Congressman Tom Perriello, Virginia 5th District, gave me an opportunity to see this national, grassroots movement for myself. I arrived a few minutes after 10:00 (the meeting was scheduled from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.). I got in line, finding about 30 people ahead of me. People kept coming, and the line started to wrap around the elementary school, and the parking lot overflowed.

Having heard statements in the “main stream media” that these Town Halls were “astroturf,” not the real grass roots—I found it interesting that the only preprinted signs were carried by those in support of the current administration and the healthcare reform bill at that time before Congress.

The room filled, and soon it was standing room only, with perhaps between 150 and 200 people.

“We will begin shortly,” announced a staffer. “if you want to ask a question, please step up and start the line here.” I bolted to the spot and discovered I was about seventh in a line of perhaps 40. The staffer apologized about not having a microphone, and the man behind me started screaming,

“You knew you were going to be here...” Two of us confronted the man, saying, “You need to be civil and respectful.”

The crowd was spirited and passionate. A couple hecklers were pretty vocal but overall the

policy,” Wright said. “It poses grave threats to our religious freedom, threats to the sanctity of life, threats to marriage, threats to the safety and security of our country, but many people are not quite aware of that yet.”

Wright said the women’s rights movement has given a unique opportunity for conservative women to speak out, because our side of the debate is rarely heard. ❖

majority of the people were respectful and did not shout down the Congressman, allowing him to give his answers. But someone must have been concerned, because shortly several police officers appeared outside the cafeteria.

When my turn came, I introduced myself and thanked the Congressman for giving us the opportunity to share our concerns with him. I stated that several organizations are demanding that abortion be covered in any healthcare reform bill. When funding for abortion goes up, abortions go up, and if included in the healthcare reform, abortions will go up 30 percent. Yet 50 percent of the American people are pro-life and 70 percent do not want taxpayer money funding abortion.

My question was, “Will you oppose any healthcare reform bill that uses my tax dollars to pay for abortion?”

Congressman Perriello’s response, “I will not vote for any healthcare reform that would have taxpayer funded abortion in it, and I will add to that, I am for the conscience clause.” [Note: In the event, Rep. Perriello voted in yes on the healthcare reform bill.]

The Congressman said that he stands behind his vote supporting Cap and Trade. He is a libertarian at heart and supports fiscal responsibility. To the question of if he would enroll in the new healthcare plan, he could not answer yes or no.

Judging on the response of the crowd, I would estimate that 80 percent were against the healthcare plan. ❖