



MARCH 2007

Concerned Women for America of Oregon Putting Families First

Great Time! Adopt-A-Legislator Launch Event

March 2007

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CWA of Oregon launched our Adopt-A-Legislator Project in the Oregon State Capitol Rotunda, February 20, 2007. Members from Salem, Albany, McMinnville, Newport, and Portland attended the day-long event, demonstrating their commitment to praying for and encouraging Oregon state legislators, judges and the governor throughout the 2007 – 2008 legislative session.



Hundreds of visitors including capitol employees, capitol guests and legislators visited our tables which were strategically located between the halls leading to both the Senate and the House offices. We were in the hub of the days activities at the capitol. Visitors to our table helped themselves to homemade muffins, fruit, coffee, CWA bookmarks, water bottles and information about the goals and mission of CWA.

During the day CWA members walked throughout the capitol praying

for God's will to be done in our state through our elected officials.

Please join me in thanking Karen Elliott, Associate Director, CWA of Oregon, and her Launch team, Maggie Jacob, Trudy

Radke, Norma Rich, Madeleine Spalding, Liz Hamel, Jackie Leavitt, Jo Rae Perkins and Anthony and Tammy Brotton for organizing the successful event. Also, additional thanks to Karen for her tireless work around the state as she represents and promotes CWA. Thank you, Karen!

Many of you have heard about the new movie *Amazing Grace*. Some of you may have already seen it. The movie is about the life-long campaign of William Wilberforce to end the slave trade and set the captives free. He was committed to this cause and worked till the day he died to see it accomplished. We can be like Wilberforce and not give up or lose heart but con-

tinue to work and pray for the restoration of Biblical principles in Oregon and throughout our nation. Recall the parable in Luke 18:1-8 when Jesus was teaching about the importance of persistent praying. "We ought to pray and not to lose heart." Day in and day out the widow in the parable kept going to an unrighteous judge seeking justice and protection; her petition was finally granted because of her persistence. In verses 6 & 7 the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge said; now shall not God bring about justice for His elect, who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them?" I know God hears our prayers, and I believe He will honor our persistence as we join together and pray for our state.

"The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much." James 5:16

If you are not already a member, please join CWA today!

(See additional picture on page 6.)

By Louise Muscato, State Director

Take Action Immediately!
See page 2

Legislative Update

This update is designed to help you make a difference in Oregon by becoming informed regarding what bills and issues are before the Legislature and how you can take an active part in making sure your values and opinions are represented. Please pray and take action on these issues immediately!

CWA of Oregon is taking a stand on the following bills:

House Bill 2459: Makes English the official language of the state. CWA of Oregon endorses this bill. House sponsors are Reps. Donna Nelson, R-McMinnville; Brian Boquest, R-Dallas; Kevin Cameron, R-Salem. Senate sponsors are Sens. Jason Atkinson, R-Grants Pass and Gary George, R-Newberg. Rep. Donna Nelson, chief sponsor of the bill, stated such a move is necessary because a common language is necessary to unite diverse people. Rep. Nelson said incoming calls have been 95 percent favorable with calls coming from both Republicans and Democrats. Twenty-eight other states have passed English as the official language legislation. The bill has been referred to the House Elections, Ethics & Rules Committee. According to the House committee chairwoman, Rep. Diane Rosenbaum, H.B. 2459 is not a high priority. CWA of Oregon has endorsed this bill, but it will take public comment and action to get a public hearing.

Pray: Pray that the House Elections, Ethics & Rules Committee schedules a public hearing on this bill.

Act: Please contact the members of the committee as well as your own legislator. Ask them to hold a public hearing on this bill.

House Elections, Ethics & Rules Committee:

Rep. Diane Rosenbaum, Chair
Rep. Vicki Berger, Vice-Chair
Rep. Peter Buckley, Vice-Chair
Rep. Sal Esquivel
Rep. Dave Hunt
Rep. Arnie Roblan
Rep. Kim Thatcher

Senate Bill 2: This bill would grant special minority status to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender individuals.

CWA of Oregon opposes this bill for the following reasons:

- It contains inadequate protection of our rights as Christians.
- It contains inadequate protection of churches.
- It allows judges to define the primary purpose of a church.
- It includes not only gays and lesbians, but also bi-sexual and transgender individuals.
- It would require more "diversity" education in public schools.
- It puts businesses at risk of erroneous lawsuits.

There was a public hearing on this bill in March where many Christians, young and old, came to testify against this bill. There were many pastors, attorneys, organizations and just plain folks who came to present their concerns, especially about the threat to the religious liberty of the church and related church organizations. The First Amendment regarding freedom of religious expression was cited many times. Of course, there was the usual persecution testimony given by gay and les-

bian advocates reciting the KKK and Matthew Shepard experience as evidence of oppression of gays. It was a rather heated hearing at times with Sen. Vicki Walker (D, 7) chastising a pastor for presenting evidence of the relationship of homosexuality to pedophilia and giving the actual statistics. Sen. Walker tried to discredit the report, but the pastor held her ground. In spite of all the opposing views on SB 2, it was readily passed out of committee as was the apparent intent of the committee from the beginning and was subsequently passed in the Senate. The bill now goes to the House of Representatives for a vote.

Pray: Ask the Lord to take the blinders off the eyes of the representatives so they see how this bill affects the fundamental freedoms of all Oregonians.

Act: Please contact your representative by calling (503)986-1187 and express your opposition to this bill. It is a threat to our liberties.

Pray: Ask the Lord to take the blinders off the eyes of the senators so they see how this bill affects the fundamental freedoms of all Oregonians.

Act: Please contact your Senator and express your opposition to this bill. It is a threat to our liberties.

House Bill 2007: HB 2007 would amend the Oregon marriage laws and potentially legalize same-sex marriage by labeling it a civil union as they attempted to do under SB 1000 last term.

CWA of Oregon strongly opposes



HB 2007 for the following reasons:

- It includes benefits that simply cannot apply to same-sex relationships such as benefits tied to the federal government.
- It threatens traditional marriage as the standard for raising children.
- It ignores the will of 57 percent of Oregonians who voted to preserve the legal distinction of marriage as only between one man and one woman under Measure 36.

Pray: Ask the Lord to confuse the plans of our enemies so much so that this bill fails miserably. Pray that marriage stays intact in the state of Oregon.

Act: Contact your Senator today and express your concern over the bill and ask him/her to vote “no” on HB 2007.

Senate Bill 776: This bill was offered at the request of Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon and NARAL Pro-Choice Oregon. It is a dangerous and unnecessary bill that is an outright attack on the ministry of all Pregnancy Resource Centers in Oregon. This bill is a high priority for Planned Parenthood and liberal pro-abortion Democrats in the Legislature.

CWA of Oregon strongly opposes this bill for the following reasons:

- It could ultimately be used to shut down pro-life pregnancy resource centers in the state.

- Under this bill, the Department of Human Services would be required to collect and study data on all aspects of the state's pregnancy resource centers. It would establish a toll-free number and allow online complaints for the DHS to track and investigate any or all pregnancy centers.
- The bill would also examine the religious affiliations and counseling methods used by pregnancy counseling centers.
- This legislation claims that pregnancy centers are using “deceitful tactics” to mislead and manipulate women into choosing life over death.
- It is an unprecedented intrusion by government into private charitable activity without due cause.
- Oregon's pregnancy resource centers receive no state funds. It is a one-sided investigation with a built-in bias.

SB 776 is a clear attempt to build a case for regulating and closing pregnancy resource centers in Oregon. This is part of a national attempt to do so.

Pray: Ask the Lord to thwart the plans of both NARAL and Planned Parenthood. May they not succeed in the plans to destroy human life.

Act: Contact your legislators and express your concerns over this bill and ask them to vote “no” on SB 776.

By Norma Rich, Legislative Liaison

Legislative Information

What Does The Bill Actually Say?

Go to

http://www.leg.state.or.us/bills_laws/ to read any of the current bills before the House and Senate.

Who Are My Legislators?

If you don't know who your state legislators are, go to:

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/findlegsltr/> to find out.

How Do I E-mail My Legislators?

Go to:

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/writelegsltr/> to e-mail your legislator.

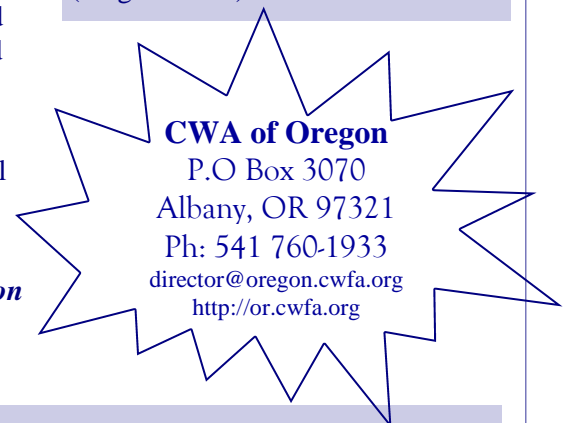
What Address Do I Use When Writing To My Legislators?

The mailing address for all state legislators is:

Representative _____
 State Capitol
 900 Court Street NE
 Salem, OR 97301

What Number Do I Use For My Legislator?

You can reach all of your legislators through the following numbers: 503-986-1187 (local) or 1-800-332-2313 (long distance)



Tip of the Month

This month think of ways that your Prayer Chapter or Home Team can be a blessing to your church, community, and your elected officials. Begin by lifting up to the Lord the Oregon issues about which we are all concerned and our State Legislators. Focus your prayers on what you want God to do regarding Oregon; ask Him for very specific requests so you will recognize His answers when they come.. TAKE ACTION: Be a WARRIOR before Almighty GOD.

Concerned Women For America Salutes Jackie Leavitt

The National office of Concerned Women for America recognized Jackie Leavitt from Albany, Oregon, as the Outstanding Prayer/Action Chapter Leader (PAL) for February. In addition to serving as a PAL since June, 2006, Jackie is a member of the CWA Steering Committee as a Policy Advisor. Jackie's energy and dynamic leadership organized the development and distribution of a state-wide public service announcement (PSA) to many Christian radio stations through out Oregon. The PSA explained the mission, goals and objectives of CWA. She also took on the development of a monthly CWA of Oregon E-Newsletter and gave it her uniquely creative touch. Jackie is a faithful patriot, dedicated to prayer and action for the State of Oregon. "One thing we can always count on Jackie for, no matter what the circumstance, is Godly wisdom and encouragement," commended Louise Muscato, CWA of Oregon State Director. Thank you, Jackie for your commitment and service to CWA in Oregon.

Happy Birthday Oregon!

A Bit of Oregon History: Perhaps foreshadowing the years of controversy to come, Oregon's first contact with Europeans was mired in controversy. In 1792 both Britain and the U.S. claimed the same area. Oregon remained largely isolated until the arrival of Dr. John McLoughlin at British Fort Vancouver. As Chief Factor of the District part of McLoughlin's mandate was to prevent settlement of the area. Not only did McLoughlin ignore the order, he helped all settlers with money, supplies, and good counsel. He established mills and a school and designed plans for Oregon City. As a result of his extensive efforts, Dr. John McLoughlin is known as "the Father of Oregon".

All were welcome under McLoughlin's wing -- wagon train immigrant farmers, retired French Canadian and American trappers and their Native American wives and children, Methodist missionaries, New England merchants, British gentlemen of the Hudson Bay Company and Native American tribes. The first settlers were a diverse group who expressed their views with intelligence and vigor. As a result the proposition to join the Union was voted down three times before being

passed on March 15, 1859. It was actually February 14, 1859, when the U.S. Congress admitted Oregon to the Union, but it took nearly a month for word to reach Oregon.

Throughout history Oregonians have protested for reform and fought for freedom. Today the controversies continue. Currently the battle over marriage is still being fought despite legislation and passage of an amendment that protected marriage in Oregon. The Oregon state motto, "She Flies With Her Own Wings" is proving to be altogether too true.



Karen Elliot

We, as Christians, are called not to fly with our own wings but to rely totally on the Lord. We must humble ourselves and pray and seek to fly on the wings of the Holy Spirit. With God, all things are possible. As we wished Oregon a "Happy Birthday" on February 14th, we thanked God for His mercy, patience, and grace. We continue to humbly seek His face and ask that His name will be lifted up and that souls will be won. The "West" has not yet been won. We pray on.

By Karen Elliot, Associate Director

Praise God For CWA Leaders

Welcome to Stephanie Fleming, our new Prayer/Action Chapter Leader from Woodburn. Stephanie is a home-school mother of two and devoted wife to Dave. Her passion for what is right, true, and honorable is evident in how she prayerfully approaches all facets of life at home and church and that has now brought her to serve Concerned Women for America of Oregon.

Thank you, Stephanie, for your willingness to be obedient to God's call. We will cover you in prayer and look forward to serving with you!

Pray For God To Bring Forth More Leaders

Karen Elliott, Associate Director for CWFA of Oregon, is meeting with other potential leaders as the Lord directs her to them. Please pray that many others will have the willingness to lead Prayer/Action Chapters. Prayer is our greatest defense and most strategic weapon against the forces that seek to destroy our families and nation. Pray without ceasing.

If you or someone you know might be interested in more information on leadership opportunities across the state please contact us today! Together, we can make a difference!

Measure 54

This is an initiative for the November 2008 election. It amends the Oregon Constitution and allows state or local governments to use their regulatory authority to restrict "strip acts." This initiative will require 100,800 signatures to make the ballot. The ballot measure title was certified by the Oregon Attorney General and recorded in the Secretary of State's Office, but a last minute challenge has required a certification of the ballot measure title by the Oregon Supreme Court so hopefully petitions will be avail-

able soon; remember this is the Court that upheld live strip acts as constitutionally protected speech; there could be more delaying tactics. Attorney Kevin Mannix, former candidate for governor, is the chief sponsor of the initiative along with the Faye Wright Neighborhood Association in Salem. CWA of Oregon is authorized to support this measure and is committed to helping gather the required signatures. Hopefully there will be a quick approval of the ballot title and petitions will be printed,

and we can begin. Stay tuned for further updates or contact oregoncwf3@yahoo.com for information.

All of the above bills are a very real indication we are being bombarded by a myriad of anti-family bills designed to seek the elimination or criminalization of all the values that made this nation great. Please join CWA of Oregon as we take a stand on these bills. We cannot afford to be silent!

Hypocrisy At Its Best

Senate Bill 340 prohibits minors 14 years of age or younger from using tanning devices at tanning facilities without their parents' consent. It imposes a civil penalty on the tanning facility for violation.

It seems some senators are more concerned about teen health in regards to tanning than teens having an abortion. How can a teen getting a "sunburn" be of more concern than a teen having access to a service that not only can significantly harm them physically, emotionally and spiritually, but kills a human being in the process? As if that's not bad enough, SB 340 is supported by legislators who opposed a parental notification bill for minors seeking an abortion, Measure 43. This is hypocrisy at its best!

For The First Time Ever – Oregon Legislation On TV

Oregonians will have a television channel dedicated solely to covering the legislature and state government. KATU in Salem will cover the legislative sessions.

<http://www.katu.com/news/politics/5067921.html>

Watch it on:

OPB digital channel 10-3 over the air, 7-3 in Corvallis, 28-3 in Eugene, 3-3 in Bend, and 13-3 in La Grande

Portland Area - Comcast digital cable channel 311

Clear Creek Telephone & TeleVision digital cable channel 168 in Oregon City

BendBroadband digital cable channel 701

One Minute Each Night

During WWII, there was an advisor to Churchill who organized a group of people who dropped what they were doing every night at a prescribed hour and for one minute they collectively prayed for the safety of England, its people and peace.

There is now a group of people organizing the same thing here in America. If you would like to participate: Each evening at 9:00 PM Eastern Time (8:00 PM Central), (7:00 PM Mountain), (6:00 PM Pacific), stop whatever you are doing and spend one minute praying for the safety of the United States, our troops, our citizens, and for a Godly nation.

If you know anyone who would like to participate, please pass this along. Someone said if Christians really understood the full extent of the power we have available through prayer, we might be speechless. Our prayers are the most powerful asset we have. Thank you, and God Bless America.

By Marilyn Crover

NEWSLETTER
COMING
OUT
QUARTERLY

Please watch for it

Let's See If I Understand How The World Works Today . . .

This morning, I received an email that went like this:

If a man cuts his finger off while slicing salami at work, he blames the restaurant.

If you smoke three packs a day for 40 years and die of lung cancer, your family blames the tobacco company.

If your neighbor crashes into a tree while driving home drunk, he blames the bartender.

If your children are brats without manners, you blame the television.

If your friend is shot by a deranged madman, you blame the gun manufacturer.

And if a crazed person breaks into the cockpit and tries to kill the pilot at 35,000 feet, and the passengers kill him instead, the mother of the crazed deceased blames the airline. I must have lived too long to understand the world as it is anymore.

So, if I die, while parked in front of my computer, I want you all to blame Bill Gates.

This story is meant to be humorous, but somewhere this world has taken a tragic turn. People seem to blame



Jackie Leavitt

everything wrong on someone else instead of seeking God and His wisdom to show them how to be creditable human beings and admitting that we have let Him down. We, each one of us, are responsible for the decay and immorality in the society that we live in today. We stay cozy and comfortable in our comfort zones and tend to do nothing. It is time, dear friends, that we get

God's message before it is too late. We need to be humble and pitifully repentant for not standing up for Him, because now we are paying the price.

I suggest that you read this Newsletter prayerfully, seek God to lead you and how YOU can make a change. It is through our combined efforts of prayer, dedication to God and His Authoritative Word that we will have the victory in Oregon. These Newsletters keep you informed. Join us and become mighty warriors for an Almighty GOD!

By Jackie Leavitt, E-Newsletter Director

Adopt-A-Legislator Launch Event Pictures



All had a wonderful time!



Become an Active Member of CWA of Oregon Today!

- Sign me up for urgent CWA of Oregon E-mail Alerts.
- Send me information on how to start a Prayer/Action Chapter.
- Send me information on any other CWA of Oregon leadership positions available.
- Receive my donation of \$_____ towards the work of CWA of Oregon. I understand that if I contribute \$25 or more, it will entitle me to a year of the bi-monthly CWA *Family Voice*. If you prefer, contribute on the state Web page at <http://or.cwfa.org>.
- Sign the following friends up for this newsletter as well as E-mail Alerts:
 - Name _____ E-mail address: _____
 - Name _____ E-mail address: _____
 - Name _____ E-mail address: _____

Please fill out and send to: CWA of Oregon • PO Box 3070 • Albany, OR 97321