



Concerned Women for America of North Dakota

December 2013

Informing, Inspiring and On The Move!

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It's a New Year Dawning! by Janne Myrdal, State Director

A paraphrase of the Scripture, *The Message*, by Eugene Peterson, states Colossians 1:15 this way: “We look at this Son and see the God who cannot be seen. We look at this Son and see God’s original purpose in everything created. For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible, rank after rank after rank of angels—everything got started in him and finds its purpose in him.”

That means for 2014 God has a purpose for every single person on planet Earth. Have you asked Him, “What is my purpose for 2014?” I’m positive His first purpose for you and for me is to know Him better and better every day. His second purpose for you and for me is to minister to those He has entrusted to our care—spouse, children, parents, work associates. The list is unique to you.

Third, for me, His purpose is clear: Work to make our culture as fertile as possible for His values to

flourish and enable those He loves to come to know Him deeper. And I also believe that His purpose would be for us to engage, therefore, in the culture battles we see approaching us this year in North Dakota. And that’s a huge challenge.

We see so very clearly across our nation that many lawmakers and politicians no longer have a relationship with our God or respect for His Word, so, therefore, please only themselves and their constituents so they will be re-elected.

Those who love America and the conservative values embedded in its history are beleaguered by the results of recent attacks on the Christian faith in America, and the attacks on the liberties of all its citizens.

Be it the immorality of overspending, leaving our kids in debt, the constant attack on the unborn child and its mother, the redefinition of marriage or the debacle of

ObamaCare and its death panels and economic and healthcare slavery or the “ObamaCare” of education, Common Core State Standards; it is all overwhelming and even frightening. Yet, God has not given us the option of giving up. “Fear not for I am with you” rings in my heart every day as we stand strong for Biblical Truth in the public square here in North Dakota.

On the horizon is the battle for the Human Life Amendment which is on the ballot here in North Dakota come November 2014. We will need everyone to step up and do more than ever to see this historical protection of life embedded in our Century Code. CWA has joined in forming a state wide joint committee encompassing ALL the pro life organizations in North Dakota, and we look forward to spending an extensive amount of time working to assure a “YES” vote on Measure 1 at the November ballot box.

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Culture Warriors in Action - *Building the Foundations*



South Dakota State Director Linda Schauer, President of South Dakota Eagle Forum Kitty Werthmann, CWA Executive Director Kenda Bartlett, and Janne Mrydal



CWA Communications Director Alison Howard and CWA Young Women for America Coordinator Caroline Biggs



President of Amerisearch, Inc. William Federer



Director and Senior Fellow of the Beverly LaHaye Institute Dr. Janice Crouse

Our First Regional Conference was a Success!

Nearly 70 people attended our first Regional Conference in Fargo, North Dakota! Hosted by CWA of North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota, attendees listened to Kitty Werthmann, William Federer, Dr. Janice Shaw-Crouse, along with other CWA personnel discuss pertinent issues. Thank you to everyone who attended and to our great speakers!

We were fully captured by Kitty's description of her life under Hitler's regime in Austria! The many parallels in the actions of our current government to those that occurred during Hitler's rise to power were astounding. Werthmann's speech was laced with passionate pleas to not be fooled by the false

promises of a socialistic government. She ended with a famous quote from Thomas Jefferson, "When the people fear the government, that's tyranny, but when the government fears the people, that's liberty."

Wow! Alison Howard hit a home-run with her defense of traditional marriage and explanation of how limited government empowers women and families!

Hearing from Caroline Biggs gave us great hope because of her ability to inspire young people to protect and promote Biblical values on which our country was founded.

Mr. Federer used the lense of world history to make clear events of the past and clarify the duty of God's people to influence culture. The explanation of how Mohammedan law requires every woman to belong to a man as his absolute property, either as a child, a wife or a concubine made it clear that the extinction of slavery will not occur until the faith of Islam has ceased to be a great power among men. Bill Federer encouraged with the words from December 4, 1917, in President Woodrow Wilson's address to Congress, "A supreme moment of history has come ... the

hand of God is laid upon the nations. He will show them favor, I devoutly believe, only if they rise to the clear heights of His own justice and mercy."

We were thrilled to hear Dr. Crouse's message which covered hot-topic issues like marriage, abstinence and out-of-wedlock births. The impact of poverty on the single-parent family was horrific to hear! Her message encouraged us to not give up. The need is great to speak up and defend God's design for the family.



In Front of My Enemies by Lin Thorson, Records Correspondent

Do you live among enemies? If you seek a peaceful life without enemies you might fear that you are not the friend of God. Why would God have a table in the presence of my enemies? It is because Jesus treats his enemies justly. God "makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous." God "is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked." Therefore we too should be merciful, "just as your Father is merciful." Matthew 5:45 b; Luke 6:35-36. As Christians we are to live among our enemies.

Jesus and the disciples knew their enemies. In fact, the Lord told the disciples to "love your enemies, hoping for nothing in return." Matthew 5:43-48. To love others means that rather than choosing to "keep my religion to myself", I make choices to be kind and

merciful through words and deeds. As an ambassador to this generation, my Christian life becomes much more than finding cozy fellowship in a place of worship. The unequipped and powerless believer focuses on the enemy and lives a fruitless life. In contrast, well equipped Christians enjoy the table. We are prepared for their refreshment. We who choose to serve a living God present God's message of mercy while focusing on the smorgasbord of blessings given by the Creator of all good things. This is the reason I joined Concerned Women for America! CWA challenges and equips me to live God's way in our culture. By joining the nation's

largest public policy women's organization, I support an organization that carries Biblical principles into all levels of public policy.



Mario Diaz, Esq.

Table/Column

Importantly, membership provides financial support for CWA leaders committed to conservative causes.

Read Mario Diaz's on-line article, "[Beware of Rob Bell](#)" and you will

be challenged! He warns, "Be wary of those trying to adapt the Word of God to "current times." We want to apply God's principles to modern culture, sure, but we must never change them to satisfy the culture's fleeting appetites. Molding Truth to fit

personal desire is the essence of the false teacher." Mario Esq. leads CWA's Legal Studies Department.

Social issues are also addressed clearly on CWA's website. Mario Dios's *American Thinker*, "[Can't NY Do Better?](#)" article is posted.

In his posting, "[Self Evident Truths](#)" Diaz states, "America simply cannot (and will not) survive as a free nation if it continues down a path that ignores this reality - the reality of the human heart and God's redemptive power."

Please join [CWA](#), become informed and involved. Come to the table God has prepared, become equipped to bring love and mercy to our enemies.

North Dakota Pro-Life Organizations Join Forces

CWA of North Dakota is happy to announce the formation of a state-wide [Human Life Amendment Coalition](#). CWA has joined forces with ALL of the pro-life organizations in North Dakota, and we look forward to spending an extensive amount of time in the coming year assuring a "YES" vote on Measure 1 at the November ballot box. The Human Life Amendment is a simple, yet powerful statement; "*The inalienable right to life of every human being at any stage of development must be recognized and protected*". In approving this this basic human right amendment, North Dakotans would validate the right of past and current legislative actions limiting abortions, such as ultrasound requirements, restricting partial birth abortions, assuring women's continuous care after surgical abortions and parental notification rules. Passage would also grant the right of future legislatures to pass meaningful legislation to promote the dignity of all human life without the risk of judicial activists constantly advancing a culture of death. It is somewhat sad that this common sense and universal truth has to be written in to our laws, as it should be an automatic response of society to protect all innocent life, yet we see the passage of this amendment as vitally important to continue the protection of life in our state and nation. Please consider volunteering with us on this endeavor as well as donating funds to help us accomplish this task, and we urge you to pray and fast with us while we petition the Lord of life to give us victory.



Informed, Inspired and On The Move - 2013 in Review

by Janne Myrdal, State Director



It has indeed been a hectic year, promoting and defending the core values of CWA across our state. None of it could have been accomplished without the grace of the Lord and without your support!! You are our strength and the backbone of our state organization! We couldn't do "what we do" without knowing that you are doing what you do, and that is praying faithfully and supporting us! Below is a condensed list of our activities. Please remember that ALL the leaders of CWA in our state from the State Director down are volunteer leaders and no salaries are paid. The expenses for the activities can range from \$400 for a lobby trip to Bismarck, \$1500 for going to Washington, D.C. to represent our state on numerous issues on Capitol Hill, to as little as \$50 for gas for trips to visit Prayer/Action Chapter leaders. All of it is donated by faithful supporters like you.

Concerned Women for America confronts many issues facing American citizens. We divide these into seven different categories. CWA of North Dakota has been active on educating and defending these across our great state.

◆ Presence in the 2013 North Dakota Legislative

Session on numerous issues including defending religious liberty and life. (See in particular the update on historical gains in life legislation on page 2)



◆ Countless appearances

on TV and Talk Radio as well as press releases and letters to the editor of major papers and public speaking events defending Biblical truth in the public square as well as educating on CWA's core issues.



◆ Hundreds gathered at life celebration event at Capitol building with pro-life coalition.



◆ **Encourage-A- Legislator program, which was hugely successful.** It is not unusual for state legislators to stop us in the hallway of the Capitol and tell us how they appreciate our ladies praying for them. Many keep the notecards they receive on their desks as reminders.

◆ We try to visit our Prayer/Action Chapters as often as we

can, usually at the invitation of the leader. We have grown this year adding four new groups, with at least two more in the process. This has enabled us to basically "cover" our entire state corner-to-corner in prayer, as we have Chapters in Fargo, Grand Forks, Jamestown, Medora, Rugby, and Minot, with smaller towns in between! One prayer request in this area

would be to get a group started in Bismarck.

◆ Several trips to D.C. in defense of life and marriage, as well as

lobbying to oppose the Affordable Care Act and the immoral overspending of Congress.

The core issues listed below are of concern to ALL North Dakota citizens, and we will continue to daily engage our elected officials on this as we strive to restore our culture to Biblical values.

Family

CWA believes that marriage consists of one man and one woman. We seek to protect and support the Biblical design of marriage and the gift of children.

Sanctity of Human Life

CWA supports the protection of all innocent human life from conception until natural death. We also support alternatives to abortion and healing for mothers suffering from the results of abortion.

Education

CWA supports reform of public education by returning authority to parents and also accessibility to alternatives forms of education.

Sexual Exploitation

CWA endeavors to fight all pornography,

obscenity, prostitution and sex slavery.

Religious Liberty

CWA supports the God-given rights of individuals in the United States and other nations to pray worship and express their beliefs without fear of discrimination or persecution.

National Sovereignty

CWA believes that neither the United Nations nor any other international organization should have authority over the United States in any area. We also believe the United States has the right and duty to protect and secure our national

borders. We believe in budget restraint which embodies responsible spending, small government and a budget in which the U.S. government spends within its means and ceases to steal from future generations.



Support for Israel

CWA believes that the people and nations who stand with Israel and the Jewish people will be blessed by God. We believe that any foreign policy effort to withdraw U.S. support for Israel is in direct contradiction to America's national interests.

CWA of North Dakota to Take on Common Core

One of the looming issues before us in North Dakota and across the nation is Common Core State Standards in K-12 education. Below we have included an excellent article by CWA's own Dr. Janice Crouse on this issue, CWA of North Dakota will engage on this issue in this coming year alongside several allies in the conservative movement. Why should this concern any of us? Our children are our greatest gift and resource as a society and we cannot allow them to become a pawn in an unproven experiment being placed upon us without the say or control of parents, local school districts, our elected officials or any other elected office! And sadly behind this effort to "improve" education is a deep ideological agenda that is counter to Biblical values and the liberty upon which this nation is built on. [Please read this article and contact us if this is an issue you care about.](#) Together we can stop this agenda and use state and local solutions to our education challenges!

Common Core: The ObamaCare of Education

by Dr. Janice Crouse, Director and Senior Fellow of the Beverly LaHaye Institute

At least a dozen states are now delaying or rethinking their implementation of the new Common Core educational standards, as opposition from parents and teachers grows. It is no wonder that teachers initially thought Common Core was just another educational fad destined to soon be replaced by the next new idea. But they've found instead that Common Core is an educational track that parallels the ObamaCare: both are designed to "fundamentally transform" America, both were

conjured up out of audacious incompetence, both are products of ideological thinking rather than experience and common sense, and both are guaranteed to produce disastrous consequences.

Like ObamaCare, Common Core was forced onto the public as a naked federal government takeover. Common Core usurps state and local governments, based on the dubious idea that the local rubes can't be trusted to understand and

meet the needs of their own children. Common Core was developed without state legislative involvement or authority, without involvement of curriculum or content specialists, and it was never voted on by anybody. Instead, it began with progressive educational insiders in Washington, D.C., was developed by Achieve, Inc., a group of progressive education reformers, shaped by commercial vendor NCS Pearson, Inc., and funded primarily by Bill and Melinda Gates

***Stop Common Core
"State" Standards is a
great CWA resource.***



[Click here](#)
to view this brochure
and many others.

through numerous foundations, organizations, and coalitions. At the last minute, two D.C.-based trade associations, the National Governors Association and the Council of State School Officers, were brought in to give the appearance of local and state involvement. Common Core has been implemented primarily through billions in federal “bribes,” because states had to accede to it in order to receive “Race to the Top” grants or waivers for “No Child Left Behind.”

This federal takeover of education is yet another instance of Washington elites expanding the scope, size, and reach of the federal government and its bloated, wasteful, imperious, and very often incompetent bureaucracy. So what that three federal laws prohibit the federal government from setting the education curriculum of the various states? So what that any reasonable common sense reading of the U.S.

Constitution and Bill of Rights leads to the conclusion that the power to set education standards *is reserved to the states*? So what if they ignore their oath to uphold the Constitution? Yet, Common Core cannot be changed by state legislatures or state school boards, nor can taxpayers or parents have a voice in the local schools under Common Core; instead, these “standards” were forced onto local schools before any details

were known (remember “we have to pass the bill to know what is in the bill”?) and without state legislative approval or public hearings.

Some experts on the validation committee ultimately refused to sign off on the English and Math standards — one gave the English standards a “D” grade and another called the Math standards a “joke.” Critics say both English and Math Common Core Standards teach “empty skill sets” and claim they require only about a 7th grade level education for high school graduation. Others report that students won’t learn the necessary literary and cultural foundations for authentic education or for success in college. Instead, some experts say that the goal is to produce “workers,” not “educated, thinking citizens.”

The “lessons” in Common Core peddle propaganda, even in grammar exercises and math problems. Parents are reporting disinformation, distortion, and disparagement of American capitalism, exceptionalism, and opportunity. In short, Common Core appears to be as much about indoctrination as it is about educating our youth and providing them the skills

needed for both informed citizenship and productive careers. “Informational texts” (actually leftist political essays or comics) replace “creative or classic literature.”



As we learn more about Common Core, we find it’s very intrusive:

high-tech data tracking will make private personal data available to any “researcher” who claims to have an “audit or evaluation” goal. Massive databases, containing as many as 400 data points about each student, will track children’s individual and family information from preschool through career.

The cost of this fundamental transformation of American education is exorbitant, \$16 billion, with numerous open-ended, unfunded mandates for things like professional development, testing, and new, high-tech instructional materials. This will, of course, be paid by state and local districts, with costs dwarfing any “Race to the Top” grants that were awarded for adopting the Common Core standards. And, naturally, these estimates won’t begin to touch the actual costs when all — slush funds for politically-favored vendors, paybacks, fraud — is said and done.

Already, 45 states, D.C., and four U.S. territories have built educational curricula based on Common Core. But, as reality is coming to light, some states are withdrawing, and others are refusing to participate. More and more teachers are speaking out about the unrealistic and unfinished nature of Common Core; national education commentators are weighing in on the classroom havoc around the country. Meanwhile, the federal government is aggressively pushing to add Common Core standards for science and social studies.

Secretary of Education Arne Duncan dismisses criticism of Common Core, complaining that “white suburban moms” oppose new standards because they want to continue believing that their underperforming children are brilliant — injecting the same race and class conflict that is being used so mendaciously to try to squelch criticism of ObamaCare.

Sadly, the train wreck that Common Core is generating in our education system, like ObamaCare in the nation’s health care system, amounts to severe and lasting damage that will take years to reverse.

A New Year Dawning - cont.

Alongside this come several laws that are currently in lawsuits - laws that protect women and their unborn children but that the abortion industry is trying

to stop via judicial activism. See *2013 Legislative Tracking* below.

So, as we approach CHRISTmas and a new

year, let's take time to reflect on He who is the reason for this season, the Lamb of God, and let's renew our commitment to our calling. I personally know of no better organization through

which we can be effective than that of CWA! Why? Because we are a group of women who base all we do on Biblical truth and prayer first and foremost. Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!



2013 Legislative Tracking

Bill	Description	Status
2011 HB 1297	Strengthened and closed loopholes in existing law regarding parental consent for minors, materials on unborn development, reporting requirements, judicial bypasses for minors, prohibition on state agencies favoring abortion, and other matters.	Went into effect August 1, 2011. No lawsuits filed against these provisions, though some of these revisions have become relevant in the abortion-drug challenge.
2011 HB 1297 (abortion drug section)	Limits the use of abortion inducing drugs to FDA protocol; prohibits telemedicine abortions.	Currently enjoined by a local judge on the grounds that it violates a "right to abortion" he found in the state constitution. State appealed the decision to the North Dakota Supreme Court. State's brief filed October 1. North Dakota Catholic Conference amicus curiae brief filed October 1. Americans United for Life filed an amicus brief in support of the state on behalf of 49 legislators. The clinic filed its brief on November 12. North Dakota Women's Network, NDCAWS, and Steven Morrison filed an amicus brief in support of the clinic. ND Medical Association filed a brief in support of the clinic. The state's reply brief is due November 29. Oral arguments are set for December 11.
HB 1305	Bans abortions for sex selection or genetic abnormalities	Went into effect August 1, 2013. Although the clinic originally filed a suit in federal court to block the law, it has dropped that challenge.
HB 1456	Bans abortions after the detection of a fetal heartbeat	Temporarily enjoined by a federal court pending further hearings on the matter. The clinic filed a motion for summary judgment in October. The state's response is due December 15.
SB 2305	Requires abortion physicians to have admitting privileges at a local hospital.	Merged into challenge against abortion-drug regulations. Enjoined by a local judge on the grounds that it violates a "right to abortion" he found in the state constitution. See abortion drug status.
SB 2368	Prohibits abortions after 20 weeks gestation.	Went into effect August 1, 2013.
SCR 4009	Clarifies that the right to life in the state constitution applies to all stages of development.	Goes to vote of the people November 4, 2014.

We Can Do It . . . With Your Help

* **Pray** daily for those in government to make choices that please God. Pray for Concerned Women for America's leadership at both the national and state levels; pray that we may build up and strengthen God's people as we do His work.

* **Educate** yourself and others about issues as they arise. CWA of North Dakota will be releasing E-Alerts to keep you aware of urgent issues. (Make sure you are on our E-Alert list by providing us with your e-mail address.)

* **Praise** God for the new CWA program "Young Women for America"! North Dakota has a chapter at the University of Jamestown! Pray that young women will step up to accept the challenge of becoming the next generation of Godly leaders.

* **ACT!** Write letters, make phone calls, contribute and educate your friends and associates. Join or start a CWA Prayer/Action Chapter to partner with other women in praying for our country.

Luke 2:8-18

Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this *will be* the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. Now when they had seen *Him*, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. And all those who heard *it* marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds.



Partner With CWA of North Dakota

As you enjoy this glorious Christmas season please consider giving a tax-deductible gift to CWA of North Dakota. We have big plans for 2014 and hope that you will be part of them.

A return envelope has been provided for your convenience.. Or, [donate online](#).

100% of your donation stays in North Dakota to continue the fight in our great state.