



Christmas 2016

Dear CWA of Illinois Friends,

Merry Christmas to you and yours!

“Behold! I bring you 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 sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.” Luke 2:10

### **The Reason for the Season Remains Forever**

During the Christmas season, there are those who go into overdrive to silence the message spoken by the angel so many years ago. The words “Merry Christmas” are heard and read less and less. Why? Why such a desire to remove the word “Christmas”? The answer is revealed in John 3:19-21:

“ ... God’s light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil. All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed. But those who do what is right come to the light so others can see that they are doing what God wants.”

Attempts have been made to silence the message of God’s love and redemption through indifference, persecution, legislation, and policy, but the light of truth and hope cannot be extinguished. The light of Christ shines for eternity.

This Christmas season, may we as believers rejoice as did the multitude of the heavenly host that wondrous night: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men” (Luke 2:14).

### ***2017 in Review: Win or Lose, We Fought!***

2016 has been a whirlwind for each one of us personally, as well as our state and country in so many ways. The same goes for CWA of Illinois. We have been involved with an area of issues through events, legislative and informational e-alerts, projects and more. Each provoking a disdain for evil and a desire to do good through our efforts. With your help, we have taken a stand on multiple issues such the opposition to taxpayer-funded abortions, Crisis Pregnancy Centers (CPCs) being forced to give abortion referrals, students being allowed in the bathroom of the opposite gender, and Sharia law. We were engaged in get-out-the-vote efforts and more. Though the majority of our state legislators are in support of all the legislative issues we opposed this year, we continued to make our voice heard. As our Founder and Chairman of the Board, Beverly LaHaye, said many years ago, “We are not called to win, we are called to fight.” And that my dear friends is what we did in 2016 and will continue to do in 2017. Win or lose, we will fight.

Visit our [state webpage](#) to view the many activities of 2016 and to keep up with us in 2017.

### *CWA is on the Move in Illinois. Won't You Join Us?*

I don't know about you, but I look forward to a new year with new possibilities. We have an array of plans for 2017 that we hope you will enthusiastically consider being a part of. *You are needed!*

There are several ways to get involved with CWA of Illinois. Here are just a few:

- ◆ **Encourage-A-Legislator Program:** We are looking for women and men who are willing to pray for a state legislator and a county board/commission chair on a regular basis and send him/her a postcard every month. We provide the postcards, which include Scripture, a historical quote and prayer. You simply sign your name, affix a stamp and put it in the mail. Now more than ever before, whether they are conservative or liberal, our legislators need our prayers and encouragement. [Contact me](#) by December 29 if you would like to be part of this program.
- ◆ **Prayer/Action Chapters:** Consider starting or joining an existing [Prayer/Action Chapter](#) in your community. Together we can restore righteousness and Biblical values through prayer, education, and action on state and national legislation and issues. [Contact me](#) if you are interested in more information, such as how to start a Chapter. "Prayer/Action Chapters are the backbone of Concerned Women for America." - Beverly LaHaye
- ◆ **E-Alert Response Team:** Commit to faithfully praying and acting on the e-alerts we send out and forwarding them on to friends and family.
- ◆ **CWA of Illinois Fundraising Efforts:** No organization can thrive without financial support. [Contact me](#) if you have any ideas for special programs or events that would highlight CWA's Core Issues.
- ◆ **Lobbying Team:** Lobbying is a vital part of making our voice heard at the State Capitol on pro-family, pro-life bills. We would like to expand our current team. Please [contact me](#) for more information if you live in the Springfield area and are at all interested.

### *Partner with CWA of Illinois Through Your Financial Support*

We are continually grateful for those who give to the work of CWA of Illinois. Because CWA of Illinois is run by volunteers, all donations go straight into the work at hand. **There are two ways to contribute your tax-deductible gift to CWA of Illinois.** You can send a check to the address below or [contribute online](#). If you send a check, be sure to write it out to "Concerned Women for America" and then put "CWA of Illinois" on the memo line. Any amount is deeply appreciated. **When you give to the state, all funds are used in the state. When you give to CWA National, all funds are used at the national level.**

Your involvement, financial gifts and prayers could not be more appreciated.

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!



Debbie Leininger  
State Director