



December 2016

Concerned Women for America of Louisiana

Demonstrating Kingdom to Government and Government to Kingdom

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From Our State Director Sancha Noel Smith



Greeting

Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year from Concerned Women for America (CWA) of Louisiana!

As you may have heard me [state before](#), CWA of Louisiana's mandate to serve the people of our great state has a dual or twin purpose, that is, *to teach Kingdom to government and to teach government to Kingdom*. One "twin" reminds the Kingdom that the purpose of government is to punish and reward (Romans 13:3-4); while the other "twin" commands us to pray for those in authority (1 Timothy 2:1-4).

Throughout 2016, CWA of Louisiana has both taught and demonstrated *Kingdom to Government and Government to Kingdom* as we have sought

to carry out the vision of our National leadership as well as our state organization as we focus on our Seven Core Issues:

- ◆ Defense of the Family
- ◆ Sanctity of Human Life
- ◆ Education
- ◆ Sexual Exploitation
- ◆ Religious Liberty
- ◆ National Sovereignty
- ◆ Support for Israel

Encouragement

It may seem that our country is in turmoil and, for some, that there is little hope for a bright future. But we know God's heart on the matter ... "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope." (Jeremiah 29:11).

However, the greatest hope for all of us is to receive the amazing gift we celebrate during this season - Jesus Christ: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son that whosoever believes in him would not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

That is HIS mandate! CWA of Louisiana has hope for a bright future as God promised, and has sought to share this hope with all those to whom we have been assigned.

We Did It Together

This newsletter will give you a flavor of what, *with your help*, we have been able to accomplish this year. You will be amazed at all that God has allowed us to achieve through all of our unified prayers and actions.

Your Support is Critical

As we look towards the future together, consider being a greater part of our efforts in 2017 by

generously giving to CWA of Louisiana through your prayers, finances and your involvement in projects,

lobbying and more. Your support is critical as we continue to equip, educate and empower our citizens to speak truth to power, to speak the truth in love, and to speak life.



CWA of Louisiana Steering Committee

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Meet Your CWA of Louisiana Leaders!

Your gift will make room for you and bring you before great men. (From Proverbs 18:16)



Nedra Epps, Associate Director

I learned about CWA through our amazing State Director, Sancha, and gained a new and fascinating understanding of government and the world around me, as well as how to impact that world through committed prayer and action. I firmly believe not only in the core values and the mission of CWA, but also in the mission and the mandate of our state organization which is to “teach Kingdom to government and government to Kingdom,” establishing His righteousness. I have been married to Keith Epps for 26 years and have two sons.



Janet Jackson, Prayer/Action Chapter Coordinator and Prayer/Action Chapter Leader of Lafayette

I learned about CWA when Sancha approached me about the organization in 2014. After discussing the core values with her, I discovered that they aligned with my foundational beliefs and were in conjunction with my intercessory prayer calling. I was moved to do further research about the organization and realized that this was not just an organization, but one to which I was called. My passion is provoked by the need for prayer in government which is my original assignment as an intercessor. I am married to Charles Jackson and have eight children and six grandchildren.



Valerie Kerry, Event Coordinator

I learned about CWA from Nedra during one of her several attempts to get me to be a part of the organization. I was drawn to CWA because of the mission to establish God’s righteousness in the earth, and particularly in government. To me it is an assignment from God, and after I prayed, it was confirmed. We are co-laboring together with God to ensure that His good, acceptable and perfect will is being done in government. I have been married to Stanley Kerry for 22 years and have one daughter, one son and a granddaughter.



Debbie Hoehl, Encourage-A-Legislator Coordinator

I became part of CWA leadership after visiting the National office when I had accompanied my husband on a business trip to DC. It is a privilege to serve with like-minded women in this wonderful God-centered organization to promote Biblical values. My prayer for my service through CWA is Psalm 90:17: “And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands for us: yes, establish the work of our hands.” I have been married to Eb Hoehl for 34 years.



Nancy Tower, “Government by God’s Design” Coordinator and Lake Charles Prayer/Action Chapter Leader

I’ve known of CWA for many years through listening to Christian radio, but only became involved in mid-2016 after meeting Janet and Sancha. I have a passion for the political process and helping Christian elected officials to honor God in their daily duties. CWA addresses both the spiritual and the practical applications of that passion and gives me a way to connect with others who have similar interests and concerns. I have been married to Ron Tower for 31 years and have two daughters, one step-son and 6 grandchildren.



Ramona Hand, Arnaudville Prayer/Action Chapter Leader

I first learned about CWA during a Congressional candidate's "meet and greet" event. After speaking with the CWA leaders and attending a Chapter meeting I joined because I firmly believe in the organization's mission. I look forward to serving as a leader. I was married to my dear husband Arthur, for almost 37 years, when he went to be with the Lord in 2013. We have one son.

CWA of Louisiana's Year in Review

Below we have highlighted some of our victories and accomplishments in 2016. Rejoice with us about all God has allowed us to participate in month after month.

— JANUARY —

Mighty 9 Program Launched

In 2015 we sensed the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to create a program, similar to our Encourage-A-Legislator (EAL) program (see page 6 for more details), that would cultivate prayer and encouragement for our governor, two U.S. senators, and six congressmen. We named it the Mighty 9 and launched it in the beginning of January. This program sent Scripture-rich cards to each of the nine from a CWA member who handwrote words of encouragement and prayers. We received very positive responses from the men and women who serve our great state and nation and look forward to continuing the program in 2017.

Louisiana Life March



CWA of Louisiana was privileged to participate in the annual Louisiana Life March in Baton Rouge sponsored by the Louisiana Right to Life Federation. Members manned a CWA of Louisiana informational table and [Sancha was honored to be one of the key speakers](#). She was [interviewed by the local news](#). It received a great response.



— FEBRUARY —

State Legislators Welcomed to the 2016 Legislative Session

A letter was sent to every member of the state senate (39) and house (105) welcoming them to the 2016 legislative

session, letting them know they will be regularly prayed for through our EAL Program, thanking them for their service, and introducing them to CWA's Seven Core Issues.

— MARCH —

Attended Opening Day at the State Capitol of the 2016 Legislative Session

CWA of Louisiana members attended opening day of Louisiana's 2016 legislative session and sat on the House floor as the newly-elected Governor John Bel Edwards spoke.

State Director Testified before the House Health and Welfare Committee in Support of Waiting Period Abortion Regulations



Nedra, Janet and CWA member Andrea Compton attended with Sancha as she gave [testimony before the House Health and Welfare Committee regarding HB386](#) (Enhanced Reflection Act). Praise the Lord, the committee voted in our favor of the bill that increased the time for reflection between pre-abortion counseling and the actual abortion procedure from 24 hours to 72 hours.

Introduced on TV Show, *Gamechangers*

Sancha was a guest on *Gamechangers*, a local public TV broadcast, hosted by Pastors Charles and Janet Jackson, to present CWA of Louisiana.

Governor's Prayer Breakfast

CWA of Louisiana members attended the Governor's Prayer Breakfast and

Pastor's Briefing in Baton Rouge.

Be sure to go to la.cwfa.org regularly to view information on events, projects, alerts and more .

— APRIL —

Pro-Life Day at the Capitol

Members of CWA of Louisiana attended Pro-Life Day at the Capitol sponsored by Louisiana Right to Life Federation. It consisted of a rally to support pro-life legislative efforts, lobbying legislators, attending committee meetings, and meeting pro-life leaders.

Spoke Out During Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Sancha spoke at the Freedom Rally as part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month sponsored by the Lafayette Commission on the Needs of Women.

CWA of Louisiana Testified Before the Senate Health and Welfare Committee in Support of Waiting Period Abortion Regulations

Janet and CWA member Andrea attended with Sancha as she gave testimony before the Senate Health and Welfare Committee in support of HB386. Praise the Lord, the committee voted in favor of the bill.

Encourage-A-Legislator (EAL) Program Starts Three Months of Prayer and Encouragement for All 144 of the State Legislators

Members have been a great support to our state legislators through our EAL Program in which we send cards of encouragement and support to all of our state senators and representatives throughout the legislative session letting them know that we are regularly praying for them. A special thanks to Debbie Hoehl for implementing this program with diligence and excellence for eight years running.

— MAY —

**Encourage-A-Legislator
Appreciation Day at the Capitol**

With Speaker of the House
Taylor Barras (R-District 48)

Members attended [EAL Appreciation Day at the Capitol](#). They enjoyed meeting the legislator they had been praying for, meeting other EAL volunteers, praying in the Capitol Chapel, sharing lunch, and then being recognized in both the Senate and House Chambers from the floor.

— JUNE —

**CWA of Louisiana Present at the
Signing of HB386 Into Law**

As State Director for CWA of Louisiana, Sancha was honored to attend the signing of

HB386 by Gov. John Bel Edwards.

**Published in Covenant Spotlight
Magazine**

As a voice to the community of Acadiana, CWA of Louisiana published the first of a four part series titled "Understanding the Gay Agenda." It was co-authored by Nedra and [published in *Covenant Spotlight Magazine*](#) in their June issue. The July, August and September articles followed.

**Acquired "Government by God's
Design" Curriculum**

Seeking to fulfill our mandate to teach *Kingdom to Government and Government to Kingdom*, we were thrilled to acquire "Government by God's Design," authored by Nancy Towers. It is a series of workshops created to help Christian leaders express their Biblical

worldview as they serve in public office.

**New "Government by God's
Design" Coordinator Approved**

Nancy Towers was approved as the new "Government by God's Design" Coordinator.

**New Lake Charles Prayer/Action
Chapter Approved**

[Nancy Towers was approved as the new Prayer/Action Chapter Leader of the Lake Charles area.](#)

**CWA of Louisiana Attends
Conference in Washington, D.C.**

Sancha, Nedra and Janet attended the Road to Majority conference in Washington, D.C., sponsored by Faith and Freedom Coalition and Concerned Women for America. They met with U.S. legislators and former Presidential candidates, and were also present for the speech made by President-Elect Donald Trump. They were able to connect with and pray with and for our nation's leaders. It was fruitful and exciting collaborating with the National CWA leadership and our sisters in other states.

Lobbied Federal Legislators for Life

While in D.C., the ladies then went to Capitol Hill and lobbied the Louisiana

legislators in support of the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act.

— JULY —

**Director Speaks to Pastors and
Leaders of Faith on the Topic of the
Gay Agenda**

Sancha spoke to pastors and faith leaders at Covenant Spotlight's E.Q.U.I.P Luncheon on the topic of "Understanding the Gay Agenda."

— AUGUST —

**CWA of Louisiana Speaks at 40 Days
for Life Launch**

State leadership attended the 40 Days for Life Launch in New Orleans where Sancha was a guest speaker. 40 Days for Life is the largest internationally coordinated pro-life mobilization in history, helping people in local communities end the injustice of abortion through community outreach, peaceful vigils, prayer, and fasting.

— SEPTEMBER —

**CWA National & CWA of Louisiana
Reach Out to Louisiana Flood
Victims**

Our CWA National Office demonstrated their great love and compassion for the people of Louisiana, as well as their support of our state organization, by gifting us with \$5,000 in Walmart gift cards and Bibles. [These were distributed to victims who were hardest hit by the floods](#) in Acadiana



Member Beth Guidry with local school employee. CWA provided supplies that had been destroyed.

and Baton Rouge. This act of love demonstrated CWA National's confidence in our leadership and integrity. We deeply appreciate our CWA leaders in Washington.

— OCTOBER —



Director Speaks at Truth Matters event

CWA of Louisiana began a partnership with Black Advocates for Life which presents the pro-life message to the African American community and Sancha spoke at the organization's Truth Matters event in Shreveport.

On the C.L. Bryant Radio Show

Sancha and Janet appeared on C.L. Bryant's nationally-syndicated radio show and presented CWA's mission and mandate.

Director Shares About CWA at Rally in Lake Charles

Sancha opened in prayer and shared about CWA at the Old Fashioned Rally in Lake Charles where the guest speaker was Mark "Oz" Geist, heroic defender of the Benghazi Consulate. A CWA table was also set up and many flocked to the table as a result of

Sancha's presentation.

— NOVEMBER —

CWA Presented to Ministry and Government Leaders

Sancha shared CWA's mission and mandate at a Spirit of Liberty Church luncheon in Lafayette before an audience of ministry and government leaders.

New Prayer/Action Chapter - Amaudville

Ramona Hand approved as new Prayer/Action Chapter Leader of the Arnaudville area.

"Government By God's Design" Launched in Lake Charles

"Government By God's Design" was presented to an audience of pastors and local government leaders in Lake Charles. This promises to be the first of many.

— DECEMBER —

Human Right's Prayer Rally in Washington, D.C.

CWA of Louisiana participated in CWA National's "100 No More" human rights prayer rally [campaign](#) kickoff event in Washington, D.C., in front of a Planned Parenthood abortion clinic. Sancha was



Video link!

Sancha enjoyed a wonderful time with Dr. Alveda King.



one of many speakers ([view video](#)) as well as Martin Luther King Jr.'s niece, Dr. Alveda King, Founder of Good Ground Good Life, Delyon Gigger, President and CEO of Concerned Women for America, Penny Nance, Senior Pastor of Forestville, New Redeemer Baptist Church's Reverend Nathaniel B. Thomas, and others.

CWA is in the midst of planning many rallies across the country next year. We hope to have one in Louisiana. We will keep you posted.

Lobbying in Washington, D.C.

While in D.C., Sancha took the opportunity to lobby our Louisiana federal legislators on the issues of reallocating taxpayer dollars from Planned Parenthood to federally qualified health centers. She met with Rep. Garret Graves (R-District 6) and Rep. Ralph Abraham (R-District 5), staffers in Rep. Cedric Richmond (D-

Impact Your Nation, State and Community

"Prayer/Action Chapters are the backbone of Concerned Women for America." -Founder and Chairman Beverly LaHaye

Prayer/Action Chapter Coordinator Janet Jackson has been actively engaged in efforts to increase the number of chapters across Louisiana. Building chapters across the state remains one of our top priorities.

What is a Prayer/Action Chapter?

Glad you asked! Prayer/Action Chapters meet monthly across the nation. The Prayer/Action Chapter

has a three-fold purpose, providing an opportunity for members to:

1. Be alert and **informed** on the issues. (... being watchful to this end with all perseverance ... Ephesians 6:18b)
2. **Pray** about the issues. (... praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit ... Ephesians 6:18a)
3. **Act** on those issues. (... that in I

may speak boldly, as I ought to speak. Ephesians 6:20)

If you would like more information about starting one in your area please contact Janet at chaptercoordinator@cwfa.org or check the appropriate box on the reply device at the end of this newsletter.

Sign Up Early For Our Encourage-A-Legislator Program

Encouragers are needed to pray for our state legislators during the 2017 Legislative Session, April 10 - June 8.

We live in challenging times; much prayer is needed to push back the enemy's assault on our culture by praying for wisdom and blessings upon the leadership of our great state.

Through the Encourage-A-Legislator (EAL) Program, CWA members and friends commit to pray daily for their assigned legislators and send them CWA-provided postcards with preprinted Scripture verses. As an Encourager, you simply add a note of appreciation for the legislator's service and tell him/her you are praying for them. Add a postcard stamp and mail them on the

specified dates. It couldn't be easier. Will you commit to be an EAL prayer volunteer for this coming year?

Sign up today by e-mailing Debbie at encourage@louisiana.cwfa.org. Give her your name and address.

Packets with instructions and postcards will be sent out at the end of February.

Join Our Alert Response Team

Are you currently on CWA's e-alert list to receive regular notices about CWA of Louisiana and CWA National projects, programs, legislative alerts

and more? If not, please go to [CWA National's website](#) and sign up under "STAY INFORMED!" And, *encourage friends and family to do the same*. This is

our number one means of communication with our friends and members to help them stay informed on the issues that affect the family.

Moving Forward

As we enter 2017, we encourage you to be ever mindful of God's Word to us regarding our responsibility to those in authority.

"Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all

men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one

Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time, for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle—I am speaking the truth in Christ and not lying—a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth." (1 Timothy 2:1-4)



CWA Membership - Both State & National

A tax-deductible gift of \$25 or more has two benefits - membership to CWA of Louisiana and to CWA National. All donations sent to CWA Louisiana remain in Louisiana for state activities. All donations sent to CWA National in response to their mailings are utilized in Washington, D.C. Your renewed/annual membership/additional donation is greatly appreciated. Or, donate online at la.cwfa.org and click on the red button under my picture.

I wish to contribute to CWA's mission of establishing righteousness in government with my gift of: \$25 \$35 \$50 \$100 \$250 other \$ _____

I am interested in:

- information about starting a Prayer/Action Chapter
- attending a Prayer/Action Chapter
- hosting a CWA informational meeting
- signing up for the Encourage-A-Legislator Program
- receiving e-mail alerts. My e-mail address is _____

Name _____

Street _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Send check to: CWA of Louisiana, P.O. Box 2446, Opelousas, LA 70571
(Make check payable to "CWA" and put "for CWA of Louisiana" in the memo line)

