



Concerned Women for America of Louisiana

December 2018



"For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God" (Hebrews 11:10).

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A Word From Our State Director Sancha Smith



Together We are Co-Laborers With Christ

"For we are God's co-laborers; you are God's field, God's building" (I Corinthians 3:9). Yashua is the chief cornerstone and architect of our lives. As we look to Him as author and finisher of our faith, we must endeavor to engage in our call to be builders with Him. We must seek to follow God's blueprint – not only for our individual lives but for our families, communities, state, and nation. We have a responsibility to help our legislators build our government upon the foundation that is Jesus Christ.

Yahweh has a design for our government, as well as for our lives. His design for government involves Romans 13:1-7:

"Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore, whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. Therefore, you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience'

sake. For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor."

As you see, the foundation of good government is to punish evil and reward good (Romans 13:3). Therefore, the one who is called to serve in government is God's minister for good.

Leaders are called to be real (honest, genuine); relevant (understanding community concerns); reverent (respecting and honoring God and your fellow man); and responsive (reacting quickly and positively). They submit themselves to the Lord first, then respond, from the wisdom gained through that submission to the needs of our families, communities, state, and nation.

Jesus is our ultimate example. He was fully submitted to his Father, sacrificing His life for the lives of God's people, as He declared, "Not my will but thine be done." The government rests upon His shoulders and He is the architect of our lives. This truth should compel us to make the sacrifices necessary to do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly before our God (Micah 6:8).

Let us agree in prayer and be reminded,

that it is God's desire that both we and governing authorities be co-laborers with Him, and that this work is to be fulfilled with realness, relevance, reverence, readiness, and

responsiveness. Let us continue to build our lives with honesty and integrity that will strengthen the foundation of our families and

influence government in ways that will prove to reverse the moral decline in our nation and return us to God's intent and HIS design for government.



“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” -Isaiah 9:6

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from CWA of Louisiana! May the joy and peace that flows in this season overflow in your life in the coming year!

May you enjoy the fullness of this Holy Season celebrating our Savior's birth. *Praise to our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

Building a Better Louisiana: 2018 Year in Review

January

Hosted a table and walked in Life March in Baton Rouge sponsored by Louisiana Right to Life.



We launched 2018 Mighty 9 in which each CWA of Louisiana steering committee member send encouraging postcards to the governor, two U.S. senators, and six U.S. congressmen.

February



Hosted a table and walked in Life March in Alexandria sponsored by

Louisiana Right to Life Federation.

Director spoke at West Calcasieu Chamber of Commerce's Empowering Women Luncheon about CWA of Louisiana and how to engage in public policy.

March

Opening day of Louisiana legislative session, CWA of Louisiana led a prayer walk at the state capitol. We prayed as we walked through the capitol, learned how to engage our legislators, attended Gov. John Bel Edward's opening address in the House chamber, and enjoyed sweet fellowship with like-minded individuals.



April

We launched our 2018 Encourage-A-Legislator (EAL) Project. It consisted of 46 volunteers which covered 144 legislators with encouraging words and prayer.



Associate Director, Prayer/Action Chapter Coordinator and EAL Coordinator hosted a table at the Pro-Life Day at the Capitol event sponsored by Louisiana Family Forum and Louisiana Right to Life. Met with Rep. Rick Edwards (R-District 66) in Governor's Press Room.

Attended a symposium on human trafficking at Baton Rouge Community College hosted by the Governor's Taskforce on Human Trafficking. Networked with multiple organizations that we will continue to work with on this issue.

Director taught members of the Lafayette Commission on the Needs of Women how to lobby from their laptops. She used CWA's [*How to Lobby from Your Kitchen Table*](#) brochure as an outline.

Director and Associate Director participated in an American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) meeting hosted by our Legislative Liaison, Joyce Burges. We had the opportunity to have a personal discussion with Sabrina Thomas, SW Regional Christian Outreach Director for AIPAC and State Rep. Beryl Amedee (R-District 51).

May

Several of our leaders attended the human trafficking regional meeting for local stakeholders in Lafayette hosted by the Governor's Task Force on Human Trafficking in Louisiana.



Hosted our annual Encourage-A-Legislator Day at the Capitol and enjoyed lunch in the Senate dining room with a visit from Sen. Ronnie Johns (R-District 27).

Director was honored to pray behind the podium in the Senate chamber at the National Day of Prayer event.



June

Participated in Acadiana Right to Life Family Day in downtown Lafayette in support of Black Advocates for Life.

Director participated in founder's meeting to establish a women's pregnancy center and clinic in Opelousas.

July

Associate Director participated in human trafficking follow-up training with the human trafficking task force from Shreveport.

CWA of Louisiana [stood in strong](#) support of Judge Brett Kavanaugh's nomination to the Supreme court and encourage members to do the same.

September

Director spoke at Southwest Louisiana Republican Women's monthly meeting about the purpose and mission of CWA of Louisiana.



Director and Prayer/Action Chapter Coordinator participated in a pregnancy center and clinic block party.

State Director interviewed on KELB radio's Church and State program concerning CWA of Louisiana and the Brett Kavanaugh confirmation.

In an incisive article, [Black Women Are Betraying Their Sisters on Abortion](#), Direc-

tor and Associate Director responded to The Afiya Center and their use of "self-care" rhetoric on a billboard that targeted black women for abortion. It was published on townhall.com.



October

Director and Prayer/Action Chapter Coordinator attended the Prayer Coalition of Engaged Citizens of Acadiana with candidate for Secretary of State, Heather Cloud, and State Rep. Julie Emerson (R-District 39).

Director was invited to Washington, D.C., to participate in a panel to educate potential donors about the work of CWA.

Director started monthly appearances on KELB radio with host Nancy Tower. Read more about this on page 4.

New Prayer/Action Chapter leader is approved in the 2nd Congressional District.

November

Director participated in Prayer Coalition of Engaged Citizens of Acadiana the day before Election Day to pray for our local, state, and federal elections.

Grace for the Race



By Nedra Epps, Associate Director

"Simply join your life with mine. Learn my ways and you'll discover that I'm gentle, humble, easy to please. You will find refreshment and rest in me" (Matthew 11:29 TPT).

Establishing righteousness in government is a powerful work of the Spirit and draws an uncommon measure of warfare. But Isaiah 32:17 assures us that righteousness shall work peace, and the effect in our lives is quietness and assurance forever. We must allow this truth to draw us into a place of rest – not only in our hearts and minds but in our willingness to set aside time to be refreshed and restored in our bodies as we prepare to take on new challenges. Consider these thoughts as you enter 2019.

Government by God's Design 2018



By Nancy Tower, Prayer/Government by God's Design Coordinator, Fundraiser Coordinator, and Prayer/Action Chapter Leader

Government by God's Design

is a project of CWA of Louisiana. This Bible study, which endeavors to teach God's design for government, is available online at no charge and can be downloaded with supporting videos and printable materials to enhance your study.

While the study was created to reach Christians who are serving or seeking to serve in an elected capacity, it can benefit anyone interested in or involved in the political process. CWA members are welcome to teach portions of the Bible study, or we can provide presenters for conferences around the state as requested. The material may be taught in full over a two-day conference setting or broken into shorter sections as part of a regularly scheduled Bible study.

For more information on *Government by God's Design*, [click here](#) and/or [email me](#).



CWA of Louisiana is . . .

Prayer/Action Chapter meetings can be held in homes, in churches, in conference rooms, and . . . even on the radio!

In October, our Director started monthly appearances on Church and State, a KELB call-in radio program hosted by Nancy Tower. The program is a condensed version of our Prayer/Action Chapter meetings. Pertinent pro-family issues on a national, state, and/or local level are presented from a Christian perspective. Action items are given, and the audience is then led in prayer concerning the issues discussed.

We are grateful to KELB for this opportunity to reach out to engage and educate more Christians in public policy and the political process.

CWA is featured every second Thursday from 8:30 – 9:00 a.m. KELB airs on 105.5 in the Lake Charles and Sulphur listening areas and can be heard [online](#). To listen to past programs, [click here](#) and scroll down to the bottom. Select programs on the second Thursday of the month with Sancha's name on them.



Building Leadership



By Valeri Cyntell Kerry, Events Coordinator

You may have heard it said, or have yourself said, "Leaders are made and not born" or referenced someone as "born to lead." Whether some are identified at an early age as leaders or others are built into leaders, neither is less or greater than the other. Actually, if you look closely, you will see one common thread in a leader born or made - they are always building.

We can look to Jesus Christ as our example of how to build leaders. He taught His disciples how to be great leaders. They built on the foundation He taught them – the Word.

CWA of Louisiana is passionate about building leaders and provides various opportunities to be one. We invite you to pray and ask the Father if this is your portion and your season to serve Him as a representative of the Kingdom in the arena of public policy. Currently, the following open positions are Prayer/Action Leaders, Communications Coordinator, and Home Team Captains.

Check out our [Opportunities for Leadership document](#). [Contact us](#) if you would like to learn more about this opportunity.

Do not miss out, visit our website regularly at la.cwfa.org!

Honoring the Hoehls



There is this sweet lady we call Aunt Debbie who we love SO much and who has been SO faithful to CWA of Louisiana. Her name is Debbie Hoehl. For the past 11 years, she has served CWA of Louisiana in several capacities. She has been a Prayer/Action Chapter Coordinator, Prayer/Action Chapter Leader and currently serves as the [Encourage-A-Legislator](#) Coordinator. She assists us with all pro-life events and has been a great mentor to our ladies.

Also, we would be neglectful if we did not mention her wonderful husband Eb who is always present at our events supporting us.

Thank you, Aunt Debbie and Uncle Eb!!

We love you!!!

As always, this year's Encourage-A-Legislator project was a great success because of Aunt Debbie.

Building Prayer/Action Chapters



By Janet Jackson, Prayer/Action Chapter Coordinator

Hello everyone! I'm sure we can all agree that this year has been a challenging one. However, we are persevering to finish strong because we have grace for the race! So, as we come to the close of 2018, I would like to encourage every individual who has purposed themselves to pray and act on any level to keep reaching and keep leading.

Our monthly Prayer/Action Chapter meetings have been a great success and are growing. Within the past several months, we have been in communication with several ladies throughout the state who have expressed interest in leading a chapter in their community. Anne F. from Madisonville is the most recent woman of faith who has accepted the assignment. We welcome her to the CWA of Louisiana family with open hearts and open arms! Thank you, Anne! We know God is going to do great things through you!



I am looking forward to what God is about to manifest in the State of Louisiana and in our nation. Let's join forces, pray, and take action as the Holy Spirit continually guides us day by day. If you would like to help us build CWA of Louisiana by starting a Prayer/Action Chapter in your area, please [email me](#).

Building Partnerships

"Christ holds it together and makes all of its parts work perfectly, as it grows and becomes strong because of love." (Ephesians 4:16).

CWA of Louisiana is honored to partner with several great organizations filled with people who have compassion and love for the families of Louisiana – Louisiana Family Forum, Louisiana Right to Life, Black Advocates

for Life, National Black Home Educators, A Pregnancy Center and Clinic (APCC), Engaged Citizens of Acadiana, Governor's Taskforce on Human Trafficking, and Lafayette Commission on the Needs of Women.

WE CANNOT DO IT ALONE!!!



Thank You!

A special thank you to everyone who participated this year through prayer, action and financial support. We could NOT and can NOT do this without you! Together we made a difference!

In 2019 Your Giving Will Make a Difference in the Lives of Many!

It is YOUR generosity that will make a difference in the lives of the people of Louisiana. Please consider giving a gift in 2018 to put CWA of Louisiana on a sure foundation for 2019.

Because we are run by volunteers, all donations go straight to the work we are doing. When you give to the state, all funds are used in the state.

[Please send a tax-deductible gift today!](#)

Any amount is deeply appreciated.



Building Your Community Through Education



By Joyce Burges, Legislative Liaison

When it comes to building and empowering a robust community, a quality education cannot be overlooked. The importance of a great education impacts the family, community, churches, businesses, organizations, and citizens in general. Parents, educators, and city leaders must collaborate to ensure that our children have access to great learning resources and materials, as well as the most updated teaching tools. CWA of Louisiana believes the main investors in our children's education are their parents.

A vibrant educational infrastructure is the foundation for the continuance of strong communities. Developing that infrastructure is everyone's responsibility. It provides students with what it takes to become economically productive, to live sustainable lives, to contribute to the peace of the community. We know that when we "train up our children in the way they should they go, when they grow old they won't depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6). What a great responsibility with which we've been entrusted. A good education with godly discipleship and training will help us reverse the moral decline in our country and bring forth even greater exploits to help the world know our God and HIS love for all of us.



You Can Count on Me!

Name: _____

Street: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

- I would like to give a one-time gift of \$ _____.
- I would like to make a monthly contribution of \$ _____ that would be taken directly out of my bank on a regular basis. Call me at _____ so that it can be set up.
- I am not receiving CWA e-alerts. Please add me to the e-alert list so that I will receive both national and state e-alerts. My email address is _____.

Write out check to "Concerned Women of America" and put "CWA of LA" on the memo line. Send to CWA of Louisiana at P.O. Box 2446, Opelousas, LA 70571.

Or, [click here](#) to contribute online.