

Influencer Monthly

A publication prepared exclusively for CWA leaders, members, and friends dedicated to impacting the culture for Christ through both prayer and action.



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Leadership Summit 2022 *It Was an Unforgettable Event!*

Sixty-two Concerned Women for America (CWA) from around the country joined nearly 100 Young Women for America leaders and 50 CWA supporters for an unforgettable September event in Washington, D.C. For our grassroots leaders, the Summit included a day of training exclusively for State and Area Directors, a day of learning and lobbying on Capitol Hill, and an all-leader training.

Here is a recap of the event:

Day #1: State and Area Director Training

We kicked off the Summit by hosting our state and area directors at the national office for a day of educating and equipping as they look towards their 2023 state legislative sessions. As the policy leaders in their respective states, the directors heard from CWA's **policy experts**.

Day #2: Capitol Hill Breakfast and Lobbying

We heard from Sen. James Lankford (R-Oklahoma), Sen. Steve Daines (R-Montana) Sen. Roger Marshall (R-Kansas), Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-Mississippi), Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas),

Sen. Marsha Blackburn (R-Tennessee), and Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa).

Our leaders then partnered with the Government Relations Department and Young Women for America and made nearly 35 legislative office visits, where they lobbied for co-sponsorship on the Standing with Moms Act.

The day ended with a stunning dinner at the historic “Top of the Hay” Adams Hotel with former Vice President Mike Pence as guest speaker.

Day #3: All-Leadership Training

This was an amazing day that started and ended with corporate worship and prayer. The program included briefings and training from CWA staff and specialists such as Dr. Michelle Cretella, MD, pediatrician, writer, researcher, and speaker on the transgender issue, and Dr. Christina Francis, MD, Board Member and CEO-Elect, American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists on the abortion issue.

The pinnacle moment of the day was our pro-life victory celebration and commissioning service as our state



leaders take on the mantle of the passing of the pro-life fight in the states. We were joined by the Chairwoman of the Board, Linda Murphy, Penny Nance, and several board members. It was a special moment as our leaders – both state and national – pledged to do all we could do to promote a culture of life in our country.

The evening concluded with dinner at the gorgeous St. Regis Hotel with special speaker Jenna Ellis, Esq., podcast host and former attorney for President Trump's post-election legal team, and Toni McFadden, international pro-life activist and speaker who has a beautiful post-abortive redemption story.

In Their Own Words

"I am so grateful for the training I received and for the education on the vital issues. I came away very refreshed. I felt ready to go back to the front lines." Sally Imhoff, Prayer/Action Chapter Leader, Tennessee

"The commissioning and the Board presence were emotional for me. I think we all know the fight is going to get harder and harder. But, onward ... the YWA girls are so inspiring and encouraging for the future." - Beth Brown, Chapter Coordinator, North Dakota

"First, let me say WOW! I enjoyed the organization, the caliber of

speakers, the spot-on topics, and the networking! It was an impressive gathering that helped me not only understand more about CWA but be a part of advocating for its principles as well. I felt like I was flying with the eagles and making a difference for such a time as this!"- Gayle Martinez, Legislative Liaison, New Mexico

"Our three days in D.C. with CWA and YWA were the most "Jesus filled" environment I have ever been blessed with experiencing! Friday evening's praise, prayer, and worship were so awesome. GOD BLESS each of you for your amazing part in making the conference so full of His Presence!" - Dianne Rankin, Prayer/Action Chapter Leader, Montana

"I feel a renewed call to stay

involved with more confidence because of the training I received" - Linda Thorson, State Director, North Dakota

"You have no idea how eager so many were to attend this event. And they left satisfied. They left with a renewed commitment with such deep respect for the organization. They were all truly proud of the work of CWA and the quality and character of those working at CWA HQ. Lastly, my women were so filled with Holy Spirit power after this event because of the camaraderie, the prayers, and worship experienced "as a family" in unison. To sum up my evaluation: EXCEPTIONAL, GLORIOUS, PERFECT!" - Marlo Tucker, State Director, California

[Click here](#) for event photo album.

Leadership Summit Awards Presented

One of the great parts of our Leadership Summit is the time we take to honor our wonderful volunteer leaders from across the country. CWA's Vice President of Field Operations, Tanya Ditty, presented awards to the following people.

CWA's State Director of the Year-Dilonna Coran (Pennsylvania)

It's our honor to present CWA's State Director of the Year award to Dilonna Coran in recognition of her outstanding leadership and influence in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Dilonna's work in her state is exceptional. In Dilonna's short time as state director, she has put together an effective team of over 20 leaders. Under her leadership this year, the state organization spearheaded the work on the girls' sports bill and took it over the legislative finish line. Dilonna effectively organized our 2020 Amy Coney Barrett/She Prays She Votes bus stops in her state and is the driving force behind the CWA's election integrity/GOTV efforts in Pennsylvania for the upcoming elections.



Dilonna never asks anyone to do anything that she herself would not be willing to do. She is the perfect example of selfless leadership and a perfect example of what a State Director should be. One of her leaders said of Dilonna, "She is a woman of excellence in everything she does. She has been a tremendous example in her passionate heart, knowledge, and hard work when it comes to making a difference for our state. Her leadership continues to encourage and inspire me!"



Prayer Chapter Leader of the Year-

Anne Fontcuberta (Louisiana)

Anne is described by her state director as a prayer warrior and a diligent leader who has devoted herself to selfless service to her chapter while demonstrating Godly principles. Anne's ongoing initiative, leadership, and dedication have clearly earned her the respect of her monthly attendees. Anne brings a fresh, innovative, and creative atmosphere to her chapter meetings, demonstrating her desire to go over and above. Anne's love for the Lord and commitment to serve Him wholly is evident in all she does in her role as Chapter leader.



Outstanding Legislative Liaison-Alissa Johnson (Missouri)

Alissa is described by her state director as articulate, a quick thinker, brilliant, committed, unflappable, and always under control. Alissa is the team leader and driving force behind the Protect Young Minds Online Act, a Missouri bill that would require internet providers who want to do business in Missouri to provide a filter to shield ages 17 and under from obscenity. She is viewed as an issue expert on the harms of internet pornography on children. Alissa is a tremendous example of a Christ follower and represents our Lord so very well in her speech and attitude.

Power of One Voice-Margarite Jaramillo (New Mexico)

CWA loves to honor leaders with unique awards, and this is one of them. Margarite was approved last year as a Prayer/Action Chapter Leader in New Mexico. She hit the ground running with her chapter and holds outstanding meetings. At one of her meetings late last year, Margarite so stirred the heart of a meeting attendee, Nickie McCarty, about the work of CWA that Nickie started a Prayer/Action Chapter in her community. Little did both Margarite and Nickie know that God had another leadership role in mind for Nicki – that of CWA of New Mexico State Director! Never underestimate the power of one voice to influence and impact others! Margarite's faithful voice in Belen, New Mexico, is now having a great impact on the entire state.

State Organization of the Year-CWA of Louisiana

The State Organization of the Year award went to Louisiana, which has grown its presence and influence in the state in a short amount of time. CWA of Louisiana's State Director, Laura Huber, took over the reins of an established state organization two years ago, and in just two short years, she and her team have moved the marker for life, girls' sports, and other important CWA issues. Knowing that their state organization is running a marathon, not a sprint, Laura has purposefully focused on building their presence at the State Capitol by participating in homeschool and pro-life days, hosting Encourage-A-Legislator days, and lobbying and testifying on legislation. Her team hosted a Voice of Champions event to spotlight pro-life leaders, tabled and marched in their state's Marches for Life, and seven members traveled to Washington, D.C., to participate in the *Dobbs* prayer rally last December.

Longevity Awards State & Area Directors

15 Years of Service

Ann Hettinger
Texas State Director

Janet Robey
Virginia Director & Associate Director

10 Years of Service

Beverly Roberts
Texas Area Director-South

5 Years of Service

Linda Thorson
North Dakota State Director

Marlo Tucker
California State Director

Praise & Prayer

Praise God Praise God for what He is going to do the rest of the year. There are many battles to be won, but we know that in Christ, there is hope even in the most hopeless situations. *"I will praise You forever for what You have done; in Your name I will hope, for Your name is good. I will praise You in the presence of Your saints."*

Psalm 52:9

Pray for CWA's She Prays She Votes 2022 bus tour that begins this month. Pray for traveling protection and that we have the ability to make a difference in our country through exercising our right and duty to vote. *"When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; But when a wicked man rules, the people groan."* Proverbs 29:2

Pray that God will continue to stir the hearts of people and move others to become involved with CWA as part of God's army in defending Christian values. *"What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?"* Romans 8:31



Gender Ideology Record-breaking Comments Will Determine the Future of Title IX

Doreen Denny, Senior Advisor



Thank you for joining Concerned Women for America in the recent comment period on Biden's Title IX

LGBTQ Rule, "Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs and Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance." Your participation was crucial! The 60-day Title IX comment period closed with a record-breaking response. Over 240,000 comments set a new high bar for the number of citizens and organizations submitting their views on a federal education regulation. The previous record set in 2018 for a final rule published in 2020 was half that number.

Some of you may have heard about a [case of missing comments](#). Those reports are true. On September 6, the Federal Register reported over 349,000 comments with over a week to go in the comment period. Within two days, that total had been cut in half. The Department of Education chalked it up to a "clerical error" and later explained it had linked comments from an unrelated rulemaking. This error rightfully raises suspicion, but we know a record 240,000 plus comments on

the Title IX rule were received.

What the final tally tells us is the sheer volume of comments and their complexity will bog down Biden's Department of Education for months. It will also chart the course for the future and ultimate outcome. The process of review and the requirement to respond in writing to these comments in revising and finalizing a new Title IX Rule will be daunting even for an administration populated by former Obama officials.

[Concerned Women for America's comment](#) was [13 pages](#) of single-spaced detailed argument against the rule and contained serious legal questions that cannot be avoided under the requirements of the Administrative Procedures Act. Every one of your individual comments raising content-related issues also must be considered and addressed in a final rule. That is why submitting comments that were unique, not the same comment *en masse*, was so important.

Failure to adequately respond or justify revisions or expansions of existing regulations will become the foundation for legal action. We fully

expect lawsuits to be filed when this rule is final – primarily because we don't expect the Biden Administration to back off its fundamental reinterpretation of the basic meaning of "on the basis of sex," which was never authorized by Congress.

Whether at the state or federal level, taking action by personally writing and asking others to comment on government-proposed regulations is critical to the direction of public policy. Comments count. They literally shape the outcome and provide a foundation for court challenges. In an age in which government actors are seeking to use executive authority to impose progressive ideologies in education and health care or correct the mistakes of past administrations, the regulatory process has become our first line of defense. Never underestimate the impact of your voice through public comments.

PLEASE PRAY for those who will analyze the comments, that the scales will be removed from their eyes and their hearts turned to uphold truth on this issue. "For with God nothing will be impossible." Luke 1:47.



SHE PRAYS SHE VOTES
2022
CONCERNED WOMEN FOR AMERICA
LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE

“Do not be afraid of them; remember the Lord who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives and your houses.” Nehemiah 4:14

Remember the Lord Who is great and awesome ... This is the Lord Who moves the hearts of the king like rivers of water. He is the One in absolute control. There is nothing better that we can do for this nation than to pray. When we pray, God’s Spirit moves across the land.

And **fight** ... What does the “fight” look like?

- The fight is you studying the candidates and then going to vote for the ones who reflect your values.
- The fight is you driving an elderly friend or neighbor to the polls to vote.
- The fight is you volunteering to be a poll worker or poll watcher.
- The fight is you taking care of your young friends’ children, so they can go vote.
- The fight is you volunteering to make phone calls on behalf of that candidate who shares your values.
- The fight is you on your knees before the God Who places all people in positions of authority.
- The fight is you beseeching God for our nation and our nation’s leaders.

[Click here](#) for more information.
Be sure to share!

CWA IN THE NEWS

Government Relations Welcomes Valerie Bynog as Legislative Strategist



Hi! My name is Valerie Bynog, I am Concerned Women for America’s new Legislative Strategist. I am grateful for the opportunity that I had to work with Young Women for America (YWA). Through YWA, I had the opportunity to meet Christ-centered young women on college campuses across our country and help them apply their faith to public policy. I am excited to transition into my new role.

I graduated from the University of Florida with a degree in political science and religion. Following graduation, I worked on a Congressional campaign that led me to work for Rep. Kat Cammack (R-Florida). I quickly gravitated toward legislation and policy making, especially religious freedom policy. I was in high school when Christian cakebaker Jack Phillips faced legal trouble for standing for his beliefs on marriage as God designed it. I spent my childhood in Colorado, so his case caught my eye. Jack would end up victorious before the U.S. Supreme Court. But his case taught me that we cannot take for granted the freedom to live out our faith in the public sphere. Religious freedom is the first freedom listed in the First Amendment; this ideal was and is fundamental to our nation, but it must be defended.

I am excited for the opportunity to support legislation like Sen. Steve Daines’ (R-Montana) resolution recognizing that religious freedom is “a fundamental human right that is essential to a free society and protected for all people of the United States under the Constitution.” The First Amendment protects Christians, non-Christians, and nonbelievers alike. Justice Neil Gorsuch said it best: “Respect for religious expressions is indispensable to life in a free and diverse republic.”

The Bible is the foundation of any good policy that helps civil society flourish. If God is the standard of love and if His word is true, then we can trust that the standards He sets only benefit us. It is my honor to be a part of the mission to advocate for Biblical principles in public policy. As Paul wrote in Acts 20:24, “I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace.” Pray the Lord would continue to fill me with boldness to share truth on Capitol Hill.



GAVEL WATCH

New “For Life” Bible Study

Mario Diaz, Esq., General Counsel



No one enjoys being told they are wrong. But this is precisely what we most need when we are blind to the fact that we

are indeed wrong about something. The first step to walking away from error is to recognize we stand in one.

This is precisely where many in our society find themselves on the issue of life. And as famous pastor, theologian, and mentor of the great Martyn Lloyd-Jones, G. Campbell Morgan eloquently said, “There is one sure and infallible guide to truth, and therefore one, and only one, corrective for error, and that is the Word of God.”

That is why I am excited to bring you our “For Life” Bible study.

This powerful, error-exposing resource will transform the lives of its student. How can it not? It exposes those who dare wrinkle its pages to the pure, unfiltered, heart-penetrating, two-edged sword of the Scriptures, only asking questions to help the reader reflect on the truths explored. I implore you to engage with it yourself, become familiar with it, and then take the time to disciple others with it.

As with any other two-edged sword worthy of that warning, “handle with care,” it is best if someone unfamiliar with such a powerful weapon is helped along by someone with some mastery of the material. I am praying God will move you to become such a helper.

Remember Philip’s encounter with the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts chapter 8? The eunuch was reading a passage from Isaiah by himself when Philip approached him and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading” (v.30)? To which he replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” (v.31) This study is undoubtedly powerful by itself. But when you teach it to someone else, a true miracle can happen. I pray that many of you will feel called by God to aid in this miraculous work. Would you help me pray for that?

I leave you with a short excerpt from Chapter 3 of the Bible study, “In the Womb.”

Samson’s mother was also “childless, unable to give birth,” until an “angel of the Lord appeared to her and said, ‘You are barren and childless, but you are going to become pregnant and give birth to a son.’” Judges 13:2-

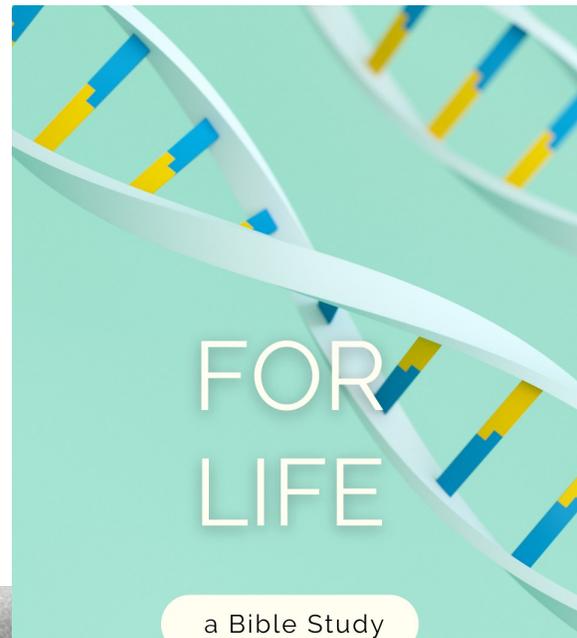
3. Scripture also tells us he was “dedicated to God from the womb.” Judges 13:5.

What does Samson being dedicated to God “from the womb” imply?

He was separated from the womb for a specific task. The angel said, “He will take the lead in delivering Israel from the hands of the Philistines.” Judges 13:5.

What does that tell us?

PLEASE STAY TUNED to ConcernedWomen.org for ordering details of the “For Life” Bible study.



CWA IN THE NEWS

Championing for Life & Liberty

Deanna Drogan, Digital Media Specialist



This month started strong with our incredible September leadership event! Our team was grateful to be able

to capture video footage and photos that we know will be effective for showcasing the heart of CWA in the future. Leading up to the event, the Comms team created and edited videos shown during our event. They include:

- [Vice President Mike Pence and CWA Fight for Life](#)
- [CWA Overview Video](#)
- [The Historic Day Roe Was Overturned](#)
- [What is Young Women for America?](#)
- [Young Women for America Welcome Reel](#)

During the event, we placed and promoted CWA Senior Advisor Doreen Denny's op-ed titled [NCAA abuse of female athletes' Title IX protections needs to be fought in court](#), which was published on FoxNews.com. We pushed it out

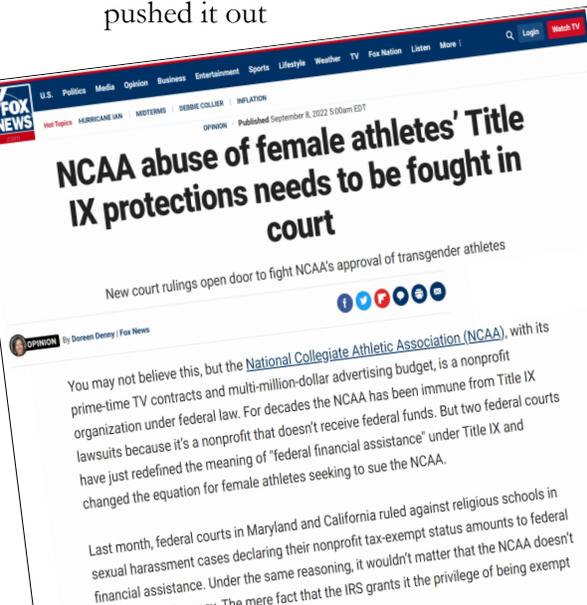
onto social media and sent it over to several contacts at the NCAA.

Following the event, we jumped right back into action as the deadline for the public to submit comments to the U.S. Department of Education regarding President Biden's radical Title IX changes approached on September 12. We did a big push on social media leading up to the comment period deadline, and on September 13, we pushed out a press release titled [Women's Rights will be Violated by Biden Administration's Title IX Rule](#) that discussed CWA's comment, the dangers of the rule, and the fact that a record number of comments were submitted.

On the same day, Penny spoke at a press conference hosted by Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-South Carolina), in which he introduced the Protecting Pain-Capable Unborn Children from Late-Term Abortions Act. You can watch her segment [here](#) as well as a video we filmed following the event that explains the bill [here](#) and read the press release posted to our site [here](#). A photo of Penny standing behind Senator Graham appeared in almost every story on the event, including in *The New York Times*.

The Comms team drafted and placed an op-ed for Penny titled [Life is a Winning Issue](#) that appeared in *Newsweek* on September 23. The piece urges Republicans and their consultants to lead with life in their campaign messages as we get closer to the elections. Speaking of elections, we have also started pushing out our She Prays She Votes 2022 message! We are amplifying the need for poll workers who care about ensuring election integrity. The following [video](#) was posted to our social media channels on Constitution Day to remind viewers of what is at stake in the upcoming election.

CWA linked arms with Women's Liberation Front (WoLF) to submit a co-authored *amicus* brief calling on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit to overturn an injunction on Indiana's Fairness in Women's Sports Act that requires sports participation in elementary and secondary school to be based on biological sex, male and female, or be designated as coeducational or mixed sex. Our team worked with a reporter with Post Millennial who wrote this story [Bipartisan coalition of women's groups file motion to save women's sports in Indiana](#).



YOUNG WOMEN FOR AMERICA Leadership in DC and at Home

Ana Castillo, YWA Regional Coordinator



In September, Young Women for America (YWA) hosted its annual Young Women for America

Leadership Training (YWALT) event. YWALT gives young women (high school, college, and young professionals) across the country the opportunity to build friendships, dive into cultural issues our nation is facing, and grow in their faith.

During the two-day event, there were a total of 90 attendees and 20 guest speakers. Of the 90 attendees, 14 were chapter presidents, 36 ambassadors, 12-chapter members, and 28 prospective leaders. More than 40 current YWA leaders were invited to attend a Lobby Day in conjunction with many of you, CWA state leaders, and had the opportunity to visit House and Senate offices to lobby members and staff regarding the Standing With Moms Act. While lobbying, YWA leaders from Arkansas met with Sen. John Boozman (R-Arkansas), and he is now a cosponsor of the bill!

With the school year kicking off, many YWA chapters have had multiple meetings already. At YWA

Inland Empire, their first meeting ever saw more than 35 young women from Southern California in attendance. They discussed “What is YWA?”, CWA’s seven core issues, and recapped their time at YWALT. After Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-South Carolina) proposed the 15-week abortion ban the Grove City College chapter created, printed, and wrote 50 postcards to their senators to encourage and thank them during their “Sanctitea of Life” meeting. YWA at Texas A&M had their first meeting, also with 35 girls in attendance, and Baylor University started the “For Life” Bible study Mario Diaz. Esq. wrote. The YWA chapter at Clemson hosted a “Cake and Debate” meeting, University of Alabama had a “Picnic and Politics” meeting, Rutherford County held a “Pumpkin and Politics” event, and Liberty University hosted a “Flannel Panel” with men on campus.

Will you please join us in praying for the Baylor University Chapter? They asked for prayers as there were students recording them while they were going over the “For Life” study. We also have leaders in Florida who are asking for prayers for themselves and their families who are being affected by hurricane Ian.



She Prays She Votes 2022 Bus Tour Schedule

CWA is hitting the road October 17 for our 3-week/12-state She Prays She Votes 2022 GOTV bus tour. The bus tour will travel through key battleground states where we will hold GOTV voter turnout events, prayer events, and Facebook Live prayer/roundtable events.

[Click here](#) for all things She Prays She Votes, and for a detailed list of our bus tour stops.

We invite you to join us on our Facebook Live events and at stops in your states.

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| Kentucky | Mississippi |
| Ohio | Louisiana |
| Pennsylvania | Texas |
| North Carolina | Arizona |
| Georgia | Alabama |
| Virginia | <i>And more!</i> |

Spread the word and invite some friends!



Texas A&M first chapter meeting.



Grove City College “Sanctitea of Life” meeting.



- Concerned Women for America LAC
- @CWAforA
- @concernedwomen

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