



NEBRASKA

Right to Life

State affiliate to
National Right to Life

January 2023

**Two events
to celebrate life!**

Save the date!



Nebraska Walk for Life *Gala*

5 p.m. VIP Reception

6 p.m. Dinner and Programs

*Celebrate life the night
before the Walk for
Life by joining us at
the Embassy Suites by
Hilton Lincoln,
1040 P St., for the
first **Nebraska
Walk for Life Gala!***



*Learn more and purchase tickets at
nebraskarighttolife.ticketspice.com/2023,
or scan this QR code.*

Save the date!



NEBRASKA

Walk for Life

About Speaker Dr. John Bruchalski

Dr. John Bruchalski will describe how a return to his religious faith brought him from performing abortions as part of what he thought was good health care for women to a leading light in pro-life medicine. His Tepeyac OB/GYN is one of the largest pro-life medical practices in the country and serves as a safe haven for women in crisis pregnancies. His journey is described in his book, "Two Patients: My Conversion From Abortion to Life-Affirming Medicine."

Come show your support for Life and hear this man's inspiring story!



10 a.m.

Program at the State Capitol north steps, 15th and K streets. Parking available east, south and west of Capitol; pay parking available at garages and meters.

11:30 a.m.

Keynote speech, pro-life information tables, food and drink at the UNL Student Union, 14th and R streets.

Please dress warmly and bring the family for this pro-life witness, which is in its 49th year.

Bake sale donations needed

Volunteers will be curbside 8-9 a.m. in front of the Student Union to accept donated baked goods for the NRL bake sale.

2022 election results reveal PROMISING FUTURE

Nebraska Right to Life congratulates the winning candidates who worked so diligently for the pro-life cause in these mid-term elections and applauds those pro-life candidates who worked so hard in their campaigns.

Abortion was a major issue in many of the races, and most pro-life candidates prevailed, largely because those who believe in protecting life stepped up at the polls.

In the gubernatorial race, Republican Jim Pillen, chairman of Pillen Family Farms in Columbus, Nebraska, a doctor of veterinarian medicine and member of the University of Nebraska Board of Regents, won with a higher vote share (60%) than his predecessor, Gov. Pete Ricketts. His win comes after a hotly contested primary in which Falls City, Nebraska, candidate Charles Herbster, CEO of Herbster Angus Farms and several other corporations, had an early lead; however, Pillen emerged victorious.

One of Pillen's first major tasks as governor will be to appoint a replacement to complete the term (through 2026) of Sen. Ben Sasse, who is leaving to become the next University of Florida president.

In all three of Nebraska's Congressional districts, the winners were endorsed by Nebraska Right to Life PAC. In the first district, a special election was held in June 2022 to determine who would finish out the brief, remaining term of the vacated seat previously held by Republican Jeff Fortenberry. State Senator Mike Flood (R) won against colleague Senator Patty Pansing-Brooks (D). These same candidates squared off for the general election. There were clear-cut differences in their platforms, especially with respect to pro-life issues. As former speaker of the Unicameral, Flood was the lead sponsor of the Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act enacted in 2010 – first of its kind in the nation. Pansing-Brooks was endorsed by Planned Parenthood Advocates of Nebraska and made “reproductive rights” a focal point of her campaign. In the second district, incumbent Don Bacon (R) won against State Senator Tony Vargas, a formidable candidate endorsed by Planned Parenthood Advocates of Nebraska. Longtime incumbent Adrian Smith of the third



Joining Gov.-elect Jim Pillen includes, from left, his wife, Suzanne; Julie Lostroh, NRL Political Action Committee chair; and Sandy Danek, NRL executive director.

district was easily re-elected.

We enjoyed success with the following positions filled by Nebraska Right to Life PAC-endorsed candidates: Secretary of State, Attorney General, State Treasurer and State Auditor.

Unlike the other 49 states, Nebraska has a unicameral legislature, thus not separated into two houses. It also is nonpartisan and does not officially recognize its members' political party affiliations.

In the State Legislative races, Nebraska Right to Life PAC-endorsed candidates were elected/re-elected to 18 of the 26 available seats, which still falls short of the number of votes needed to stop a filibuster against any proposed pro-life legislation.

Abortions are not allowed after 20 weeks in Nebraska. In the 2022 Legislative session, pro-life efforts fell two votes short of passing a trigger ban bill that would have essentially outlawed abortion in the state effective immediately upon reversal of Roe v. Wade. The 2023 Legislative session will need moderate senators to join forces with the pro-life contingency to successfully pass protections for the preborn.

NRL PAC-endorsed candidates for the University of Nebraska Board of Regents were elected to the two available seats. In the area of education, Republican candidates for State Board of Education won three of four races: Kirk Penner of Aurora, Sherry Jones of Grand Island, and Elizabeth Tegtmeier of North Platte. Democrat Deb Neary in the west Omaha district survived a challenge from Republican Marni Hodgen, leaving Democrats with a narrow advantage in selecting the next state education commissioner.

While challenges remain, the overall political landscape looks promising for the pro-life effort in Nebraska. We will continue working toward further protections in the 2023 Legislative session.

Memorials

Dr. Jim Lewis by Pam Murray

Sandy Payne by

Steven & Judith Mangers

Chris & Sandy Moser

Erin & Quiller Caudill

John & Stella Sinclair

Ann Ames

Richard & Kristen Panowicz

Michael & Susan Sand

Tom & Deb Cabela

Dennis & Maureen Carpenter

James & Catherine Krebsbach

Dennis & Theresa Kottwitz

Regis & Mary Ryan

Marilyn Davis

Curren Webb

Thomas & Mary Kay Henning

Gregg Thuman

Mavis Stratton

Susan Meier

Life-protecting
legislation is coming
in the 2023 session.
Stay tuned!

Bellevue works toward abortion-free community

In August, pro-life leaders in Bellevue, Nebraska filed a petition seeking to make their city a Sanctuary City for the Unborn, giving them six months to gather 20% of voters' signatures — around 7,400. Once signatures are verified, the issue goes to Bellevue City Council for a vote. If it doesn't pass, it will go directly to Bellevue voters in a special election. Variations of the ordinance that would make abortion unlawful have passed in 51 communities across Nebraska, Texas, Ohio, Louisiana and Iowa. The significance of this effort is largely due to abortionist

LeRoy Carhart operating a facility in the community. Carhart has had a long history of patient injuries, with two patients dying under his care. Staffers also have reported Carhart's unprofessional conduct and unsafe practices, such as illegally dumping biohazardous waste, keeping the facility in unsanitary condition, falling asleep during abortion procedures and leaving in the middle of a procedure.

According to a December 21, 2022, article in *The Pueblo Chieftain*, Lee Carhart, grandson of LeRoy Carhart, has opened an abortion clinic in Pueblo, Colorado. The elder Carhart is the owner and medical director of Clinics for Abortions and Reproductive Excellence (with the euphemistic acronym

of CARE) clinics in Maryland and Nebraska. The CARE facility in Pueblo, which opened on December 5, initially will perform only "medication abortions" up to 11 weeks, but the clinic also plans to eventually offer surgical abortion services up to 24 weeks of pregnancy. Carhart Jr. clarified that the elder Carhart is "not medically involved at the Pueblo location." The new abortion clinic opened a week before the Pueblo City Council tabled an ordinance that would have effectively banned abortion services within city limits, citing that Colorado law prohibits local governments from blocking access to reproductive health care, including abortions.

At the time of this writing, it is unknown whether Carhart is vacating the Bellevue abortion business; however, Operation Rescue has reported that moving trucks have been seen at his facility, and has stopped scheduling surgical abortions. For more information to circulate or sign the petition, email bellevue4life@NELACTION.org.

Volunteer Spotlight

"She's our biggest cheerleader!" That's how Nebraska Right to Life Executive Director Sandy Danek described Lonnie Veik, who, with her husband Dick, has been volunteering at NRL since fall 2020.

The previous director, Julie Schmit-Albin, had recently passed away, and as president of the NRL Board, Sandy was overwhelmed with everything that needed to be done, including the annual distribution of 60,000 Voter Guides. Lonnie and Dick answered the call for volunteers, for which Sandy will be eternally grateful.

"We thought it would be a short-term thing, and here we are more than two years later," Lonnie said.

That short-term Voter Guide project turned into weekly volunteering to do all sorts of projects, including wrapping baby models (Lonnie thinks she's wrapped "a couple thousand"), hand-writing cards and envelopes to donors, and arranging flowers in vases that are distributed to elected officials to commemorate lives lost to abortion. Dick is the unofficial NRL handyman — putting together office furniture, hanging things on the walls, even taking out the trash! He also does some work on the computer. The Veiks help staff the NRL display table at events and provide transportation for guest speakers at NRL events, such as the annual Walk for Life.

"We always identified as being pro-life, but getting involved in Nebraska Right to Life has enabled us to turn our conviction into action," Lonnie said. "We look forward to coming every week. What I like best is the fellowship and growing in knowledge of pro-life topics."

When asked for a comment from Dick, who was on his hands and knees assembling a cabinet at the time, he simply said: "I'm just happy to be here."

Sandy said they don't just talk the talk, they walk the walk. "Lonnie carries wrapped babies in her purse. She doesn't want to miss an opportunity to evangelize!"



Lonnie and Dick Veik assist operations at the NRL office.



Visit our website

nebraskarighttolife.org



Find us on social media



Facebook: facebook.com/NebraskaRightToLife

Twitter: @NERightToLife

Board of Directors

President & Executive Director:

Sandy Danek, Lincoln

VP & Nebraska Board member to National Right to Life:

Chuck Conrad, Hastings

Secretary:

Brenda Eller, David City

Treasurer:

Brian Kimminau, Bennington

PAC Director:

Julie Lostroh, Malcolm

Board Members

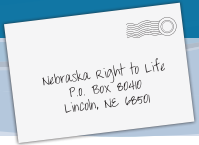
Janet Kraus, Morrill

Barb McPhillips, Columbus

Wendy Ridder, West Point

Mailing address

P.O. Box 80410, Lincoln, NE 68501
Mail can only be received at our P.O. box.



NEBRASKA

Right to Life

P.O. Box 80410

Lincoln, NE 68501-0410

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Lincoln, NE
Permit No. 1678



**Watch for an
announcement for
the upcoming
Pro-Life Legislative
Day.**

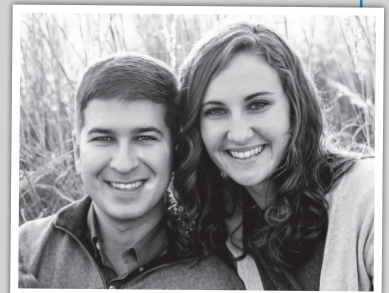
Rashilla joins NRL as communications specialist

Nebraska Right to Life recently hired a new communications specialist to promote our events and educational material, update and maintain social media and our website, design graphics, and send emails and other communication for the organization.

Dana Rashilla started in late November and is enthusiastic about being part of the pro-life movement in a tangible way. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Nebraska at Kearney in philosophy and Spanish, and went on for her master's in teaching, learning and teacher education. She has a passion for teaching and enjoyed her time at the parochial schools for which she previously worked. Her husband, James, serves full time in the Nebraska Army National Guard. After they had their first child, she was blessed to have the opportunity to be a stay-at-home mom. She has spent the last three years volunteering at her church, managing its social media and planning events. With the birth of their second child four months ago, the communications specialist assignment, which allows her to work mostly from home, proved to be a great fit for their family life.

"It's exciting to be part of such a historical year with the overturning of Roe v. Wade," Dana said. "That is certainly something to celebrate, but there's still a lot of work to do at the state level, and I hope to be an asset to this organization in the coming months and years. It's been on my heart for a long time to participate meaningfully within the pro-life movement, and I look forward to contributing!"

Please join us in welcoming Dana to the team!



Dana Rashilla and her husband,
James