

# THE ERIE ECHO

*"voice for life"*

Vol. XLIII No. 2

www.peopleforlife.org

May 2015 Third Edition

## Stop Doctor-Prescribed Suicide

Pennsylvania is one of the states being targeted by the pro-euthanasia *Compassion and Choices* organization, formerly known as the Hemlock Society. Bills have been introduced in the Pennsylvania House and Senate to allow doctors to prescribe lethal drugs for any patient who has an incurable and irreversible disease.

The House bill, H.B. 943, is being called the *Care Act*. The Senate bill, S.B. 549, is being called the *Death with Dignity Act*. Both names are highly deceptive.

Bills of this nature have been floated in the past, but they are more worrisome this

time because of case of Brittany Maynard, a vibrant 29 year-old with brain cancer, who died by doctor-prescribed suicide last November 1. The mainstream news media celebrated her as a hero and generated an unprecedented amount of sympathy for the *Death with Dignity* movement. The euthanasia lobby is now hoping to leverage that sympathy and push the United States farther down the road toward full acceptance of euthanasia.

The first step is doctor-prescribed suicide (with empty assurances that the practice will always be tightly controlled and strictly limited).

The Pennsylvania Coalition to Stop Doctor-Prescribed Suicide, a new, broad-based network of disability rights groups, medical professionals, and pro-life groups is mobilizing to oppose the euthanasia lobby. Their website is [noassistedsuicidepa.org](http://noassistedsuicidepa.org). You can also find them on Facebook.

**ACTION REQUEST** Please contact your state legislators and tell them that doctors should not be permitted to dispense death. Tell your state senator to oppose the *Death with Dignity Act* (S.B. 549) and tell your state representative to oppose the *Care Act* (H.B. 943).

### Peace & Justice Rally

A pro-life demonstration was held on April 9 in response to an event at Mercyhurst University that featured Maria Shriver and Sr. Joan Chittister in conversation about peace and justice.

Maria Shriver is candidly pro-abortion. And Sr. Chittister is hardly a friend of the pro-life cause. During a February 2010 interview with LifeSite News, the best Chittister could bring herself to say about abortion was this: "Am I opposed to abortion? Get it straight. As a birth control method of choice, I certainly am." Planned Parenthood, the nation's biggest abortion provider, could easily have said exactly the same thing.

About 30 people participated in the demonstration, despite off and on rain showers. Most of them held freshly-printed picket signs with the message: Peace and Justice should not have to wait until birth.

Both WJET/WFXP and WICU/WSEE TV news departments covered the event.

One of the reports was headlined: "People for Life Protests Maria Shriver at Mercyhurst." The point of the demonstration, however, was not to complain about one or two individuals.

The purpose was to take advantage of the occasion to remind everyone that intentionally killing an innocent human being is the greatest injustice possible and that true peace and justice depend on recognizing the equal dignity and equal rights of all human beings. Either human dignity and human rights exist for everyone or they are purely imaginary ideas that can be arbitrarily granted or taken

away to advance the agendas of the powerful at the expense of the powerless.

### Oratory Contest Results

People for Life's annual High School Oratory Contest was held on April 11 at the Blasco Memorial Library, and the speeches were excellent!

The highest score issued by the judges went to the winner of the 9th & 10th grade competition, Timothy Caulfield (10th grade). The second and third place winners on the 9th & 10th grade level were Peter Caulfield (9th grade) and Grace Larimer (9th grade).

In the 11th & 12th grade contest, Theresa Caulfield (12th grade) took first place. The second and third place winners were Elias Buhl (11th grade) and Emily Larimer (11th grade).

### Pro-life booth impact

It is almost time to begin another season of pro-life educational booths. Our first venue will be the Erie Rib Fest in Perry Square, May 28-31. We do a dozen or more community events every summer. The work is fun and often rewarding.

People clearly enjoy our booths as much as we do. The central attraction is usually the unborn baby models. Many people tell us, "Thank you for being here!" Others just nod approvingly or flash a thumbs up as they go by.

Getting kudos is great, but what we really want is to change people's thinking about abortion and other human life issues: from *pro-choice* to pro-life or from passively pro-life to more actively and passionately pro-life.

Our efforts received a wonderful validation recently when a local college professor called to say what a big impression our booth made on him last September at the Erie County Fair. It heightened his awareness of abortion as a real tragedy and gave him a new sense of urgency about speaking up for human life. And he wanted us to know that we need to keep on doing what we're doing.

We certainly intend to, and your financial support can help. The cost to reserve the space we need for our booths will exceed \$1,200 this year, and that is just the beginning. We hope to have free pro-life balloons for the kids as long as we can afford them. Balloons certainly send a pro-child message, and they are also the most effective tool we've found for putting people at ease and getting them to stop and have a look at the baby models. Your donation will also help keep us supplied with educational flyers, brochures, and DVDs and other giveaway items such as pro-life tote bags and stickers.

### Election of Officers

The annual election meeting of People for Life will be held at our office at 1625 W. 26th St. on Monday, May 18, 2015 beginning at 6:45 p.m. Members whose dues are paid one month in advance of the meeting will be eligible to vote. The nominees are: Carol Struchen for treasurer, Mark Borowy for secretary, Marielle Lafaro for first vice-president, Gretchen Lorei for second vice-president, and Dale Klobusnik for third vice-president. Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor with the permission of the nominee, who must be a current member of People for Life.

# Candidate Survey for the May 19, 2015 Primary Election

Our Candidate Survey questionnaire was mailed to 119 candidates for Erie City and Erie County government offices and school board directorships in all districts within Erie County. Some uncontested races were omitted from the table below if none of the candidates positions were known.

**1. LEGAL PROTECTION** If changes to the Roe v. Wade decision made it possible, would you approve or disapprove of a law prohibiting abortion except when necessary to prevent the death of the mother or prohibiting abortion with additional exceptions? (Please specify what additional exceptions, if any.)

**2. LATE TERM ABORTIONS** Should abortions be prohibited in all cases where the unborn child is mature enough to survive apart from his or her mother (approximately 5 months from conception)?

**3. INFORMED CONSENT** Do you personally support the provisions of the Pennsylvania Abortion Control Act that require abortion providers to offer basic information to a woman who is considering an abortion, including information about medical risks, alternatives to abortion, the probable gestational age of the unborn child, the availability of detailed information (provided by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania) about fetal development, and the possibility of medical assistance benefits if the woman decides to continue her pregnancy?

**Key to Survey Table**

**D** Running on democratic ballot  
**R** Running on republican ballot  
**DR** Running on both ballots  
**A** Approve **d** Disapprove  
**Y** Yes **N** No  
**nr** No response to current survey  
**b** Blank; responded to the survey but did not answer the question  
**♦** See %Additional Comments+  
**◀** Did not respond this time, but did respond when running for office previously. See %Previous Surveys+  
*Pro-life or more strongly pro-life responses are in UPPER CASE.*

**4. WAITING PERIODS** Do you personally support the provision of the Pennsylvania Abortion Control Act that requires a 24 hour waiting period, after a woman who is considering abortion has consulted with a physician and been given the information noted in Question 3 above, to allow the woman time to carefully consider her decision, before an abortion is carried out?

**5. PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT** Do you personally support the provision of the Pennsylvania Abortion Control Act that requires the consent of at least one parent if the person seeking an abortion is less than 18 years old, unless a judge determines that extenuating circumstances are involved?

**6. GOVERNMENT FUNDING** Should government funds or tax credits be used to pay for elective abortions or insurance plans that cover elective abortions?

**7. DOCTOR-PRESCRIBED SUICIDE** Should the law allow physicians to prescribe drugs to be taken for the purpose of deliberately ending another person's life?

**8. EMBRYO-DESTRUCTIVE RESEARCH** Should government funds be used to pay for research that involves the killing of human embryos (embryonic stem cell research)?

Party	Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>Judge of the Court of Common Pleas</b> <i>Vote for not more than 2.</i>									
D/R	Jamie Mead ♦	b♦	b♦	b♦	b♦	b♦	N	b♦	b♦
D/R	Ed Smith	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	b♦
D/R	Joe Walsh	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N
D/R	Damon Hopkins	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N
D/R	Elvage G. Murphy ♦	nr							
No response or information: Buzz Andrezeski (D), Erin C. Connelly (D/R), Chad Vilushis (D/R)									
<b>Erie County Council District 3</b>									
D	Fiore Leone	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N
<b>Erie County Council District 5</b>									
D	Kyle W. Foust ◀	nr							
R	Trish Catalano	nr							
<b>Erie City Council</b> <i>vote for not more than 3</i>									
D	Bob Merski ◀	nr							
D	Richard E. Wagner	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N
No response or information: Sonya Arlington (D), Gary Grack (D), Rebecca Styn (D), Jon A. Whaley (D), Melvin Witherspoon (D)									
<b>Erie City Constable 5th Ward</b>									
R	Andrew W. Bliss	A	Y	Y	Y♦	Y	N	N	N
D	Jon Kitts	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N
<b>Magisterial District Judge 5th Ward</b>									
D/R	Paul A. Bizzarro	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N
D/R	Tony J. Ferraro ♦	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N
No response or information: Steve Scharrer (D), Michael D. Keys (D) Nathaniel Strasser (D)									
<b>City of Erie School Director at Large</b> <i>Vote for not more than 5.</i>									
D	Sonya Byes	d♦	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N
D/R	Robert S. Casillo	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N♦	Y♦
No response or information: Linda Aleksandrowicz (D/R), Robbie Fabrizi (D/R), John C. Harkins (R), Felix Lohitai (D), Frank Petrunger Jr. (D/R), Tashana Pulliam (D)									
<b>Corry Area School Director 4 Year Term</b> <i>Vote for not more than 5.</i>									
D/R	Michael E. Baker ◀	nr							
D/R	Steven W. Drake ◀	nr							
D/R	Lonny Tim Eastman ◀	A	Y	Y	Y	n♦	N	y♦	N
D/R	Delbert Liller II	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N
No response or information: Gerald V. Clabatz D/R), Amanda J. Cox (D/R), Doris Gemovich (D/R), David E. Wanker (R)									

Party	Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>Fort Le Boeuf School Director At-Large</b> <i>Vote for not more than 5.</i>									
D/R	John E. Ogden	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N
No response or information: Kim Edinger (D/R), Benny W. Hunt (D/R), Robert S. Oberlander (D/R), Karen Seggi (D/R), Michael Rose (R)									
<b>General McLane School Director At-Large</b> <i>Vote for not more than 2.</i>									
D/R	Carrie Crow	nr							
D/R	Annette Rilling	A	n	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N
<b>Girard School Director At-Large</b> <i>Vote for not more than 5.</i>									
R	Richard E. Brown	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N
No response or information: Thomas Eberle (D/R), Robert Lossie (D/R), Melissa Ann Smith (D/R)									
<b>Harbor Creek School Director</b> <i>Vote for not more than 5.</i>									
D	Sandra Orton	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N
No response or information: Terri L. Brink (D/R), James J. Dolak (D/R), Bryan Fife (D/R), Justin Gallagher (D/R), John W. Schaefer (D/R), Curt Smith (D/R), Renee Uht (D/R)									
<b>Millcreek School Director</b> <i>Vote for not more than 5.</i>									
D/R	Lou Aliota	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N
D/R	Donnie Hosford	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N
No response or information: Christopher M. Busko (D/R), Gene Mattern (D/R), Janine McClintic (D/R), Jason Pauli (D), Ben Pike (D/R), Judy Wheaton (D/R), Ron Wilga (D/R)									
<b>North East School Director At-Large</b> <i>Vote for not more than 5.</i>									
R	Andrew Fynan	A♦	Y♦	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N
No response or information: Paul F. Behnken (R), Jennifer Degrosky (D/R), Erin L. Janes (D/R), Eric Riedel (D/R), Selina Uglov (D)									
<b>Northwestern School Director At-Large</b> <i>Vote for not more than 5.</i>									
D/R	Shelly Rea-Rice ◀	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N
No response or information: Joan Baxter (D/R), Gerhard %Gary+Bilek (D/R), Valerie Y. Hoover (D/R)									
<b>Union City Area School District At Large</b> <i>Vote for not more than 5.</i>									
D/R	Blain Blakeslee ◀	nr							
No response or information: David N. Fox (D/R), Jennifer M. Gourley (D/R), Brian D. Gregor (D/R)									
<b>Wattsburg Area School District At-Large</b> <i>Vote for not more than 5.</i>									
D/R	Eric Duda ◀	nr							
No response or information: Bill Hallock (D/R), Brenda Sandberg (D/R), Aaron Snippet (D/R), Amanda Thayer-Zacks (D/R)									

## Additional Comments

**Sonya Byes ♦ 1.** If changes were made possible I probably would not approve nor disapprove of the law. I personally Do Not Believe In Nor Condone Abortion. But I also do not judge those who do not have the same beliefs as me either. I am a Christian mother of one son and believe in the right for every man/woman to live his/her own life as they see fit.

**Andrew Bilss ♦ 4** 24 hours is not long enough.

**Robert S. Casillo ♦ 7** In cases of abortion no. However, terminally ill people should have the right to decide the course of their ultimate fate with dignity. I feel that an unfertilized egg harvested for potential future life is not a living being unto itself. If research is used to save lives, i.e., cure cancer, I approve.

**Lonny Tim Eastman ♦ 5.** Probably with

this clause [judge determines that extenuating circumstances are involved].

**Tony J. Ferraro ♦ 1.** I strongly endorse programs to educate, guide and support women in crisis as well as adoption organizations.

**Andrew Fynan ♦ 1.** Allow abortion for rape in first trimester. 2. Life of mother exception. 4. Should be 36 hours.

**Ed Smith ♦ 8.** I have left answer #8 blank as I do not believe that I am sufficiently educated on that subject to render an opinion.

**FROM PAGE 2**

**Additional Comments**

**Jamie Mead** responded with a letter and by answering Survey question 8 directly. He responded to each of the other Survey questions by referring to his letter, which can be summarized by the following excerpts: "I have always believed in, and have personally supported, the protection of all life, especially those who have no one to speak for them.... As a candidate for the office of Judge in the Erie County Court of Common Pleas, however, I am prohibited from discussing or expressing views on any topic or subject matter which could possibly appear in a case which may come before me during a potential tenure on the bench."

**Elvage G. Murphy** did not return a completed questionnaire but did respond with a phone call. He expressed pro-life sentiments with respect to human lives before birth,

those nearing the end of life, and those challenged by poor health or other frailties. He also expressed a sensitivity toward and admiration for people with disabilities and seemed well aware of the multiple dangers that the pro-euthanasia mindset poses to people with physical or mental disabilities in particular.

**Previous Surveys**

**Michael Baker** returned the 2011 Survey questionnaire leaving it completely blank without explanation or comment.

**Blain Blakeslee** did not answer the 2011 Survey questions, but responded: "I am against all taking of life and against our tax dollars spent for it."

**Steven Drake** gave all pro-life answers to the 2011 Survey questions.

**Eric Duda** gave all pro-life answers to the 2011 Survey questions.

**Lonny Tim Eastman** gave pro-life answers to all of the abortion-related questions in the 2011 Survey. He did, however, indicate support for doctor-prescribed suicide: "If an individual is terminal with absolutely no hope of recovery and in sound mind and wishes to terminate their own life to avoid further personal suffering."

**Kyle Foust** participated in a candidates' debate on March 19, 2008. In response to a question about government funding for abortion, he began with a full-throated endorsement of *Roe v. Wade*. He called abortion a "tricky" issue and "controversial" but did allow that the issue merits a "hard look." He said that abortion could be the "only option" for some woman. He said that as a male, abortion was none of his business and any attempt on his part to protect unborn children from abortion would be sexist and an effort to "deny women their rights."

continued on page 4

*Memorials*

<i>Given by</i>	<i>In Memory of</i>	<i>Given by</i>	<i>In Memory of</i>
Eileen V. Cullen	James W. Cullen	David & Mary Louise Capan	Julie Van Volkenburg
Joe & Nellie Klick	Phyllis Dill	Keith & Melanie Wagner	Michael & Joanne Wagner
Rick & Judy Oros & Family	Phyllis Dill	Ray & Peg Fitzgerald	Charles Warner
Pearl M. Young	Phyllis Dill	Gratia Wittmann	Richard G. Wittmann
Uncle Joe & Cousins	Nina Grumblatt	John S. Young	Maryann Young
Marly L. Grumblatt	Richard & Nina Grumblatt		
Allen Erickson	Cornelius Legters	<i>Given by</i>	<i>In Honor of</i>
Ray & Peg Fitzgerald	Richard Miller	Linda Etter	Mark Borowy
Marla J. Pellegrino	Jeanne Pellegrino, Mother	Anonymous	Peace in the World
Mathew M. Jury	Lanie Powell	Mary & Dave Dombrowski	Rose Ann Yadeski's birthday
Pauline Tatara	Joseph Tatara		

People for Life is a volunteer-based, non-profit, non-sectarian, citizen organization committed to affirming the intrinsic value of human life. We are dedicated to advancing true justice by working for the protection of all innocent human lives, whatever the age, race, sex, physical condition, economic status, or place of residence (including the womb). We encourage local involvement through

education and by fostering political awareness. We advocate loving alternatives to the primitive and violent solutions of abortion, infanticide, and euthanasia. Working together, we are determined to achieve a society in which all human lives are valued and protected. The Erie Echo is published in Erie, PA by People for Life. Tim Broderick, Editor

**JOIN PEOPLE FOR LIFE OR MAKE A DONATION**

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- VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**
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  - \_\_\_ Newsletter Mailing
  - \_\_\_ Literature Distribution
  - \_\_\_ Public Demonstrations
  - \_\_\_ Pro-Life Breakfast Worker
  - \_\_\_ March For Life Bus Trip Worker
  - \_\_\_ Mother's Day Carnation Project
  - \_\_\_ Erie March for Life Worker
  - \_\_\_ Call when you need an extra hand.

**PEOPLE FOR LIFE**  
[www.peopleforlife.org](http://www.peopleforlife.org)

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**— Office Location —**  
 1625 W. 26th St.; Erie, PA  
 Open 9:30 to 3:30 weekdays  
 Call for evening and Saturday hours

## FROM PAGE 3

### Primary Election: Previous Surveys

**Shelly Rea-Rice** gave all pro-life answers to the 2011 Survey questions and commented, "All women should be required to view a sonogram of their child before provided an abortion."

### Appellate Judge Races

All of the Republican candidates on the ballot for the PA Supreme Court, the PA Superior Court, and the PA Commonwealth Court have been recommended by the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation PAC. Six Republicans are running for three openings on the Supreme Court. One Republican is running unopposed in the primary election for

Superior Court and another is running unopposed in the primary for Commonwealth Court. None of the Democratic candidates returned the Pro-Life Federation's questionnaire.

### Save Our Right to Elect Judges

A constitutional amendment that would take away our right to vote for judges is being considered in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. Under this proposal, Pennsylvania's Supreme Court, Superior Court, and Commonwealth Court judges would be chosen through a secretive process called "merit selection." The governor would hand pick our judges from a short list of candidates prepared by a small group of

representative and state senator to oppose "merit selection of judges."

### Next Life Run 5K

Planning is already underway for our 2nd Annual Life Run 5K. If you like to run or walk, please join us at beautiful Burch Farms in North East this October 10, the second Saturday of October. Get more information and updates at [Facebook.com/LifeRunErie](https://www.facebook.com/LifeRunErie).

### Mother's Day Carnations

Carnations in a dazzling array of colors will be available all Mother's Day weekend at: our booth in the Millcreek Mall; our central distribution point at Rog's Inc, on German St. between 18th & 19th; and at many area churches. Donations of \$1 per carnation or \$5 for each half-dozen will help support our pro-life educational work.

**Volunteers Needed** We will need lots of volunteers for a variety of assignments from May 7 through May 10, including corsage makers, delivery drivers, people to staff our booth at the Millcreek mall, and literally dozens of people to process the carnations at our distribution center. Call, text, e-mail, or send a Facebook message as soon as possible to volunteer or get more information.

## Important Notice

### About Your Newsletter Subscription

- ◆ Would you like to continue receiving the *Erie Echo*?
- ◆ If you're not a regular People for Life member or donor, could you send a small contribution just to help with the printing and mailing costs?
- ◆ A \$2 donation will completely cover the cost of a one-year subscription.

People for Life is a relatively small, grassroots pro-life organization here in northwestern Pennsylvania. We exist on donations from private individuals and the proceeds from a few modest fundraisers conducted by local volunteers. We think it is extremely important to stay in touch with YOU and all of our pro-life friends and neighbors, so although we operate on a modest budget, we have never removed anyone from our mailing list unless specifically asked to do so.

After 43 years of publishing the *Erie Echo* newsletter, its circulation stands at nearly 7,000. That's something we are very proud of. But printing and mailing costs are continuing to increase and becoming quite a burden. With this issue, our postage costs are increasing by 38%.

As bad as all this sounds, however, the cost . per copy . remains very reasonable. An year-long subscription (3 issues), containing valuable election information and important news about local pro-life events, activities, and concerns still costs less than \$2.

So, just \$2 per year from each subscriber is all we need to continue providing this pro-life service, to you and all of the good people we're connected with over the years.

Donations can be mailed to People for Life; P.O. Box 1126; Erie, PA 16512. We do accept credit cards, but because of the fees involved, very small donations should be made by cash or check. If you can't donate at this time, just let us know that you still want to get the *Erie Echo*. Call (814) 882-13333 or e-mail [office@peopleforlife.org](mailto:office@peopleforlife.org).

If you are already a People for Life member or an occasional donor, thank you! Your subscription will automatically continue without any interruptions. No action on your part is necessary.

unelected individuals. Remember that abortion was legalized, not by elected officials, but by seven U.S. Supreme Court Justices who were appointed rather than chosen by the people. Please tell your state

## 2015 PRO-LIFE CALENDAR 2015

<b>May 8-10</b>	Annual Mother's Day Carnation Project
<b>May 10</b>	Mother's Day
<b>May 18</b>	Election of Officers Meeting, 6:45 p.m. - 1625 W. 26th St., Erie
<b>May 19</b>	Pennsylvania Municipal Primary Election
<b>May 28-31</b>	Educational Booth - Erie Wild Rib Cook Off & Music Festival
<b>June 19-20</b>	Educational Booth - Corry Fest
<b>June 21</b>	Father's Day / Father's Day Carnation Project
<b>July 9-11</b>	National Right to Life Convention - New Orleans, Louisiana
<b>July 10-11</b>	Educational Booth - The Gathering at French Creek
<b>July 17-19</b>	Educational Booth - Waterford Days, north side North Park Row
<b>July 21-25</b>	Educational Booth - Cherry Festival, North East
<b>July 30-</b>	
<b>Aug. 1</b>	Educational Booth - Dan Rice Days, Girard
<b>Aug. 13-16</b>	Educational Booth - Celebrate Erie
<b>Aug. 28-30</b>	Educational Booth - North East National Rib Fest
<b>Aug 31-</b>	
<b>Sept. 5</b>	Educational Booth - Erie County Fair, Wattsburg
<b>Sept. 7-12</b>	Educational Booth - Waterford Community Fair
<b>Sept. 15-19</b>	Educational Booth - Albion Area Fair
<b>Oct. 10</b>	Life Run 5K - Burch Fruit Farm, Sidehill Rd., North East
<b>Oct. 19</b>	General Meeting, 6:45 p.m. - 1625 W. 26th St.