

THE ERIE ECHO

"voice for life"

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Online Edition

May 2019

A Mother's Day and Pro-Life Tradition

On Sunday, May 10, 1908, Anna Marie Jarvis sponsored a very special memorial service at the Andrews Methodist Episcopal Church in Grafton, West Virginia to honor her mother, and all mothers. That event is recognized as the first official observance of Mother's Day. She was prevented from attending in-person, so Anna Marie sent 500 white carnations for all those who would be there. The carnation had been her mother's favorite flower.

The carnation was also held in high esteem by Anna Marie. She especially valued the white carnation for its symbolism, which she conveyed in these words: "Its whiteness is to symbolize the truth, purity, and broad-charity of mother love; its fragrance, her memory and her prayers. The carnation does not drop its petals, but hugs them to its heart as it dies, and so, too, mothers hug their children to their hearts, their mother love never dying. When I selected this flower, I was remembering my mother's [own flower garden]."

Anna Marie spent the rest of her life promoting Mother's Day throughout the United States and in many other countries.

On May 15, 1972, the Andrews Methodist Episcopal Church was rededicated as the International Mother's Day Shrine.

Unable to keep up with the demand for white carnations in the 1920s, the floral industry promoted the practice of wearing a white carnation to honor a deceased mother and red carnation to honor a living mother.

Today, carnations are available in a seemingly endless variety of colors, adding still more beauty to the annual observance of mother's special day.

Mother's Day Carnation Project

People for Life will distribute carnations in a gorgeous array of colors throughout Erie and northwestern Pennsylvania this Mother's Day. It's become a tradition over the past 40-plus years! They will be available at scores of local churches, the Millcreek Mall Community Booth, and our central distribution

site at ROG's Inc. on German Street between 18th and 19th. Several local businesses will also be offering our pro-life carnations as gifts to their patrons.

While adding an extra sparkle to Mother's Day, our carnations will be raising the funds we need to keep our pro-life educational work going strong throughout the rest of the year.

You can help as a volunteer. Scores of volunteers will be needed during the entire Mother's Day weekend, from Friday morning through Sunday evening. Contact People for Life to learn more.

If you would like to introduce the Carnation Project at your church this Mother's Day, we would be happy to get you started. The usual approach is to make the carnations available to fellow worshippers after church for a donation of \$1 or more. It's easy. You don't have to be a salesperson; the beautiful carnations totally sell themselves.

Oratory Contest

People for Life's annual High School Oratory Contest was held on April 13 at the Blasco Memorial Erie County Library.

The first place winner is Thomas Caulfield, 15, a 9th grade home school student. The second place winner is also a home schooler, Valerie Larimer, 15, who is in the 10th grade.

Thomas spoke about Margaret Sanger, Planned Parenthood, and the efforts by that organization and similar organizations to impose abortion and weaken family values in the developing nations of Africa and in other parts of the world.

Thomas drew on what he learned from Obianuju Ekeocha, the special guest speaker at our annual Pro-Life Breakfast this past January: "African society holds the family, and especially children in the womb and newborn babies, in very high esteem.... In her book *Target Africa*, Obianuju Ekeocha tells how every time a baby is born in her village there is a great celebration with dancing and

feasting. These people value the lives of children above all else. And they are being targeted by Planned Parenthood, a huge abortion provider, because of this."

Valerie examined and rebutted some of the typical arguments that are used to defend abortion and some of the common reasons for having an abortion. A big political driver for abortion has always been gender equality, the idea that a woman must be on an equal footing with a man in every possible way. Some people also argue that the unborn child is not a human being but only a part of the woman's body, or that the child's dependency on the mother makes him or her less than fully human.

The reason for having an abortion that is given by women most frequently is that having a child would be too costly. Valerie chose to respond in the words of Mother Teresa, "It is a poverty to decide that a child must die so that you may live as you wish."

Our judges were Kelly Cooney and Marielle Lafaro. Kelly is a member of the

People for Life board of directors, and Marielle, who has a teaching background, is the first vice president of People for Life.

Trump cuts Planned Parenthood funding

The Trump administration, on March 29, reduced Title 10 family planning grants to Planned Parenthood by \$44 million, from \$60 million to \$16 million. Meanwhile, a new rule announced by the administration on March 4 will completely bar facilities that carry out or refer for abortions from receiving Title 10 grants, beginning in early June. Planned Parenthood is suing, of course.

The administration is redirecting the Title 10 money to health care providers that do not carry out abortions. An explicitly pro-life health care provider in California, Obria Group, has been granted \$1.7 million.

Since 2017, Trump has completely prevented federal funding, \$100 million per year under Obama, from going to Planned Parenthood's international wing.

Candidate Survey for the May 21, 2019 Primary Election

1. LEGAL PROTECTION If changes to the Roe v. Wade decision make 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 22 weeks from conception)?

3. INFORMED CONSENT Do you approve of 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, and 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?

4. WAITING PERIODS Do you approve of 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 approve of 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 used to fund insurance plans that cover elective abortions?

7. INFANTICIDE Should health care providers be permitted to deny medically indicated treatment to infants born alive during attempted abortions, even if such treatment would normally be provided under other circumstances?

8. ASSISTED SUICIDE Should physicians be allowed to prescribe drugs to be taken by a patient to deliberately end his or her life?

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

Survey Table Key

D: Running on Democratic ballot
R: Running on Republican ballot
DR: Running on both ballots

*Pro-life or more strongly pro-life responses are in **BOLD UPPER CASE**.*

Y or **y**: Yes **N** or **n**: No

A: Approve **d:** Disapprove
e: Additional Exceptions
nr: No response to current survey
b: Blank; responded to the survey but did not answer the question

◆ See %Candidate Comments+
 ◆ Did not respond this time, but did respond when running for office previously.

Party	Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Judge, 6th District Court of Common Pleas vote for not more than (2)										
DR	Ed Smith	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
No response: Erin C. Connelly (DR), Dave Ridge (DR), Peter J. Sala (DR), Joseph E. Sinnott (DR)										
Erie County Council District 1 vote for (1)										
R	Robert J. Yates	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	b	N
No response: Kim Clear (D), Veronica Rexford (D), Terry M. Scutella (D), Charles Focht (R)										
Erie County Council District 3 vote for (1)										
D	Fiore Leone	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
D	Freda Tepfer	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr
No response: Mary Rennie (D)										
Erie County Council District 5 vote for (1)										
D	Kyle Foust	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr
No response: Joseph R. Cancilla (R), Brian Shank (R)										
Erie County Council District 7 vote for (1)										
R	Clayton E. Schulze	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	y	y	b
R	Fred F. Wienecke	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	y	N
No response: Rita Bishop (D), William Driver (D), Jason Gibbs (R), Ellen Schauerman (R)										
Erie County Controller vote for (1)										
D	Kyle Foust	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr
R	Mary E. Schaaf	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
Erie City Council vote for not more than (3)										
D	Ed Brzezinski	b	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
D	Chuck Nelson	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
No response: Vanessa R. Belen (D), Jasmine Flores (D), Michael Keys (D), Christal Lepak (D), Davona Paclay (D), Tony Ratcliff (D), Antonio S. Stapp (D), Tom Staz Staszewski (D), Melvin Witherspoon (D), Shawn Lyons (R)										
Erie School Director vote for not more than (5)										
D	Felix R. Lohitai	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
DR	Holly Bowers	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
R	Timothy P. Kuzma	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
No response: Howard Bibbs (D), John C. Harkins (D), Sumner Nichols (D), Lori A. Pickens (D), Jennifer Dennehy (DR), Kevin E. Pastewka (DR), Frank Petrunger, Jr. (DR), Rosemary C. Sheridan (DR), John Steiner (DR)										
Corry City Council vote for not more than (2)										
No response: William J. Roche (R), Andrew H. Sproveri (R)										
Corry Area School Director vote for not more than (5)										
No response: Amanda J. Cox (DR), Doris Gernovich (DR), Mandi Fargo Johnson (DR), Jon Maker (DR)										
Fairview School Director vote for not more than (5)										
DR	David Mahoney	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
R	Tim Miller	d	Y	Y	Y	Y	b	N	y	N
R	Brian Zentis	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
No response: Jonathan M. DeSilva (DR), Eric Hayes (DR), Bruce Kobal (DR), Pamela Liccardi (DR), Jim Lyons (DR), Lori Petruso Sobin (DR)										
Fort LeBoeuf School Director for not more than (5)										
DR	Jeremy Markham	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
No response: Kim Edinger (DR), Robert S. Oberlander (DR), Michael Rose (DR), Karen Seggi (DR), Theodore A. Szall (DR), Joe Welch (DR)										

Party	Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
General McLane School Director At-Large vote for not more than (2)										
No response: Carrie Crow (DR), Linda L. King (DR)										
General McLane School Director Region 2 vote for not more than (2)										
DR	Shari Gould	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	b	b
No response: Andrew Schulz										
General McLane School Director Region 3 vote for (1)										
DR	Timothy D. Wise	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr
Girard School Director vote for not more than (5)										
R	Richard Brown	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr
No response: Emma Ledbury Jones (DR), Melissa Ann Smith (DR), Sean Dunn (R), Joseph Meka (R)										
Harborcreek School Director vote for not more than (5)										
No response: Diana Bool (DR), Terri L. Brink (DR), Bryan Fife (DR), Thomas D. Fortin (DR), Curt Smith (DR), John Timmers (DR)										
Iroquois School Director vote for not more than (5)										
No response: Julie Abele (DR), Wade E. King (DR), Amber Miller (DR), Richard Ragen (DR), Jennifer Sheldon (DR)										
Millcreek School Director 4 year term vote for not more than (5) 2 year term vote for (1)										
DR	Lou Aliota	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
DR	James Lindstrom	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
DR	Tom Murabito	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	b
No response: Jason Dean (DR), J. Michael Lindner (DR), Janine McClintic (DR), Karen A. Morahan 2 year term only (DR), Shirley Oligeri Winschel (DR)										
North East School Director vote for not more than (5)										
No response: Sally Abata (DR), Paul F. Behnken (DR), Erin L. Janes (DR), Eric Riedel (DR), Alene Rohde (DR), Michael Rowe (DR), George R. Sucha (DR), Jim Wargo (DR),										
Northwestern School Director vote for not more than (5)										
DR	Shelly Rea-Rice	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
DR	Leslie A. Soltis	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
R	Sam Ring	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
No response: Kristy Bolte (DR)										
Union City School Director vote for not more than (5)										
DR	Blain Blakeslee									
No response: Brian D. Gregor (DR), Barbara J. Miller (DR), George Trauner (DR)										
Wattsburg School Director vote for not more than (5)										
No response: Bill Hallock (DR), Amanda Thayer-Zacks (DR)										
Fairview Supervisor 6 year term vote for (1)										
No response: Lawrence Biggie (R), Mark Gennuso (R), Thomas M. Gido (R), David C. Gregory (R)										
Harborcreek Supervisor 6 year term vote for (1)										
R	Steve Oler	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
No response: Connie Cruz (D), Ron Manna (D), Lynda Meyer (D), Curt Smith (D), Bob Troutner (D), Timothy Sonney (R)										
Millcreek Supervisor 6 year term vote for (1)										
D	John H. Groh	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
No response: Daniel Ouellet (R)										

WATCH FOR LAST-MINUTE UPDATES AT
www.PeopleforLife.life/newsletter

Primary Election Survey Candidate Comments

Blain Blakeslee ◀ We did not receive a response to the current Survey, but the candidate responded to the 2011 Survey, *ö*am against all taking of life and against our tax dollars spent for it.*ö*

Richard Brown ◀ We did not receive a response to the current Survey, but the candidate responded with all pro-life answers to the 2015 Survey.

Ed Brzezinski ♦ *ö*Thank you for the opportunity.*ö* ♦4 *ö*or more*ö*

Kyle Foust ◀ We did not receive a response to the current Survey, but the candidate participated in a debate on March 19, 2008 and said that as a male, abortion was none of his business and any attempt on his part to address the issue would be sexist and an effort to *ö*deny women their rights.*ö*

Shari Gould ♦8 *ö*That is a tough question. I cannot answer with yes or no.*ö* ♦9 *ö*I believe in stem cell research from the afterbirth, not from aborted fetuses.*ö*

Fiore Leone ♦1 *ö*I am and always have been a pro-life individual. If circumstances,

including death of mother or child, then we need to decide.*ö*

Felix R. Lohitai ♦2 *ö*Save the mother if she can be saved.*ö*

Tim Miller ♦8 *ö*Tough call*ö*

Tom Murabito ♦2 *ö*Choice to mother if her life is at risk.*ö* ♦9 *ö*Unsure*ö*

Shelly Rea-Rice ◀ Candidate's response did not arrive before the print edition was finished, so we noted here that she did respond with all pro-life answers to the 2015 Survey.

Clayton E. Schulze ♦8 *ö*?*ö* ♦9 Indicated he was undecided.

Freda Tepfer ◀ We did not receive a response to the current Survey, but the candidate responded to the 2017 Survey, in part: *ö*I have reviewed your candidate questionnaire. The wording of your questions is heavily biased. I could answer a questionnaire attempting to gather similar information if the questions were written in a less slanted and biased manner.*ö*

Pennsylvania Superior Court

Candidates for two seats on the Pennsylvania Superior Court will be on the ballot this year. Three Democrats and three Republicans are

running for their party's nomination in the primary election. All three of the Republican candidates, Megan McCarthy King, Christylee Peck, and Rebecca L. Warren are recommended by the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation PAC.

None of the Democratic candidates returned their Federation PAC questionnaire. One of them, Amanda Green-Hawkins, is identified on her website as a Trustee of the Women's Law Project. That organization describes itself as *ö*a leading voice in the fight for equal access to reproductive healthcare and abortion.*ö*

Medical Suicide

Even some of the candidates who responded to our questionnaire, most of whom take pro-life positions on most of the survey questions, are ambivalent about *ö*or even in favor of *ö* assisted suicide. This should be a wakeup call for all defenders of the unalienable right to life. Assisted suicide is only an intermediate, thinly-veiled form of euthanasia. The ethical and practical problems involved are real and momentous, but apparently not well-understood by many people.

Memorials

<i>Given by</i>	<i>In Memory of</i>	<i>Given by</i>	<i>In Memory of</i>
Dale Andes	Virgil Andes, Father	Allen Erickson	Allen Erickson
Lois Benoit	Chris Benoit	Ed Hammer	Patricia Anthony Lewis
Joseph Chmielewski	Ken Berlin	Marla Pellegrino	Marla Pellegrino
Lois Borowy	Mark Borowy	Sue & Jerry Verga	Sue & Jerry Verga
Duane & Marcie Kerstetter	Mark Borowy	Joseph Chmielewski	Joseph Chmielewski
Ed Hammer	Lee Boyes		
Ray & Peg Fitzgerald	Charlotte Doehrel	<i>Given by</i>	<i>In Honor of</i>
Carol Doyle	Tom Doyle	Allison Graham	Ray & Peg Fitzgerald
Matthew & Christy Blackburn	Nancy & Joe Ferraro	Amy Roach	Ray Fitzgerald's 90th Birthday
Dorothy Kaliszewski	Matt Kaliszewski	Loren & Christine Yadeski	Jim & Rose Ann Yadeski

JOIN PEOPLE FOR LIFE OR DONATE

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ADDRESS _____

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AFFILIATED WITH _____ PROFESSION _____

1. MEMBERSHIP DONATION New Renewal DUES: Individual \$10 Family \$20 Senior Citizen \$5
 Student \$5 Group \$25 Patron \$50 Benefactor \$100

2. MEMORIAL DONATION AMOUNT _____ In Memory of or In Honor of _____

3. ADDITIONAL DONATION AMOUNT _____ Please earmark for _____ 4. TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

Donations may also be made using the DONATE button on www.peopleforlife.life or by calling-in your credit card information.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

___ Educational Booths	___ Liaison to Another Organization	___ March For Life Bus Trip Worker
___ Phone Calling	___ Public Demonstrations	___ Mother's Day Carnation Project
___ Office Attendant	___ Pro-Life Breakfast Worker	___ Erie March for Life Worker
___ Newsletter Mailing	___ Life Run Worker	___ <i>Call when you need an extra hand.</i>

Please make your check payable to:
PEOPLE FOR LIFE, INC.
 P.O. Box 1126
 Erie, PA 16512

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PEOPLE FOR LIFE
www.PeopleforLife.life

phone (814) 882-1333
phone / fax (814) 459-1333
office@peopleforlife.org
www.facebook.com/PeopleforLife

Mailing Address
P.O. Box 1126
Erie, PA 16512

— Office Location —
1625 W. 26th St.; Erie, PA
Open 10:00 to 5:00 weekdays
Call for evening and Saturday hours

Election of Officers

The annual election meeting of People for Life will be held at our office, 1625 W. 26th St., Erie, Pennsylvania on Monday, May 20, 2019 beginning at 6:30 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, Shauna Jackson for secretary, Marielle Lafara 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.

Membership Renewal

Is your People for Life membership expired or coming due for renewal? If you are not sure, we can check for you. Not everyone who receives the *Erie Echo* newsletter is a member. New members automatically receive the *Erie Echo*, but newsletter subscriptions are not automatically discontinued when the regular 12-month memberships expire.

Life Run 2019

People for Life's sixth annual Life Run will take place on Saturday, October 12, 2019 at the picturesque Burch Farms, located between Harborcreek and North East. As usual, Life Run will feature professionally timed 5K and 10K races plus a Fun Walk.

There will be door prizes, free wine tasting (18 and over), free child care, and convenient parking, not to mention the special ambiance of harvest season in the North East wine region.

Registration is \$15 for ages 7-15 and \$25 for ages over 15. Register now or at least by September 30 to be sure of getting a free t-shirt.

We would be honored to count your business or other organization as a Race Sponsor.

Sponsors are displayed on the

race t-shirts and, with permission, online at www.PeopleforLife.life. Sponsorship levels are \$200, \$100, and \$50.

Runners, walkers, and sponsors may register online at www.peopleforlife.life/runinfo or download a mail-in form. You may also request a form by phone or e-mail or register over the phone with a credit card.

Down Syndrome Bill

Dignity for people with Down syndrome and their families is once again on the minds of Pennsylvania state legislators. House Bill 321, sponsored by Rep. Kate Klunk and 86 cosponsors would disallow abortions carried out for the express purpose of eliminating someone with Down syndrome. A similar bill was overwhelmingly approved by the state House last year, but the state Senate failed to act before the end of the legislative session.

Northwestern Pennsylvania state representatives Tedd Nesbit (R), Kathy Rapp (R), Brad Roae (R), and Parke Wentling (R) are among the cosponsors. Please thank them.

If you have a different state representative, please tell him or her to cosponsor and support H.B. 321, the Down

syndrome protection bill. Senator Scott Martin (R-Lancaster) is going to sponsor the same legislation in the state Senate, so it is not too early to encourage your state senator to get onboard, also.

Planned Parenthood calls it "yet another unconstitutional attempt to ban safe, legal abortion in Pennsylvania," but we call it a modest affirmation that discrimination on the basis of physical or mental disability should not be tolerated in 21st century America. Make no mistake; the discrimination we speak of is nothing less than lethal.

Syndicated columnist George Will has called it "genocide," a systematic attempt to eliminate an entire class of people. That is exactly the goal of many prominent geneticists and medical professionals, even the goal of entire governments. They are advocating the complete eradication of Down syndrome, by eradicating unborn children with the condition. Iceland recently bragged that it has practically eliminated Down syndrome. In Denmark the eradication rate is 98%.

We occasionally hear from or about people who have felt they were being pushed by medical professionals into going along with an abortion after a Down syndrome diagnosis. Changing cultural attitudes (e.g., human beings seen as things rather than persons) are also bringing pressure to bear on Down syndrome parents.

Extremism²

The Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, H.R. 962, is pending in the U.S. House of Representatives. It has the full support of N.W. Pennsylvania pro-life Congressmen Mike Kelly and Glenn Thompson. House Democrats have blocked more than 30 attempts by Republicans to bring the bill up for consideration. So far, 196 Republicans (all but one) and 3 Democrats have signed a petition to force action on the bill. Only 19 more signatures are needed.

2019 PRO-LIFE CALENDAR 2020

May 14	Last day to apply for an absentee ballot
May 17	Last day absentee ballots will be accepted at the Court House
May 12	Mother's Day / Mother's Day Carnation Project
May 20	Election of Officers Mtg., 6:30 p.m. - 1625 W. 26th St., Erie
May 21	Pennsylvania Primary Election - Polls are open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
5/29 - 6/1	Educational Booth - Erie Wild Rib Cook Off & Music Festival
June 13-15	Educational Booth - Lake City Fire Company Carnival
June 16	Father's Day / Father's Day Carnation Project
July 5-6	National Right to Life Convention - Charleston, South Carolina
July 9-13	Educational Booth - North East Firemen's Cherry Festival
July 19-21	Educational Booth - Waterford Heritage Days
Aug. 1-3	Educational Booth - Dan Rice Days, Girard
Aug. 13	<u>Erie Gives Day</u> - Please support People for Life Education Fund
Aug. 26-31	Educational Booth - Erie County Fair, Wattsburg
Sept. 2-7	Educational Booth - Waterford Community Fair
Sept. 10-14	Educational Booth - Albion Area Fair
Sept. 27-29	Educational Booth - Wine Country Harvest Festival, North East
Oct. 12	6th Annual Life Run 5K, 10K, and Fun Walk - Burch Farms
Oct. 15	PA Pro-Life Federation Banquet - Speakers: <i>Diamond & Silk</i>
Oct. 21	General Meeting, 6:30 p.m. - 1625 W. 26th St., Erie
Nov. 5	General Election
Jan. 11	Annual Pro-Life Breakfast
Jan. 18	Erie March for Life
Jan. 24	March for Life - Washington, DC (buses leave Jan. 23, 11 p.m.)