

# THE ERIE ECHO

*"voice for life"*

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## Local Teen Represents Pennsylvania at the National RTL Oratory Contest

After taking first place in People for Life's High School Oratory this past April, Thomas Caulfield of Waterford went on to win the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation Oratory Contest and to represent People for Life and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania at the National Right to Life (NRL) Oratory Contest on June 26. Thomas is a homeschooler, currently in the 12th grade. The NRL Oratory Contest took place during the 50th National Right to Life Convention just outside of Washington, DC in Herndon, Virginia.

Thomas competed in a large field of outstanding student-orators, some of the best pro-life high school speakers in the country. Although he was not one of the award winners, Thomas received many compliments and represented our state and local pro-life organization very successfully.

His speech was titled "The Truth is on Our Side." Thomas observed that there are strongly-held opinions about abortion on both sides of the issue but only some opinions are grounded in the truth or backed up by solid facts. Yes, a new life begins at conception, and the unborn child *is* a living human being. Yes, abortion hurts women: when helpless young women are pressured by their friends and families to have an abortion, when women are herded through abortion facilities like cattle branded with dollar signs, when

young girls are given secret abortions without their parents' knowledge or consent, when victims of sexual abuse are dragged to the abortionist in order to conceal the evidence.

Thomas correctly noted that *Roe v. Wade* is built on a pack of lies, many of them issuing from a book titled *Abortion*, by the 1960s abortion crusader Lawrence Lader. Justice Henry Blackmun cited the book no less than seven times in his *Roe v. Wade* decision. The book contains stories about fictitious characters and statistics that were pulled out of thin air. It has been called a masterpiece of propaganda.

Thomas concluded by urging his listeners not to shrink away when their pro-life convictions are challenged, because "the truth is on OUR side."

You can watch Thomas in action on the People for Life YouTube channel. Search using "People for Life - 2021" or go directly to [youtu.be/Yc-zZSvf-20](https://youtu.be/Yc-zZSvf-20).

Thomas and his mother Stephanie also enjoyed the opportunity to attend their first NRL Convention. The event is always interesting, informative, and inspirational. People for Life Executive Director Tim Broderick, along with his wife Julz and son Juden, were also at the Convention, where Tim had been invited to present a workshop about leading a grassroots pro-life organization.

The next National Right to Life Convention will be held on June 24 and 25, 2022 in Atlanta, Georgia.

### Attention: Parents, Teachers

Now would be a good time to start helping your kids get ready for the 2022 Student Contests by familiarizing them with the human life issues and encouraging them to learn more about a topic that is especially interesting or relevant to them.

The High School Oratory Contest will be held on Saturday, April 9, 2022. It is open to all students in grades 9-12. Contestants will present an original 5-7 minute pro-life speech on a human life topic. Students in grades 9-10 and grades 11-12 will compete separately. Two sets of cash prizes will be awarded: \$100 for first place, \$50 for second, and \$25 for third. Students may also enter a video of their speech in the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation Oratory Contest.

The Student Essay Contest is open to students in Erie, Crawford, Warren, Mercer, Venango, Ashabula, and Chautauqua counties. Grades 7-9 (word limit 500) and 10-12 (word limit 750) compete separately. Cash prizes of \$100, \$50, and \$25 will be awarded in both divisions, as in the Oratory Contest.

The submission deadline is April 25, 2022. Please contact People for Life for more detailed information.

## Life Run Results

Spirits were high despite some rain on Saturday morning, October 9th as People for Life hosted our 8th Annual Life Run 5K/10K & Fun Walk. Most races have been under attended this year, and Life Run also felt the pinch. Registrations were down by about 50%. It was great fun nevertheless, especially as the rain gradually abated and completely stopped in time for the awards ceremony.

In the 5K, the Overall Winner was Katie Kuttenkuler, Wattsburg, PA with a time of 20 minutes, 21.7 seconds. Second place went to Peter Caulfield, Waterford, PA with a time of 21 minutes, 20.2 seconds, and third place went to Eric Witkowski, Erie, PA with a time of 22 minutes, 54.3 seconds.

The 10K field was especially small. There

were only two winners. First place overall went to Scott Corbitt, West Springfield, PA with a time of 57 minutes, 50.9 seconds. Our second place Overall Winner was Heidi McLallen, Erie, PA at 69 minutes, 30.4 seconds.

Special thanks go out to our top sponsors: CalTech of Buffalo, NY; Dave Hallman Auto Group; and Brighter 2 Morrows Counseling, LLC. Special thanks as well to each and every sponsor! Please see the list of sponsors on our website. Tell them People for Life sent you when you give them your business.

We are grateful to Erie County Councilman Brian Shank for donating his DJ services, Tim Burch of Burch Farms Country Market for providing free wine tasting, and the Harborcreek Township Supervisors for the use of Slade Park and the township roads.

Last but not least, we warmly thank our Race Director Kelly Cooney and all of her great volunteers, including a really nice group of students from Villa Maria, Cathedral Prep, and Collegiate Academy. Great job, everyone!

Life Run is traditionally held on the Second Sunday of October in the wine country of northeast Erie County.

### Lawsuit portends pro-life disaster

Following a strategy that is being used in several other states, abortion industry lawyers are suing the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The suit, *Allegheny Reproductive Health Ctr. v. PA DHS* basically alleges that the state's ban on spending taxpayer dollars for abortions discriminates against women and therefore violates the state Constitution.

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# Candidate Responses for November 2 Municipal 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, 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

**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:** Democratic  
**R:** Republican  
**DR:** Cross registered

*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  
**nr:** No response to current survey  
**b:** Blank; responded to the survey but did not answer yes or no to the question

◆ See %Additional Comments / Information+  
 ◀ Did not respond this time, but did respond when running for office previously

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?

## COMMENTS AND NOTES

**Britni Burlingham** ◆ 1. I really feel this would be more than a just approve/disapprove decision depending on the situation. ◆ 6. I think this needs to be more of a discussed topic. ◆ 8. I cannot just answer yes or no to this.

**Jeremy Coblentz**◆ Stop killing babies!  
**Brenton Davis** ◆ 1. Hypothetical. County Executive will never hold this power. Personally, I support pro-life. ◆ 2. Aside from life risk to mother and unexpected medical complications. ◆ 5. Parents should be involved in all medical care decisions for minor children. ◆ 6. I do not support government funds paying for abortions. Insurance considerations are too broad to answer. ◆ 7. I do not feel properly informed in current medical laws to answer. Medical care should be provided for all in need.

**Steven Drake** ◆ 9. I am not familiar enough with the process and overall outcome of stem cell research to answer yes or no. I would probably lean towards no but would want to understand the whole process.

**John H. Groh**◆ As I have stated in previous surveys, I am Catholic and believe that all life is sacred. A disagree with *Roe v. Wade* yet acknowledge it is based upon a Supreme Court ruling that I would have no part in overturning. Our daughter is adopted as was my late father along with two cousins. Adoption has played a large part in my life and family. I also believe in the protection of those with developmental and physical disabilities along with the homeless, many of which suffer with mental illness and addiction issues. I am also a Board Member with the local chapter of NAMI and also serve on the Board of Directors with the St. Patrick's Haven homeless shelter. In essence,

all life is sacred.

**Lea Hetherington** ◆ 1 [Exceptions:] some very rare cases of minor rape or incest rape.

**Luke Lofgren**◀ We did not receive a response to the survey, but the candidate was identified as öpro-lifeö by the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation when he ran in 2014 for state representative in District 3. Also, the candidate and members of his family have attended People for Life events in past years.

**David E. Mitchell**◆ I was adopted.

**Chuck Nelson** ◆ 1. Approve with additional exceptions ◆ 2. Without room for exceptions, I do not offer an answer. My concern is with viability. I have counseled situations where the child may be mature but not viable. ◆ 8. I do not offer an answer.

**Elizabeth B. Sceiford** ◆ 8. Unsure. Depends on circumstances.

**Brian Shank** ◆ 1. In case of rape.

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Party	Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<b>Erie County Executive</b> vote for (1)										
R	Brenton Davis	b◆	Y◆	Y	Y	Y◆	b◆	b◆	y	N
D	Tyler Titus◆	nr								
<b>Erie County Council 4th District</b> vote for (1)										
R	Timothy E. Gostomski	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
D	Jim Winarski	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
<b>Erie County Sheriff</b> vote for (1)										
R	Brian Shank	A	Y◆	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
D	Chris Campanelli	nr								
<b>City of Erie City Council</b> vote for (4)										
D	Chuck Nelson	A◆	b◆	Y	n	Y	N	N	b◆	y
No response: Liz Allen (D), Greg Brown (R), Jasmine Flores (D), Shawn Lyons (R) Maurice Mo Troop (D)										
<b>City of Corry Mayor</b> vote for (1)										
R	David E. Mitchell◆	b	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
<b>City of Corry City Council</b> vote for (2)										
R	Steven Drake	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	b◆
No response: Chelsea Oliver (D)										
<b>Corry Area School Director</b> four year term vote for (4)										
DR	Jason Halfast	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
No response: Amy Allen (DR), Joel A. Cook (DR), Joe Frisina (DR)										
<b>Corry Area School Director</b> two year term vote for (1)										
DR	Jason Halfast	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N

Party	Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<b>Erie City School Director</b> vote for (4)										
R	Timothy E. Gostomski	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
No response: Jay Breneman (D), Daria Devlin (DR), Lauren Gillespie (D) Aaron J. Lundberg (R), Zakaria Sharif (R), Leatra Tate (D)										
<b>General McLane School Director</b> at large and various regions										
No response: Donald L. Ickes (DR), Luke Lofgren◀ (R), Dana Miller (DR) Brad Pattullo (DR)										
<b>Iroquois School Director</b> four year term vote for (4)										
R	Jeremy Coblentz◆	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
No response: Jaxon D. Abele (D), Andrew J. Jackula (DR), Rita Nicolussi (DR) Craig Noyes (DR)										
<b>North East School Director</b> vote for (4)										
D	Elizabeth B. Sceiford	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	b◆	N
No response: Corrie E. Boyd (R), Jane Blystone (DR), Joseph R. Cancilla (DR) Nicholas C. Mobilia (DR)										
<b>Wattsburg Area School Director</b> vote for (4)										
DR	Lea Hetherington	A◆	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
DR	Britni Burlingham	b◆	Y	Y	Y	Y	b◆	N	b◆	N
No response: Nicole Lee (DR), Stephen J. Morvay (DR)										
<b>Millcreek Township Auditor</b> vote for (1)										
D	John H. Groh◆	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
R	Sue Weber	A	b	Y	Y	Y	N	N	y◆	b
<b>Summit Township Supervisor</b> vote for (1)										
D	Mark Sleppy	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	y◆	y
No response: Mark A. Welka (R)										

Only races in which at least one candidate responded are included. Not all Erie County races were surveyed.

**FROM PAGE 2**  
**Comments and Notes**

**Mark Sleppy** ♦8. In some cases it could be an option.

**Tyler Titus**♦ The candidate is formally endorsed by Planned Parenthood, the abortion giant.

**Sue Weber** ♦8 If the decision is made by the patient when they are mentally capable of making it.

**Statewide Judicial Races**

The Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation Political Action Committee recommends the following Pennsylvania judicial candidates: Kevin Brobson (R) for the state Supreme Court, Megan Sullivan (R) for the state Superior Court, and Drew Crompton (R) and Stacy Wallace (R) for the state Commonwealth Court (vote for two).

Four judges are on the ballot for retention. Only PA Commonwealth Court judges Anne Covey (R) and Renee Cohn Jubelirer (R) are recommended for a öyesö retention vote.

Planned Parenthood, the abortion giant, has officially endorsed the following judicial candidates: Maria McLaughlin (D) for the state Supreme Court, Lori Dumas (D) and

David Spurgeon (D) for the state Commonwealth Court, and Timika Lane (D) for the state Superior Court.

**Legislative Briefs**

The *Women’s Health Protection Act* was approved on September 24 by the U.S. House. This radically pro-abortion legislation would overturn practically every pro-life regulation on both state and federal levels, require taxpayers to fund abortion, and remove conscience protections for doctors and nurses who do not want to participate in abortions. The vote was 218-211, one Democrat voting against the bill and no Republicans supporting it. The Senate could vote on the bill at any time.

The U.S. House, on July 29 approved a 2022 federal budget stripped of the Hyde Amendment, which has protected the taxpayers since 1976 from being forced to pay for abortion via Medicaid and other federal programs. The Senate, however, voted 50-49 for a measure that calls for the Hyde Amendment to be reinstated. It was carried by the vote of one, solitary Democrat, Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia. Sen. Bob Casey voted AGAINST the measure.

Negotiations on the 2022 budget are continuing. A bill that extends the 2021

budget, with Hyde protection included, is now in effect until December 3.

The \$3.5 billion so-called infrastructure bill, approved by the House on a 220-212 party-line vote, is riddled with abortion funding schemes designed to avoid the Hyde Amendment restrictions. For instance, it would mandate abortion coverage in 12 states that have not expanded their Medicaid programs and would increase funding for Obamacare insurance plans that pay for abortion on demand. It also appropriates billions of dollars in public health grants that are not covered by the Hyde Amendment. Only 51 Senate votes are needed to send this anti-life fiasco to President Biden for his signature.

**FROM PAGE 1**  
**Abortion Industry sues**

It is feared that the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, which has a pro-abortion majority, will side with the abortion industry. If the discrimination ploy is sustained, the Court is likely to use it to strike down all existing pro-life safeguards for women and the unborn. This would be a disaster. Pro-life countermeasures are being developed. Stay tuned! All of us must be prepared to take part in a major grassroots battle to defend our pro-life laws.

*Memorials*

<i>Given by</i>	<i>In Memory of</i>	<i>Given by</i>	<i>In Memory of</i>
Darcée Anthony Maureen Anthony Chris Eastbourn McCord Memorial Library Gary & Barbara Kolarik Margaret Kolbas Bill & Jackie Hendricks Dana & Kim Volkman Jack & Penny Warmbrod	Rhonda Capron Rhonda Capron Rhonda Capron Rhonda Capron Patrice DiTullio John Eberlein Dolores Fahey Dolores Fahey Dolores Fahey	Lee & Mary Simmons Marian E. Adelman Michael F. Williams Anita Smith Andrew & Renee Heinlein	Corinne Farina Henry & Tina Hernandez James Kuhn Cynthia Manna Stan Widomski
		<i>Given by</i>	<i>In Honor of</i>
		Tom & Chris Yadeski	Rose Ann Yadeski

**JOIN PEOPLE FOR LIFE OR DONATE**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Best Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile? Yes  | No  Other Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile? Yes  | No  Do not text   
AFFILIATED WITH (e.g., church, organization, business) \_\_\_\_\_ WORK/PROFESSION \_\_\_\_\_

1. DONATION: \$1,000  \$500  \$250  \$100  \$50  \$25  \$10  Other Amount \_\_\_\_\_

2. MEMBERSHIP DUES (one year): Individual \$10  Family \$20  Senior Citizen /Student \$5  New  Renewal

3. TRIBUTE DONATION AMOUNT \_\_\_\_\_ In Memory of  or In Honor of  \_\_\_\_\_

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**

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

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

Contributions or gifts to People for Life, Inc. are not tax deductible. The official registration and financial information of People for Life, Inc. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

**PEOPLE FOR LIFE**  
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Open 10:00 to 5:00 weekdays  
Call for evening and Saturday hours

## March for Life Buses

The 2022 March for Life will be held in Washington DC on Friday, January 21, and we are excited! Our 48th Bus Trip had to be scrubbed this past January after the March for Life itself was called off. With everyone having been sidelined for an extra year, we anticipate a big demand for bus seats.

Online registration for People for Life's 49th Annual Bus Trip is already available on our website. As always, school, church, and family groups are very welcome. Now is the time for groups to start organizing.

Our goal is to make up for last year by filling FOUR buses. The usual number in recent years has been three, but four buses are certainly not out of the question. We have filled as many as five. With the pro-life cause under attack like never before, a massive turnout for the March for Life is essential.

We wish we could make all seats free for committed marchers. That would help to get those buses filled! However, four buses will cost approximately \$13,000, an amount that far exceeds the donations we receive from our generous Bus Trip sponsors. Therefore, as always, we ask those who can afford to do so to cover the cost of their own seat, and we will apply the sponsorship funds that are available on an as-needed basis.

Because of higher bus company charges, we had to increase our asking price, for the first time in many years, from \$55 to \$60 per seat. But we will try our best to ensure that at the end of the day everyone who wants to ride the People for Life buses will be able to do so, regardless of their financial situation. By the way, the online registration form has a section for sponsor donations as well as for Bus Trip reservations.

## Pro-Life Breakfast

Mark your calendar, please! Our 44th Annual Pro-Life Breakfast will take place on Saturday, January 15, 2022, once again at the Erie Bayfront Convention Center.

Tickets are \$20, or \$12 for ages 3 to 12. There is no charge for children under 3. Complimentary child care will be available for kids of all ages. Online registration will be available soon.

We can't wait to host our Special Guest Speaker Rachel Bovard. She is the Senior Director of Policy at the Conservative Partnership Institute in Washington, DC; a graduate of Grove City College; and a native of Danville, New York, near Rochester. Rachel was slated to speak at the 2021 Breakfast, but the event had to be cancelled due to COVID.

Watch for more exciting Pro-Life Breakfast news on our website, in future E-Mail Updates, and on Facebook.com /ProLifeBreakfast. But for now, please remember to mark that calendar.

## Educational Outreach Season

People for Life had pro-life outreach booths at four major community events this summer: Dan Rice Days, Erie County Fair at Wattsburg, Waterford Community Fair, and Albion Area Fair. We normally do 10 or more events, but at least COVID did not shut us down completely this year. We featured a petition to save the Hyde Amendment and collected hundreds of signatures.

There was an especially memorable encounter at Dan Rice Days. After a family with teens, toddlers, and a baby in a stroller had visited and starting to move on, one of

the adults tarried a moment, leaned toward us, and whispered over the table, "That baby is probably here because of you guys!" Planting seeds is not a waste of time.



## Pro-Life Flags & Flag Stickers

Do you like this new pro-life flag design? If yes, you will really love it when you see it in color: one stripe, one foot, and two hands in pink with the other stripe and foot in blue. It's beautiful!

The symbolism is equally impressive. Life, love, peace, and equal protection under law; it's all there. The hands symbolize a mother's protective love and also bring to mind the two olive branches on the seal of the United Nations. "Peace in the womb" as they say.

If there is enough interest, we would like to place a bulk order. This will save on shipping charges, and \$30 per flag will be sufficient to cover the cost. You can see a sample flag at People for Life.

Small, 5 x 3-inch pro-life flag bumper stickers are also available, and we have them in stock. If you are not a bumper sticker person, this winsome design just might win

you over. Get one at People for Life or, if you ask, we will include one when we send a thank you note for your next donation.

## New Board Member

People for Life recently welcomed a new member to our board of directors, Karli Van Der Volgen of Erie. Karli is a registered nurse and currently a stay at home mom. She and her husband Jacob have three young children, ages 8, 5, and just 7 months.

## 2021 PRO-LIFE CALENDAR 2022

<b>Oct. 26</b>	Last day to apply for a mail-in or conventional absentee ballot
<b>Nov. 2</b>	Election Day
<b>Jan. 15</b>	44th Annual Pro-Life Breakfast, 9 a.m. - Bayfront Convention Ctr.
<b>Jan. 19</b>	49th Annual Bus Trip to the March for Life, departs Erie at 11 p.m.
<b>Jan. 20</b>	March for Life 49th Annual Bus Trip, 11 p.m. departure
<b>Jan. 21</b>	March for Life - Washington, DC
<b>Jan. 22</b>	March for Life Buses return to Erie, approximately 1 a.m.
<b>Jan. 22</b>	49th anniversary of Roe v. Wade
<b>Jan. 29</b>	Erie March for Life - Downtown Erie, PA
<b>March 1</b>	Last day for statewide PPLF Student Essay contest entries
<b>March 21</b>	General Meeting, 6:30 p.m. - 1625 W. 26th St., Erie
<b>April 9</b>	People for Life High School Oratory Contest - Erie
<b>April 15</b>	Last day for statewide PPLF High School Oratory Contest entries
<b>April 17</b>	Easter Sunday
<b>April 25</b>	Last day to submit People for Life Student Essay Contest entries