

Sehlhorst Takes Top Honors at Oratory Contest

At the end of the judges' deliberation over six excellent speeches, Lehman Catholic senior Daniel Sehlhorst was awarded first place and \$300 at the annual Shelby County regional Pro-Life Oratory Contest, held February 20 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Sidney.



Sehlhorst

The contest, which is open to students from any school in Shelby County, had participants from Christian Academy, Sidney High School and Lehman Catholic. The objective of each contestant was to present an argument intended to convince the audience of the dignity of all human beings—from conception to natural death—and of their inherent right to be protected from intentional killing. The scoring of the contest was strongly weighted on the prepared speech, with oral presentation accounting for only one fourth of the score.

The orators were judged on presentation, organization and content, including use of current and accurate facts and affirmation of the value of human life in all stages of development. Continued on page 2

Mark your calendar

- RTL Membership Meeting: April 17.
- RTL Garage Sale: April 12-14.
- Deadline for submissions to the April newsletter: March 22.
- Board meeting: Mar. 6, 7pm.

Clothing center report

We served people 143 during the month of January, of whom 62 received free items, 5 took literature, and 3 were referred to the Women's Center.

Call for Laundry Volunteers

The thrift shop is in need of assistance washing donated clothing. If you are able to pick up and take care of a load of laundry on occasion, please contact Ann Cordonnier at the office, 498-1812.

Right to Life of Shelby County is a 501(c)(3) educational and service organization. All donations are fully tax-deductible.

Religious Leaders Continue to Fight HHS Mandate

Family Research Council President Tony Perkins led a news conference today during which he unveiled a new letter signed by more than 2,500 Catholic, evangelical, Protestant, Jewish and other religious leaders opposing the new Obamacare mandate.

The leaders are urging President Obama to reverse his mandate decision and protect the conscience rights of those who have moral and religious opposition to funding or providing contraceptives and abortifacients.

"It took just three weeks, but every single Catholic Bishop in America has officially condemned the President's mandate. Even though the media has mostly buried this fact, one hundred percent of them oppose the rule that orders faith-based groups to pay for drugs that destroy pregnancies or prevent them. It's a formidable group, and today, they do not stand alone," Perkins said. "Every pocket of religious America is linking arms at the front lines of this war on religious freedom."

Perkins continued, "No church should be forced to concede their faith to kneel at the altar of government. And until the administration rights this wrong, we unite with our allies in diverse faith traditions in demanding what George Washington called "the invaluable rights of free citizens." Perkins was joined by Dr. Richard Land, President, Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission and Bishop Harry Jackson, Senior Pastor, Hope Christian Church in unveiling the letter. Continued on page 2.

Religious, Pro-Life Groups Fight Obamacare Mandate Continued from page 1

The unveiling of the letter comes as Obama faces two additional lawsuits over the controversial mandate. Meanwhile, more than a dozen state attorneys general have signed onto a joint letter Nebraska Attorney General Jon Bruning started coordinating against the controversial Obama mandate requiring religious employers to cover birth control and drugs that can cause abortions.

Congressman Jeff Fortenberry held a press conference with supporters of the bipartisan, bicameral Respect for Rights of Conscience Act. His legislation would protect the religious liberty and conscience rights of every American who objects to being forced by the strong-arm of government to pay for drugs and procedures recently mandated by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

The Fortenberry bill currently has the support of approximately 220 Members of Congress and Senators, the most strongly-supported legislative remedy to the controversial HHS mandate. This measure would repeal the controversial mandate, amending the 2010 health care law to preserve conscience rights for religious institutions, health care providers, and small businesses who pay for health care coverage. H.R. 1179 enjoys the endorsements of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, National Right to Life Committee, Americans United for Life, and other organizations. Numerous other organizations, including the Christian Medical Association and Family Research Council, have urged support of the bill.

The administration initially approved a recommendation from the Institute of Medicine (IOM), suggesting that it force insurance companies to pay for birth control and drugs that can cause abortions, under the Obamacare government-run health care program. The companies will likely pass the added costs on to consumers, requiring them to pay for contraception and abortifacient drugs. The HHS accepted the guidelines from the IOM, which advises the federal government and had shut out pro-life groups in meetings leading up to the recommendations .

By Steven Ertelt, LifeNews.com, February 20, 2012. Edited for space and used with permission.

Oratory Contest Continued from page 1

Second and third place awards went to Kerrie Josefovsky and Amelia Schultz. Sehlhorst will go on to compete at the state contest with a chance to continue to the national level.

Contest judge Mike Staudt, a lawyer, was so impressed by the participants that he addressed them publicly at the end of the competition. He spoke about the quality of the speeches, comparing them favorably with presentations he hears in the courts, "We all like to be winners—I don't like to lose a case—but it's clear that every one of you put a lot of thought and effort into your speech. I would be proud to have any of you on my team." Also judging were Amy Gleason, a speech and communications teacher at Sidney High School, and Pastor Jonathan Schriber of St. John's Lutheran Church in Sidney, where the contest was held.

RTL commends all of the contestants for their outstanding efforts. Thank you to the judges, to the anonymous donors of the prize money, and to St. John's for hosting the event.

Russia Garage Sale in April: Keep Saving Those Treasures

The annual Right to Life garage sale will be held April 12-14 at St. Remy Hall in Russia. Please keep us in mind as you're cleaning out garages and storage rooms. Many area churches will begin collecting items in April. We will accept items anytime during open hours (Tues.-Fri., 9:30-4) at the RTL office. If you would like to donate large items early, or have any questions, please contact Maria Hoehne, 937-526-5008. We are in need of clothes hangers; please drop them off at the RTL office or the church drop points. Raffle tickets will be coming in your April newsletter.

March 6 Primary Election: Pray and Vote!

Right to Life of Shelby County does not endorse candidates. We present information about candidate positions for the purpose of educating our members and supporters. Please feel free to share this information with anyone who might find it to be helpful. (Absentee voting began Jan. 31)

Information about local candidates is presented with the questionnaire to which they responded. We thank them for their cooperation. Only those candidates involved in contested primaries were contacted. Questionnaires are a tool, but have their limitations. We encourage you to contact candidates directly for further information. If you need addresses, you can call the Board of Elections at 498-7207 or email them at Shelby@sos.state.oh.us.

At the national level, although Jim Jordan’s congressional district has changed, all of Shelby County remains in his 4th Congressional district.

At the state level, Ohio RTL PAC has endorsed Josh Mandel for the U. S. Senate because he is the pro-life candidate that they believe has the best chance of winning in the general election.

At the state level, the 85th district represented by John Adams which formerly included all of Shelby County has been split. The following townships and municipalities will remain in the 85th House district: Clinton, Franklin, Green, Lockington, Orange, Perry, Port Jefferson, Salem, Sidney, Washington. The rest of the county will be in the 84th district for this election. (There is no primary contest in the 84th.) Contact the Board of Elections if you need further information.

RIGHT TO LIFE OF SHELBY COUNTY CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Right to Life does not endorse candidates. We present information on candidate positions to educate our members and supporters. We thank our local candidates for responding to our questionnaire, which was sent only to those involved in contested primaries. Please contact them directly if you need further information. We recognize that some of the questions do not apply directly to some of the offices, but we believe that the responses will be helpful to those desiring to be well-informed voters. Only part of Shelby County remains in the 85th House District. Contact the Board of Elections for information. Shelby@sos.state.oh.us or 937-498-7207.

	STATE REPRESENTATIVE (85 th House District)		PROSECUTING ATTORNEY		COUNTY COMMISSIONER	
	John Adams	Dave Easton	Ralph Bauer	Tim Sell	Robert Guillozet	Terry Pellman
I will vote against the use of tax money to fund abortions.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
I will vote against the use of tax money to fund pro-abortion groups.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
I believe we can love & protect both the mother & the child. I will vote for legal protection for the unborn child from the time of conception.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
I will vote for conscience protection for those opposed to being involved in abortion activities.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
I will support only pro-life candidates for public office.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (1)	[Blank](2)	[Blank](3)
I support repeal of the new federal health care legislation which contains no conscience protection & no abortion funding ban.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

(1)- Yes –at state & national level; as to local level, yes, if aware of convictions & otherwise a qualified candidate.(Sell)
 (2) – Pro-life candidates would be my first choice.(Guillozet)
 (3) – I cannot pledge to support only candidates who are pro-life, except for judicial candidates.(Pellman).



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Mark Your Calendars: Membership Meeting, April 17

How can those of us who are pro-life and pro-family be better stewards of our money so that we can be using it to build a culture of life rather than fund a culture of death? Thomas Strobhar of ProVita Advisors has been doing just that for years!

We are delighted to announce that Tom will be our keynote speaker for the annual RTL membership meeting. This year the meeting will be held at St. Remy Hall, in Russia on Tuesday, April 17 at 7pm. Tom is an accomplished financial advisor who advocates on behalf of morally responsible investing and has earned his reputation as one of the most active and effective pro-life investment managers. He has fought corporate involvement in pornography, abortion, and gay marriage by speaking at corporate meetings of Pfizer, Merck, Target, Johnson & Johnson, Ford, American Express, Microsoft and others. So far, over a hundred corporations have changed their policies of funding Planned Parenthood and other pro-abortion groups because of Tom's efforts. He will share his stories as well as give us practical pointers for investing money and managing pension plans.

With his twenty-five years of investing experience he has proven it is a myth to think that investment results have to suffer because of an integration of moral standards. He is guided by the teaching of Scripture: "What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world but loses his soul," and "Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they shall be satisfied."

Come and learn how you can take advantage of a free moral audit of your investments and begin reaping the benefits of "Excellent Returns with Eternal Values" with the help of Thomas Strobhar Investments (www.strobharfinancial.com).