



MASSIVE VIRGINIA RALLY FOR MCCAIN/PALIN

When I heard that the McCain campaign was coming to nearby Fairfax, Virginia, in September, my first question was, "Will both John McCain and Sarah Palin be there?" The newly formed "dream team" are fast becoming the greatest one-two punch in politics, a combination of experience, talent, service, and tenaciousness.



The rally proved to be the last scheduled joint appearance by McCain and Palin before Gov. Palin returned to Alaska to say goodbye to her son, Track, who was about to leave for Iraq. The huge, enthusiastic crowd—estimated by police to be 23,000 strong—that greeted the pair in Van Dyck Park were thrilled to hear both of them give rousing and inspiring speeches, joined by former Sen. Fred Thompson and Virginia politicians including Congressmen Frank Wolf and Tom Davis.

Women especially seemed empowered and

energized by the inclusion of Sarah Palin on the ticket. Homemade signs proclaimed, "Vote for the Hero and the Mom," "Trig Is My 'Brother,'" and "Only Difference: Lipstick!"

While the media tried to downplay the huge turnout by attributing it to curiosity about newcomer Palin, the support for McCain himself was obvious. Shouts of "Sarah! Sarah!" could definitely be heard, but choruses of "John McCain! John McCain!" also echoed through the park.

Palin's experience of living her pro-life principles combined with McCain's pro-life voting record have given us a clear choice this fall. The intensity and enthusiasm felt last month in Northern Virginia showed that John McCain and Sarah Palin make a dynamic team.



~Liz Townsend, National Right to Life News

CALLING ALL PRO-LIFERS!

Did you know Virginia is considered a "swing state" in this election and pro-abortion leaders have targeted us in US House, Senate & the Presidential Races? To protect Virginia we need all pro-life Virginians to rise up to the

challenge! Email vshlpac@comcast.net to volunteer to preserve and protect Virginia's pro-life culture!

~Holly Smith VSHL PAC chair

RESPECT LIFE GRANTS AWARDED TO VSHL

Virginia Society for Human Life is the recipient of a \$3,000 contribution from the Catholic Diocese of Richmond's 2008 Respect Life Fund. In May, VSHL was awarded a grant of \$1,000 from the Church of the

Epiphany in Richmond. St. Bridget's Church, also in Richmond, graciously awarded VSHL \$500 in September.

Thank you to all those who have generously contributed to the educational efforts of VSHL this year.

The Annual Membership Meeting of Virginia Society for Human Life will take place on December 6, 2008 at noon at the VSHL offices, 6767 Forest Hill Ave, Richmond VA. The meeting will follow the regular Board of Directors meeting at 10:00 AM. Join us afterward for a holiday celebration!

Election day is Tuesday, November 4, 2008. Remember to vote Pro-Life!
Las elecciones es martes, noviembre 4, 2008. Acuerdate de votar pro-vida!

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NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER

The Northern Virginia Chapter will hold its annual Helen Donovan Memorial Essay Contest for high school juniors and seniors this fall. There is no residency requirement, so students from northern Virginia and beyond are welcome to enter.

This year's contest topic is: Politics and the Culture of Life. Students are to write an essay of at least 500 words, double-spaced and with one-inch margins, on how politics influence pro-life issues such as abortion, euthanasia and the culture of life, specifically, how political decisions can advance or hinder the status of human dignity and life.

Essays should be postmarked by Dec. 8 and mailed to VSHL Northern Virginia Chapter, P.O. Box 22681, Alexandria, VA 22304. A Chapter committee will review the entries and award contest prizes of \$1,000 for first

place; \$500 for second; and \$250 for third. Awards will be announced in January.

If you have further questions, please call chapter treasurer Don Parker at 202-626-8813.



The Northern VA chapter sponsored a successful table at this year's Alexandria Birthday Celebration

VSHL WELCOMES NRLC 2008 TO THE COMMONWEALTH

In July VSHL had the distinct honor of hosting the Annual National Right to Life Committee convention in Arlington., Virginia. This event is the largest pro-life educational event of the year and the signature event for NRLC each summer.

VSHL members were well represented at the convention. Members from no fewer than ten of our chapters participated in the three day event on the Fourth of July weekend. Several of our state leaders also did double duty as workshop presenters, VSHL president, Olivia Gans, NRLC delegate, Geline Williams, secretary, Don Parker and Brenda Fastabend, VSHL past-president, among others. Virginia is blessed with a wealth of pro-life know-how and that was obvious at the convention.

VSHL was especially proud to have pro-life Virginia Attorney General, Bob McDonnell, there to welcome everyone to Virginia. The Attorney General held a special meeting for all Virginians attending the convention shortly after the opening session. VSHL president, Olivia Gans, and the Attorney General took questions for about an hour.



Olivia Gans thanks Virginia Attorney General Bob McDonnell for attending NLRC 2008

TIDEWATER CHAPTER

The Tidewater Chapter will present "Hope and Healing after Abortion" on Saturday, October 18. We hope to provide pastors with critical information to counsel their flock that desperately need help after choosing an abortion.

The following topics will be presented: "New Trends in Post-Abortion Healing", by Olivia Gans; "Medical

Complications of Abortion", by Dr. John Seeds, M.D., Chair ObGyn, VCI; and "A Church Pastoral Outreach", by Kay Marie Geiger, Coordinator, Post Abortion Healing Ministry.

Chris Evans and Drake Hoffman have put forth much effort to bring this important event to fruition.

~Mary Petchel, Tidewater Chapter

The Winchester Chapter donated a beautiful, handmade quilt from a group of crafters in their area, Skyline Quilters, to be given away during a general session. The happy winner was a lady from Ohio.

All in all, NRLC 2008 was a rousing event for all who came. As always, whenever pro-lifers get together they restore each other's hope in their work together to protect innocent human life from the violence of abortion and euthanasia.



Olivia Gans, President of VSHL, at NLRC 2008 with Virginia's own Kay and Charles James, founders of Black Americans for Life

"It is the solemn duty of [those of] us in elected office to protect those enumerated, fundamental rights [found in the Declaration of Independence] that pre-existed our entry into society, but that—as Jefferson noted—government is designed to protect. And first and foremost among those is the right to life. Jefferson didn't parse words and say that was only for people that are born. He said that this is a right that we all have as a God-given right."

~Virginia Attorney General Bob McDonnell

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

This is an election year, in case you missed it, and we in the pro-life movement have a powerful part to play in ensuring that we send strong, pro-life leaders to Congress and most importantly, to the White House. Those for whom we vote this November will set the course of our work in the pro-life movement for the next four years or longer! Thousands of un-born children, people with disabilities and the dependent elderly rely our help this fall to protect their lives.

Pro-life voters in Virginia will be able to make a major impact on this years elections. The eyes of the nation are on us, wondering if we will remain a pro-life state. The solidly pro-life ticket of McCain/Palin offers us a clear position at the polls. The Obama/Biden ticket is the most pro-abortion, anti-life presidential ticket ever. It's our job as pro-life Virginians to make it happen this year for the good guys!

If you want to help, call the VSHL office right now (804-560-8748)! There is a job for everybody.

No matter what happens in November, we must prepare now to be ready to go right to work after the elections. Organizing new chapters is of the highest priority for me as President of VSHL. In order to develop better educational programs and legislative activity we need to identify and organize in many more parts of Virginia. Do you have a local chapter of VSHL near you? If not, can you help organize one? Remember, if you don't do it, who will?

Chapters are responsible for working with schools, churches and local politicians, educating and providing accurate pro-life information to the local community. It doesn't take a lot of people to build a great chapter. It just takes a few willing, well organized people to make a huge difference for life! VSHL has the tools you need to get the job done right. Please contact our office in Richmond if you and your friends want to learn more.

~Olivia L. Gans

WINCHESTER-FREDERICK-CLARKE CHAPTER

The Winchester-Frederick-Clarke chapter had an exhibit at the Frederick Co. fair on July 28-Aug 2, 2008. We met many supportive, wonderful people. As always the baby models were the most popular item on display. We encourage everyone to handle these babies and many mothers use this as an opportunity to teach their children. A life-like baby doll, graciously donated each year by Doris

and Hartsell Brown, was given away. In addition, we gave away a beautiful Noah's Ark baby quilt made by Bonnie Geise and Skyline Quilters. Many thanks to all the workers and visitors who helped make the fair booth a success.

~Elizabeth Harrison

CHESTERFIELD CHAPTER

This August VSHL sponsored a booth at the Chesterfield County Fair. On closing day our VSHL President, Olivia Gans attended the booth. Many listened very intently to her life lesson as to why abortion is NEVER the answer.

This being election year brought about a certain buzz giving us the ideal opportunity to distribute the NRLC Candidate Comparison piece as well. Hats off to our many volunteers: men, women and children from the greater

Richmond metro-area whose dedication makes it possible for us to come back every year! With Chesterfield's growing Hispanic population, having Spanish speaking volunteers was a definite plus. A special thanks goes to our past Chesterfield Chapter president, Antoinette Cleary who was a co-coordinator for this event.

~ Lisa McNerney

WISE COUNTY CHAPTER

During the month of September the chapter gave out pro-life yard signs to people to put on their lawns. The signs included messages such as: "Vote Pro-Life" and "Stop the real war. Abortion kills..." Other signs read, "Pray for abortions to end" on one side and "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you. GOD" on the other side. On

Sunday, September 21st, we had a small table display of pro-life materials at the First Baptist Church on Wood Avenue in Big Stone Gap.

~Anne Mumpower, Chairman, Wise County Chapter