The Kentucky Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice (KRCRC) invites you to

LUMINARIA

an evening to show appreciation to our Kentucky pro-choice lawmakers

Sunday October 18
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Highland Community Campus
1228 E. Breckinridge Street
at Barret Avenue in Louisville

Special Guests:
Rep. MARY LOU MARZIAN,
and other Kentucky
state and local friends of choice

Also, join us in honoring
KATE CUNNINGHAM,
chair of Kentucky’s A Fund, Inc.,
with the Rev. Gil Schroerlucke
Reproductive Justice Award

Your tax-deductible contribution to KRCRC in ANY amount is your ticket of admission

Please RSVP to (866) 606-0988 or info@krcrc.org
Contributions may be brought to the door, or sent to:
KRCRC, P.O. Box 4065, Louisville, KY 40204

Hors d’oeuvres, wine and soft drinks

The IRS recognizes KRCRC as a Section 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization. All donations are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.
New Spinning Wheel Makes for an Exciting Year at Kentucky State Fair

by Carol Savkovich, board member

Departing from the petition-based fair booth of past years, KRCRC took a new tack this year with a spinning Wheel of Reproductive Health – with exciting results.

The wheel was built by my father, Louis Moseson, and myself, with invaluable help from master woodworker Matt Karr. Its 24 numbers corresponded to numbered questions in a binder, educating fairgoers with questions such as “What percent of Kentucky counties have NO abortion clinic?” (Answer, 98% have none), “True or False: All religions prohibit abortion” (False!), and “What’s the most common method of payment for abortion in the U.S.?” (Answer, Out-of-pocket.)

Not only did the wheel plus binder do some true educating for fairgoers (even our volunteers learned from it), it successfully stopped a broad cross-section of fairgoers – not just those who were already pro-choice, as has been the case in years past.

Adults attempting a question (whether they got it right or wrong) received a prize, a hand fan which read “I am a fan of reproductive freedom”, a popular item which spread our message throughout the fairgrounds.

For kids, we had a separate set of questions (Who was the first U.S. president? What’s the capital of Kentucky? Name the days of the week. Sing the ABC song.), with a piece of candy as the prize. Letting kids try the wheel was not only fun for the kids and for our volunteers, it often led to the kids’ parents deciding to give the wheel a spin as well, answering a reproductive health question.

All in all, a great year at the fair! **Huge thanks to our MANY fair volunteers** who staffed the booth throughout the 11 days of the fair (and especially those who stepped up to fill last-minute shift vacancies); and big thanks also to my cohort in volunteer recruitment, former board member Rita Sasse.

Volunteers had fun interacting with fairgoers.

From top: Jenn S. hands out a fan; Maggie S. and Al S. (at left in photo) turn to a question; Bobbie C. and Tish M. with spinning wheel.

Far left, Susan G. opens the binder; near left, Beth K., Ann A. and Krista talk with a couple.
1. The __________ prevents federal Medicaid funds from being used to pay for abortion except in cases of rape or incest, or to save the life of the mother.
A) Brady Law
B) Hyde Amendment
C) McCain-Feingold Act

2. In the United States, the decrease in teen pregnancy rates to the lowest levels in recorded history is
A) mostly because of contraception.
B) mostly because of abstinence.
C) equally because of abstinence and contraception.

3. Crisis Pregnancy Centers (CPCs)... A) provide unbiased counseling to discuss all options for a pregnancy.
B) use misinformation, shame and guilt to talk pregnant women out of choosing an abortion.

4. True or False: Countries where abortion is illegal or highly restricted have lower abortion rates.

5. What is the most common method of payment for abortion in the United States?
A) Out-of-pocket
B) Medicaid
C) Private insurance

6. In the United States, what percent of women having an abortion report a religious affiliation?
A) 32%
B) 56%
C) 78%

7. What percent of Kentucky counties have no abortion clinic?
A) 36%
B) 74%
C) 98%

8. True or False: In Kentucky, an unmarried minor may obtain an abortion without parental consent or notification.

9. Born-again or Evangelical Christians have _______ of the abortions in the U.S.
A) one in twenty
B) one in ten
C) one in five

10. True or False: Having an abortion increases your risk of getting breast cancer.

11. Having an abortion is _______ giving birth.
A) 3 times more dangerous than
B) about as safe as
C) 14 times safer than

How’s your knowledge of reproductive health?
Take the Wheel Quiz

Here are some of the questions we posed to fairgoers this year (they only answered one; you can try the whole lot!) We’ll run the rest of the questions in an upcoming issue.

What can you do?

Communicating with school board members is essential. Check out the web site www.jefferson.ky.us/board, and become familiar with the people who represent our county. Follow the link “Find a Board Member” to learn the name of the person who represents your district. Write a letter, email or call to urge the Board to adopt a standardized curriculum for comprehensive sexuality education. Be sure also to express appreciation for their leadership.

The next meeting of the JCPS SexEd Community Forum will be held on Tuesday, October 13, 5 pm at Planned Parenthood, 1025 S. 2nd St. in Louisville. Everyone is welcome – please come!
Several hundred protesters gathered outside the Louisville Planned Parenthood clinic in late August.

Photo by Philip Scott Andrews, The Courier-Journal

Protests Follow Video Attack on Planned Parenthood

by Tamarra Wieder
Director of External Affairs, Planned Parenthood of Indiana and Kentucky

In mid-July, an undercover video showing a high-ranking Planned Parenthood Federation of America medical official discussing tissue procurement over lunch was released and a media firestorm immediately ensued. Others followed—all of them secretly taped, all of them concerning tissue donation programs that a few Planned Parenthood affiliates participate in.

These tissue donation programs, in which a woman chooses to donate tissue from her aborted fetus for lifesaving medical research, are standard practice in the medical industry. The tissue is used for research into HIV, Parkinson's disease, chromosomal abnormalities, and many other conditions. The programs are governed by strict legal and ethical guidelines.

These guidelines are followed by the few Planned Parenthood affiliates that take part in tissue donation programs. But that didn't stop a group calling itself the Center for Medical Progress from editing the videos to make it look like laws had been broken.

The attacks on Planned Parenthood that followed were widespread and vicious. Hundreds of protesters turned out at Planned Parenthood health centers in Louisville and Lexington to call for defunding of the organization in the Commonwealth.

From the beginning, Planned Parenthood of Indiana and Kentucky (PPINK) made it clear that it doesn't participate in any tissue donation program. Indiana Gov. Mike Pence called for an investigation of Planned Parenthood facilities anyway—an investigation that was quickly closed for lack of any evidence of wrongdoing at the three facilities that offer surgical abortion.

The issue is expected to resurface in national and state funding and legislative debates. Here are some facts about the attacks:

- The group behind these videos—the so-called Center for Medical Progress—is made up of extremists who are making outrageous and completely false claims. They are engaged in a fraud intended to deceive the public. The group has close ties to people who have been linked to firebombing abortion clinics and threatening physicians who provide safe, legal abortion.

- At PPINK and nationwide, Planned Parenthood strives to follow all laws and has extremely high medical and professional standards.

- These videos have been debunked and discredited. Forensic experts found that the videos were heavily edited to distort and misrepresent what Planned Parenthood staff actually said, and that the manipulation and heavy editing of the videos actually changed the meaning of what people on the videos said.

- The real agenda of these attacks has become totally clear: to ban abortion and limit women's access to reproductive health care at Planned Parenthood.

Throughout this ordeal, Planned Parenthood staff and patients have been buoyed by the support of those who have sent kind words of support, dropped off donations at health centers, or written letters to local newspapers or legislators.
Thoughts on Sex Education from a Religious Perspective
by Rev. Mark Baridon
Co-pastor, Central Presbyterian Church, Louisville

In my own tradition, people like the quote of Presbyterian Pastor, Frederick Buechener, concerning sex: “it is like nitroglycerin, it can blow up bridges or it can heal hearts.”

It seems to me that religious groups are especially well-suited to talk about sex among adherents of all ages. Most traditions have teachings about love and compassion, about humans having divine purpose and about the importance of loving and cherishing each other and valuing our bodies, and those of others as part of a wonderful creation.

What a marvelous starting point for people to reflect on sex and behavior. What if sex education began with talking about how we honor and respect each other? What if we talked about the equality of men and women in respectful relationships? What if we included the spiritual (however we define that) dimension to sex? It seems like these approaches, which fine teachers have already been using, would enrich discussions on sex education and allow people to connect their inner values with their behavior.

I once worked with a wise parish nurse, Christine, who developed an informal sexuality education format for girls and boys in a church’s 4th and 5th grade after school program. We began discussions with remembering that we are all created in God’s image, female and male, and that we are called to love our neighbor as ourselves. This led to a shift in thinking from simply valuing what our culture considers physically desirable to valuing qualities in ourselves and each other that enhance our lives, like: helpfulness, compassion, sense of humor, etc.

A church member introduced me to the new edition of Faith Matters: Teenagers, Religion, and Sexuality (Life Quest Growing in Faith Series). The book shares thoughts of 5,800 young people from various religious groups concerning sexual values and behavior. What I took away from the book is that young people want more help and direction from faith-based institutions as they begin dating and sexual decision making. My hope is that faith groups will accept the challenge to engage young and old in meaningful conversations and will encourage our public schools to have comprehensive sex education that includes: healthy relationships, gender identity, sexual orientation, and mutual respect. Hopefully, this will help us all have sexual practice that heals hearts more than it blows up bridges!

Do you shop at Kroger, with a Kroger Plus card? You can be giving KRCRC a financial boost at no cost to you! (And we can use the help!)

Kroger’s “Community Rewards” program returns a small part of every dollar you spend at Kroger (including at the gas tank) to KRCRC. All you have to do is

★ Sign up, designating KRCRC as your charity of choice, and
★ Use your Kroger card as usual all year!

NOTE – if you had signed up before (for KRCRC or any other organization), your prior Kroger charity designation expired in August. Kroger requires that you RE-ENROLL for the coming year.

= $$$ for KRCRC!
Helping KRCRC Through Your Kroger Card

Here’s how to enroll (or re-enroll):

1. Sign up for a Kroger Plus Card. If you already have a Kroger Plus Card then proceed to step two.
2. Go to https://www.kroger.com/communityrewards and sign in or create your account.
3. Scroll down to “Community Rewards” and click “Enroll”.
4. Search for “KRCRC” or enter “11048” (without the quotes). Select the button next to KRCRC and then click “Enroll”.
5. Shop!

Please take a couple of minutes NOW to sign up to help KRCRC for the coming year, so we can continue our pro-choice work in Kentucky!
Dear Friends,

It looks like I’m stepping back into the Board Chair position for a bit; Cherokee Schill has moved to Tennessee, and we wish her much luck and thank her for her efforts for KRCRC.

Those of you who worked our fair booth this summer shared my excitement in seeing the change our Spinning Wheel of Reproductive Knowledge brought to the booth. Not only something new and fun, and a true education tool, the wheel also brought the ability to stop people of a broad cross-section of opinions and beliefs, and engage them in a bit of conversation on a topic they may not have given much thought to before. Count on our wheel making some return appearances for us!

Later this month, we look forward to our Luminaria event (see cover), honoring Kentucky’s pro-choice lawmakers who do their best to keep us from moving backwards, against what often feels like a strong current pulling us down. We look forward to this chance to gather many of our supporters together and let you personally meet and thank these courageous legislators. We are very happy to be able to honor Kate Cunningham, chair of Kentucky’s A Fund, with the Rev. Gil Schroerlucke Reproductive Justice Award, for all her efforts for Kentucky’s women.

Luminaria is KRCRC’s major fundraiser of the year; whether or not you are able to attend, please consider helping us with a contribution to continue our important work in Kentucky.

Finally, coming up in January to commemorate Roe v. Wade, this year we’ll be screening the movie “Vessel”, a fascinating documentary profiling the abortion-rights group Women on Waves, which undertook to make medical abortions (i.e. by pill) available to desperate women around the globe. Watch for details in our January newsletter!

Yours in faith,

Carol Savkovich,
KRCRC Board Chair

Notes from KRCRC’s Board Chair

By Carol Savkovich

Making the Wheel

Building the wheel was a major project and labor of love for board member Carol Savkovich, and her 91-year-old father, Louis Moseson, with early essential help from woodworker Matthew Karr.

Our thanks also to Maggie Harlow of Signarama on Market Street, for providing KRCRC with a discount on the graphic output.

Above and at right, Matt cuts the circular piece, then creates a strong mortise and tenon joint to connect the back wood support with the base, as Louis looks on.

From left, Louis screws in bolts to act as “stops” for the leather flapper; in center, he applies a wood stain to the wheel. At right, Carol adheres the art output which she also designed.

At right: Ta-da! Carol and Louis proudly show off the finished wheel.
Kate Cunningham to Receive KRCRC’s Rev. Gil Schroerlucke Reproductive Justice Award

On October 18 at our Luminaria event, KRCRC will honor Kate Cunningham with our second-ever Rev. Gil Schroerlucke Reproductive Justice Award. (Our first recipient, at the first Luminaria in 2012, was attorney Amelia “Mikki” Adams, who represents most area juveniles seeking a judicial bypass for an abortion.)

Kate is currently Board Chair of A Fund, Inc., Kentucky’s abortion fund, which provided financial assistance to over 400 women in A Fund’s last fiscal year. Our Winter 2016 issue will contain a more complete profile of Kate and her years of work for reproductive justice.

We congratulate Kate and thank her for her efforts for choice!

Wheel Quiz Answers

1. B, the Hyde Amendment, passed by Congress in 1976.

Approximately 1/3 of women obtaining abortions have Medicaid health care coverage, but many cannot use it to pay for their abortion procedures. Women who have to pay for an abortion out of pocket may be forced to delay the procedure to raise the necessary funds. This increases both the cost and health risks associated with a later procedure. Many women must divert money meant for rent, childcare, utility bills and food to pay for abortion care. And some women who are unable to obtain funding for abortions are forced to carry the pregnancy to term.

2. A, mostly because of contraception.

Promoters of premarital abstinence claim that the historic drop in teen pregnancy is due to abstinence-only sex education programs. However, research has shown that the decline in teen pregnancy has little or nothing to do with teens delaying sex and can instead be linked to improvements in teens’ contraceptive use.

3. B, use misinformation, shame and guilt to talk pregnant women out of choosing an abortion.

4. False.

It is a common myth among antiabortion advocates that making abortion illegal will lower abortion rates. This has been repeatedly shown to be false. Making abortion illegal does not make it less common, it just makes it less safe.


57% of women pay for their abortion care out-of-pocket. In Kentucky, the cost of a first-trimester surgical abortion is $750, an amount that poses a financial hardship for many women. Thirty-three states and the District of Columbia do not cover abortions for Medicaid enrollees under most circumstances. And, many states ban or restrict coverage of abortion in private insurance plans. This forces most women to pay for their abortions out of their own pocket or else bring an unintended pregnancy to term.

Kentucky law bans all insurance plans (private plans, plans for public employees, and plans in the state exchange) from providing abortion coverage. In theory, women may purchase a separate policy and pay an extra premium to receive abortion coverage. However, nothing in the law requires an insurer to make such riders available and there is little evidence that insurers offer them.

6. C, 78%.

Women from every socioeconomic, racial, ethnic and religious group have abortions. While many antiabortion advocates try to portray abortion as something that divides the religious from the non-religious, more than 3/4 of women who have abortions report a religious affiliation.

7. C, 98%.

Of Kentucky’s 120 counties, only two counties currently have an abortion clinic: Jefferson County (Louisville) and Fayette County (Lexington).

Some 87% of U.S. counties do not have any abortion provider, and 35% of women aged 15-44 live in those counties.

8. False.

A young woman under the age of 18 who has never been married or freed by court order from the care, custody, and control of her parents may not obtain an abortion unless the attending physician secures written consent from one parent.

However, a judicial bypass procedure does exist; the young woman may try to obtain permission from a judge. She must secure a court order stating either that she is mature and well-informed enough to make her own decision, or that an abortion is in her best interests. It is in the judge’s discretion whether or not to grant this.

9. C, one in five U.S. women having abortions are born-again or Evangelical Christians.

10. False.

Exhaustive reviews by U.S. and British governments have concluded that there is no association between abortion and breast cancer. There is also no indication that abortion is a risk factor for other cancers.

11. C, having an abortion is 14 times safer than giving birth.

Researchers found that women were about 14 times more likely to die during or after giving birth to a live baby than to die from complications of a legal abortion.

Between 1998 and 2005, one woman died during childbirth for every 11,000 or so babies born. That compared to one woman of every 167,000 who died from a legal abortion. These findings contradict some state laws that suggest abortions are high-risk procedures.

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1Guttmacher Institute, www.guttmacher.org
2NARAL Pro-Choice America, prochoiceamerica.org
On our cover, be sure to see your invitation to

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