

## **YUBA-SUTTER RIGHT TO LIFE COMMITTEE**

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**St. Isidore Parish Hall**

**April 4, 2007**

**PRESENT:** Mary Anne Brayton, Mike Gabhart, John Guth, Maureen Guth, Chuck Page, Miriam Page

Before the meeting was called to order, the Board watched two DVDs: **Baby Steps**, a six-minute, four-D ultrasound DVD from American Life League (ALL); and **Stem Cells: Beyond Hype to Real Hope**, also six minutes, from the Family Research Council. Both were excellent and Chuck will copy Chapter 1 of the ALL DVD to be used in the Fair booth. We will use the Stem Cell DVD to train fair workers.

#### **CALL TO ORDER/OPENING PRAYER:**

The meeting was called to order by Maureen at 7:20 p.m. and opened with a prayer led by John.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Maureen reported she has restocked the RTL displays and **Love Matters** in St. Isidore's vestibule, and gave Miriam memberships received from the Newsletter mailing with notes on donations so thank-you letters can be sent.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion was m/s/c to approve the Minutes of the March 7, 2007 meeting with no corrections.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

John reported we have \$1,675 in the bank, with \$198 deposited during the month. We have not yet paid for the fair.

#### **BILLBOARDS:**

Maureen spoke to Gary Arlington's wife. Gary is recuperating from surgery, but his wife indicated the pro-life banner is still up on their property and there have been no problems.

John talked to Brad Dacus at Pacific Justice Institute about the "Defend Life" billboard that Viacom declined to let us purchase at a non-profit rate as it was "a matter of opinion," and not a public service announcement. Brad indicated that Viacom has the right to do whatever they want in this regard, so this is probably a moot issue. There is still some confusion about exactly what the billboard looked like as we never saw a copy, and there were apparently two different billboards the Knights of Columbus were involved with: the "defend life" billboard with Our Lady of Guadalupe we wanted to put up, and a Divine Mercy billboard for which the Knights were collecting donations.

**WEB PAGE UPDATE:** Chuck distributed copies of usage statistics. In March we averaged 30 visits per day, with just under 1,000 total visits. Average visits per hour were 4, with as high as 50 in one hour; maximum visits on one day were 64. Top 10 pages included frozen embryos; stem cells; legislation; Planned Parenthood; natural family planning; and grand jury report. Most referrals (how they got to us) were by direct request (typing in our address), with 2,300 hits that way; others were through Yahoo, Ask Jeeves, Google, and other search engines. Search strings included Fair booth; frozen human embryos; who owns frozen embryos; Anthony Portatino; umbilical stem cells; Christine Cipperly; divorce and

embryos; and homily hypocrisy.

Chuck announced that we will need to start looking for his replacement as he will retire as webmaster when he is 70 (in three years). We will begin recruiting in the next Newsletter for someone he can train to take over the website.

### **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:**

The website's legislative page is up-to-date. The legislature is not meeting this week. New pro-life bills include AB1009, the fetal pain prevention act, which probably will not pass out of committee, but it is a good effort and may get some positive press coverage. AB1511 is a new anti-family bill; it would mandate government sex education for parents, telling them what to tell their children, which will include using protection during sex. Physicians are saying the HPV vaccination bill is not necessary, and in NM, Governor Richardson has said he would veto the HPV vaccination bill. Cardinal Mahoney issued a statement about the assisted suicide legislation (AB 374) and challenged "Catholic" Fabian Nunez on his support of this issue. Mary Anne noted the list of who is supporting and opposing this legislation is substantial and amazing.

### **STEM CELL UPDATE:**

Mary Anne noted that those opposing Proposition 71 lost at the appellate level and had the option to file a motion for rehearing with the California Supreme Court. She is regularly checking the main page, [www.cirm.ca.gov](http://www.cirm.ca.gov), and noted they are not wasting time spending the money appropriated (another \$75 million just added). At Davis they will be working with monkeys initially, using both adult and embryonic stem cell research and comparing the two. The federal government is funding the building with NIH money; research will be funded by CIRM. According to the weekly newsletter at Davis, two more people at the medical school will receive stem cell funds for embryonic stem cell research, one on kidneys and one on livers.

### **RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY:**

Mary Anne talked to Father Bong and reported he was under the impression that he had answered our questions. It was agreed we would still like to meet with him and clarify how he sees our ministry and where it fits into his vision of a social justice ministry, which we encourage, but of necessity we have a limited scope. By nature of our organization we are more focused on the 200,000 deaths from abortion in CA every year rather than the 14 death penalty enforcements in CA since 1978. We can encourage father to find someone to lead his vision, and share the materials Gneal Trevethan sent regarding monthly two-minute, after-mass presentations on various topics. The purpose is to give a little information, spark interest, get people to stop by the table and pick up supportive materials. Several parishes have found this an excellent way to educate parishioners on life issues. Gneal has offered to share the materials they have used, and information can also be pulled off websites of the CA Conference of Bishops, the USCCB and the Vatican. Mike reported that these sessions have been well received and are the next best thing to having the priest speak.

Following discussion, it was agreed we will again try to set up a meeting with Father to clarify all the issues, find out exactly what he is looking for, and see what we can do to help. It was further agreed we would prefer to have someone from outside the board take this special project on. After Easter, Maureen will contact Father and seek a time we can all meet. Chuck and Mary Anne will pull copies of all the previous correspondence together for Maureen

### **YUBA-SUTTER FAIR:**

We received the contract back from the Fair Board and need to return it with payment.

Maureen passed out packets with the brochures we have been using at the fair and asked everyone to carefully evaluate and prioritize the literature so we can determine exactly which ones to use as people just don't pick up a lot of printed information any more. Fetal development is always the most popular, and the **First Nine Months** is being replaced. We will look for a four-D brochure, starting with ALL (who did the DVD). As always, Planned Parenthood and PBA information will be held in the back of the booth, and it was suggested that some of the other less popular pieces be left off the table but available if anyone asks. We will discuss all this at the next meeting.

**NEWSLETTER:**

The Newsletter went out the last week of March. The question arose of whether we should continue to publish it quarterly, and it was decided to remain with this format. Maureen asked others to help with the writing.

**MISCELLANEOUS/CORRESPONDENCE**

Seth Halpern of the Christian Business Alliance said he will post our meetings on the **Ambassador** calendar and on the CBA website, although routine meetings may be bumped for special events. Brad Dacus asked that we let him know of any groups that would like to hear him speak.

**ADJOURNMENT/CLOSING PRAYER:**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m. and closed with a prayer led by Chuck.

Respectfully submitted,

Miriam Page, Secretary

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 2**

[Home](#)  
[Directory](#)