



The Advocate

Winter 2021-22

Volume 1, Issue 3

From the Chairman

WELCOME to another issue of our newsletter. Allow me to begin by saying that, first of all, there is a lot happening within the Constitution Party of Pennsylvania (CPPA), and secondly, much has already happened that we want to share with you. Where do I begin?

Our spring 2022 committee meeting and biennial convention is right around the corner. There is a flyer announcing this event inside the back cover. We will elect our CPPA officers at this meeting, and several speakers will present some history lessons and what we can do to impact the world around us. I have always found the presentations to be informative, thoughtful, encouraging, and challenging. We will try to have a full report on the meeting in the next issue of *The Advocate* (April 2022).

I should also mention that the Constitution Party National Committee is also coming up. This meeting will be on Friday and Saturday, April 29-30, in Erie, Pennsylvania. Details are on the website. We are fortunate to have the CP National Committee meeting so close, and I encourage you to attend, if at all possible. Once again, I am convinced that you would enjoy this gathering. Again, we'll try to provide a report on this meeting in the next issue of *The Advocate*.

We are looking ahead to the 2022 elections, and we are attempting to run candidates for as many offices as possible. If you cannot run for public office, we ask for your support as we put our Constitution Party candidates against the established bureaucracy (and bureaucrats). We will take time during our spring meeting to discuss the election (candidates and timelines).

We'll soon be looking ahead to our fall 2022 CPPA meeting (likely in September 2022). We are, tentatively, planning for this to be in the southwest region. The focus of this meeting will be the November election, and our actions to get our Constitution Party candidates elected. We'll post information on this as soon as we have details, and we'll do our best to get the word out via email and other means.

ARG

The Advocate is published four times per year (January, April, July, and October). Comments, correspondence, and complaints may be sent to Bob Goodrich at goodrichenterprises@juno.com

Guest column

ROE V. WADE REVISITED

On December 1 the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments in the case *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, a case that could potentially have far-reaching implication. What is at issue is a Mississippi state law banning abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy. With a solid conservative majority now on the Court, the Court will now have the occasion to reexamine *Roe v. Wade* itself.

The problem is that the legal reasoning in *Roe v. Wade* is anomalous, to say the least. There were two basic questions that the Court had to answer: 1) Does a woman have a right to privacy that includes the right to have an abortion; and 2) is an unborn child a legal "person" who has a right to life protected by the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment? What makes the Court's reasoning in its decision so bizarre was that in answering these two questions it took two opposite approaches to interpreting the Constitution.

On the first question, whether or not a woman has a right to privacy that would include the right to have an abortion, the Court took a very loose, broad approach to the Constitution. The Court admitted that the Constitution does not explicitly mention any right to privacy, *per se*. But the Court tried to argue that that such a right might be implied in

the Fourteenth Amendment concept of personal liberty, or possibly in the Ninth Amendment's reservation of rights to the people. The Court relied on several earlier Court decisions, especially *Griswold v. Connecticut* (1965), which claimed to have found in the Constitution a right to use contraceptives. So much for the literal sense of the Constitution!

On the second question, however, the Court took the exact opposite approach, interpreting the Constitution in a very narrow legal sense. "The Constitution does not define 'person' in so many words," the Court said. It mentioned several places in the Constitution where the word appears, and then argued that "in nearly all these instances, the use of the word is such that it has application only postnatally. None indicates, with any assurance, that it has any possible prenatal application." The Court then went on to say that "We need not resolve the difficult question of when life begins." As Judge Robert H. Bork later pointed out, it is a simple matter of high school biology (*Slouching Towards Gomorrah*, pp. 174-175).

So what do we make of all of this? It could be argued that a general right to privacy was at least implied or assumed in the Constitution. "A man's house is his castle," as the 17th Century English jurist Sir Edward Coke noted. The Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees "the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and

seizures.” But the right of privacy does not include the right to commit an act that would otherwise be considered a crime. The fact that you murdered your mother-in-law in the privacy of your living room does not exonerate you.

The real problem with *Roe v. Wade* was the Court’s handling of the second question, of whether or not an unborn child is a “person” whose life is protected by the Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses of the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments. The Fourteenth Amendment reads, in part, “. . . nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law, nor deny any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.”

What is especially striking about the Court’s reasoning in *Roe v. Wade* is how remarkably similar it is to the argument it had previously used in the infamous *Dred Scott* decision of 1857 to deprive African-Americans of their fundamental human rights. In each case the Court ruled that a certain class of human beings (African-Americans, unborn children) were not “citizens” or “person,” and therefore not entitled to the rights guaranteed under the Constitution. In the *Dred Scott* case, Chief Justice Roger B. Taney declared that black people were of an inferior order, “so far inferior, that they had not rights which a white man was bound to respect.” *Dred Scott* did not even have the right to bring his case before the Court simply because of the color of his skin.

What is so ironic about the present case is that the Fourteenth Amendment was added to the Constitution

partially to invalidate that kind of argument. Thus it is especially disconcerting to see the Court use essentially the same argument in *Roe* to deny unborn children the right to life.

At one time it was thought that a fetus did not become a human being until the point of “quickening,” the point at which the mother could begin to feel the baby move around inside her womb. Some theologians thought that that was when the soul entered the body. What we now know today, however, based on modern science, is that the fetus undergoes a continuous process of development. There is no logical point between conception and birth at which it suddenly becomes “human.” The clear, logical implication, then, in the present case, is that if the justices are honest with the language, historical background and intent of the Constitution, they will have to rule that an unborn child is a human being with a right to life guaranteed by the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments.

What this means, however, is that abortion should be illegal in all fifty states. One can just imagine the public reaction that such a decision would get. It could conceivably literally split the country into two, between the states that would accept the decision and those that would not. Chief Justice John Roberts would hardly be able to imagine a worse scenario; and, if he is true to form, he will probably look for a way to dismiss the case on technical grounds to avoid making a decision on the issue.

The Supreme Court needs our prayers. This will be one of the most difficult cases it has ever been called upon to decide. RWW

Bob Wheeler is a member of the Constitution Party, and lives in Tioga County, PA. He will be providing a column each issue.

Mark Your Calendars

Saturday, March 19: Constitution Party of Pennsylvania Spring 2022 Committee Meeting (& Biennial Convention) (Lenoxville, PA); see announcement / flyer later in this newsletter.

Friday and Saturday, April 29-30: Spring 2022 Constitution Party National Committee Meeting (Erie, PA); Alan Keyes is the keynote speaker. Information is on the CP National website. *We desire a good contingent to represent the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the CPPA at this meeting. If you can attend (or if you want to attend), please let Bob Goodrich know.*

Saturday, September 24, 2022: Constitution Party of Pennsylvania Fall Committee Meeting (southwest region); exact date and location to be confirmed.

October 2022: Spring 2022 Constitution Party National Committee Meeting (NCM); tentatively, planned to be conducted in Cheyenne, WY. The date and location will be announced as soon as they are confirmed. ARG

The Ridiculous . . .

I have personal first-hand knowledge of this happening. Many of you know that I lived in Kansas for a period of time. This incident made the news in Kansas at the time, and I am familiar with it. I don't personally know the people involved, but I do know some families that lived in the school district and their children went to school in that district. This is another example of a "ridiculous" incident whereby we have "built systems" that allow the "outrageous" to happen, and that end up with tax dollars being wasted. Please judge for yourself the logic of this and consider that it has probably happened numerous times.

Two decades ago, I lived in Kansas. There was a small town that had a public school (Cherryvale, KS; USD447). There were approximately 350 students that attended this K-12 school district.

Some organizations hire an individual (or company) as grant writers. The job of this person is to write and obtain grants for the organization, in this case a public school. The grants may come from the government or from various foundations that award monies, usually on a recurring schedule. In most cases that I am aware of, the grant writer is paid 10% of the amount of grants that he obtains. So, if the organization were to get \$500,000 in grants, the grant writer would be paid \$50,000. After all,

the organization ends up doing pretty well under this arrangement; in our example, getting \$500,000 and paying out \$50,000 is a net “profit” of \$450,000. Not bad.

In some instances, an employee will write the grant and the employee will receive the 10%. In our particular example, the school principal wrote a grant under a government program and requested money for some swimming pools for this school. He reported back to the school district (and school board) that the school was getting money for 12 swimming pools. Imagine this: 12 swimming pools for a school district with 350 students. . . or, think of it this way, 12 swimming pools for a high school of 115 students. It sounded really good; this school would be the envy of every school in the state. The principal had obtained \$1,200,000 for swimming pools, and he was paid his 10%, or \$120,000. Then, reality kicked in.

It turned out that this was a 50-50 grant. For every dollar that the federal government paid, the local school district would have to match with its own dollar. Did this school need 12 swimming pools? Was this a good use of taxpayer dollars? Of course not! It ended up that the principal was relieved of his duties (for ethics issues; there were, evidently other questionable practices), and the school fought to be relieved of its requirement to pay for six (6) of the swimming pools. Of course, tax dollars were used to pay the attorneys that represented the school district. But, . . . this is an example of our tax dollars at work.

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I invite you to share your story on something “ridiculous” in government.

Contacts: Your CPPA Leadership

The current officers for the CPPA are:

Chairman: Bob Goodrich

Vice Chairman: Justin Magill

Secretary: Matt Zehr

Treasurer: Jim Clymer

Webmaster: Troy Bowman

The point-of-contact (regional chairmen) are:

Northwest Regional Chairman: Justin Magill

Northcentral Region Chairman: Matt Zehr

Northeast Regional Chairman: Mitch Megliola

Southwest Regional Chairman: Jim Barr

Southcentral Regional Chairman: current vacant

Southeast Regional Chairman: Troy Bowman

These individuals, along with up to three individuals appointed at large, make up the CPPA executive committee. The CPPA conducts two committee meetings each year, and the executive committee conducts the business of the party throughout the year.

The CPPA state and regional leadership along with contact information can be found on the website at www.consitutionpartypa.com. Additionally, county contacts and county events are on the website (in counties where we are active). We may list these in future issues. ARG

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Calendar

January 1	New Year's Day
January 2	Georgia admitted to Union (1788)
January 3	Alaska admitted to Union (1959)
January 4	Utah admitted to Union (1896)
January 6	Epiphany
January 6	New Mexico admitted to Union (1912)
January 8	Elvis's Birthday – ha ha!
January 9	Connecticut admitted to Union (1788)
January 17	Martin Luther King Day
January 17	Persian Gulf War began (1991)
January 21	National Hugging Day
January 23	National Pie Day
January 26	Michigan admitted to Union (1837)
January 27	World Holocaust Victims Remembrance
January 27	Signing of Vietnam War Peace Accord (1975)
January 28	Data Privacy Day
January 29	Kansas admitted to Union (1861)
February 1	National Freedom Day
February 2	Groundhog Day
February 6	Massachusetts admitted to Union (1788)
February 8	Boy Scouts Founded (1910)
February 9	Hershey's Chocolate Founded (1894)
February 12	Abraham Lincoln's Birthday (1809)
February 14	Valentine's Day
February 14	Oregon admitted to Union (1859)
February 14	Arizona admitted to Union (1912)
February 21	President's Day
February 22	George Washington's Birthday (1732)

Calendar (cont'd)

February 24	Desert Storm (Ground Offensive) began (1991)
February 27	Desert Storm Cease Fire (1991)
March 1	Ohio admitted to Union (1803)
March 1	Nebraska admitted to Union (1867)
March 2	Ash Wednesday
March 2	Read Across America Day
March 3	Florida admitted to Union (1845)
March 3	Star-Spangled Banner made U.S. National Anthem (1931)
March 4	Vermont admitted to Union (1791)
March 12	Girl Scouts Founded (1912)
March 13	Daylight Savings Time begins
March 15	Maine admitted to Union (1820)
March 15	Coalition Forces withdraw from Iraq (in the South, 1991)
March 17	St. Patrick's Day
March 19	Iraq War began (2003)
March 20	Vernal (Spring) Equinox
March 29	National Vietnam Veterans Day
March 31	Somalia Campaign ended (1995)
April 1	April Fool's Day
April 1	Financial Literacy Month

In future issues of *The Advocate*, we want to list holidays as well as dates of memorable events, important battles, passage of legislation, famous court decisions, and perhaps even birthdays of U.S. Presidents. If you have ideas for this, let us know.

Call for Input

(From last quarter's newsletter)

As mentioned earlier, we want to publish *The Advocate* each quarter. I (Bob Goodrich, CPPA chairman) believe that it will most likely be read and shared if it is informative and interesting. So, I challenge you to think about a couple things.

First of all, what do people want to read? In this issue, we have a guest column, a section titled "The Ridiculous," and the Calendar. We want to continue these pieces in each issue. However, we also want to add some other features: A book review? Information on pending legislation? Possible resolutions? Ideas for growing the party? Spotlight on a particular county and its activities? As you can see, there are many topics which we could address. But, . . . we want to have a periodical that people will read and then share with others. So, the first part in the "Call for Input" is for ideas that we can provide information on in each issue. Your input will help us with this.

Secondly, we need individuals who will write these pieces. If left to one or two people, this periodical will fall apart after a few years. We need dedicated people who are willing to commit to a particular piece or column for each issue. Are you willing to help? ARG

Spotlight on CPPA Members

Your CPPA members have a wide array of skills and interest. Did you know that we have a CPPA member who is a **public school teacher**? We do. Actually, we probably have several.

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In last quarter's issues of *The Advocate*, I mentioned that we have a CPPA member "who is a **published author and (in my mind) a theologian.**" Bob Wheeler (Tioga County) is a thinker, writer, and theologian. For information on his books, please contact the CPPA office.

I note that other CPPA members are willing to speak at your monthly CP meeting or at other events where a speaker is needed. We have members who are extremely **knowledgeable on our U.S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights, running for political office, U.S. history**, and so on. Our members have spoken at dinners for the VFW, at high school graduations, at Tea Party events, at county CP meetings, and the list goes on.

The point is this: we have a number of individuals with a wide array of knowledge, talents, and interests that we want to promote here in *The Advocate*. I think that we will be looking for and share an interesting individual in our next issue. Who will it be? ARG

CPPA Public Servants (Elected Officials)

We have several members of the party that hold elected office. They are:

- Judge of Elections, Manor Twp Lancaster County: Jim Clymer.
- Township Supervisor, Osceola Twp, Tioga Cty: Bob Goodrich.

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CPPA Public Servants (Elected Officials) (cont'd)

- Constable, Osceola Twp, Tioga Cty: Bert Goodrich.
- Constable, Bellefonte Boro, Centre Cty: Peter Serefine.
- School Board member, Clarion-Limestone SD: Marty Selker. ARG

Breaking News!!!

We have a new office for the CPPA! We have a 3-room suite in Elkland, PA (Tioga County) that we will be for the CPPA offices. There are three rooms plus a bathroom and a closet in the office. We plan to use one room as a conference room, another as an office, and there are no real plans for the final room.

This area will provide several benefits for the party. First, it will provide an address for the CPPA. The address is:

CPPA
117 Coates Avenue
Suite 112
Elkland, PA 16920

Additionally, we will have office space (a desk to work at and a place to keep CPPA records) as well as a conference room. We can either hold meetings or work in this area – work such as putting this newsletter together.

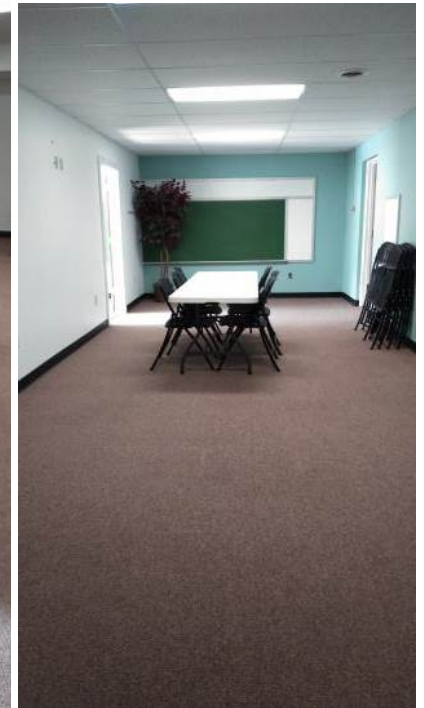
We understand that Tioga County is not centrally located and is not a thriving metropolis. However, we note that this suite is being provided free-of-charge to the party. It was an offer that we cannot turn down.

There are some things that we want to do here, and we are

open to your suggestions. To begin, we need the following furnishings for the office:

- Desk
- Chair
- Filing cabinet
- Conference room table
- Conference room chairs

We want to keep the office (and the suite) professional looking. Eventually, we may be able to have a phone with an answering machine. Below are pictures of the conference room.





Above are pictures of the two rooms off the conference room. The bathroom door can be seen in the picture on the right, and there is a sink right outside the bathroom door.

Again, I (Bob Goodrich) believe that this suite and this setup affords us an opportunity that we have never had before. Your thoughts? How can we get the furnishings that we need for the office?

I want to emphasize a couple points of possible concern. First, it is an office and meeting room, not a storage area. Second, we want to be careful that we obtain professional-looking furnishings. Thank you for your understanding.

ARG

Needed: Ideas for Resolutions

There are many issues facing us: immigration, national debt, decrease in liberties and freedoms, etc. We hear of legislation and we usually respond in approval or disapproval. One of the tools that we at our disposal is the Resolution. We can address an issue and state our thoughts on the it and any legislation through a resolution. This tool allows the public to know where we stand on an issue. Too many times, we are silent (perhaps because we do not know what is going on or because be do not know the facts). If we want to grow the party, we need to be “on top” of what’s happening, and we need to be able to address the pros and cons of particular events and legislation. We may share more information on this tool down the road. In the meantime, we want to act on several possible resolutions in the near future.

What Could Go Here?

Perhaps you have an idea for a column or an idea for something that we can present? We ask for your input.

We also ask for your input as to how we make this publication better, more informative. There may come a day when we can include pictures of some of our events, but we’re not quite ready for that step yet. Still, your suggestions will help.



Join us for the **spring meeting** (and
biennial convention) of the

**Constitution Party of
Pennsylvania**

at **10:00 a.m.** on

Saturday, March 19, 2022

at the **Lenoxville Community Hall**

5005 PA Rte 374, Lenoxville, PA 18441

(approx. 20 miles north of Scranton, PA;
exit 206 off I-81)

Special speakers will share information;

Relevant issues to be presented

CPPA Business Meeting to convene at **9:00 a.m.**

Continental breakfast and lunch are provided.

More **information** available or **register** at CPPA website

www.constitutionpartypa.com, or **contact** CPPA

regional/county chairmen, or **call** CPPA Chairman, Bob

Goodrich, @ (814) 258-5218 (leave message).

Cost: \$40.00 Early Bird Registration (includes breakfast and
lunch) **if registered on or before Monday, March 14.**

Cost: \$45.00 on or after Tuesday, March 15.