

# PLAGAL

## Memorandum

Post Office Box 33292  
Washington, DC 20033  
Tel: 202-223-6697  
Fax: 202-265-9737  
Internet: [plagal@plagal.org](mailto:plagal@plagal.org)  
<http://www.plagal.org>

A Newsletter for Members and Friends of the  
Pro-Life Alliance of Gays and Lesbians

### Annual Meeting Results

The annual meeting was held on January 21, 2003 at the Shady Grove Comfort Inn with the board of directors meeting immediately afterward. Not only was it a time for meeting fellow PLAGAL members, it was a working meeting to discuss the future of PLAGAL. The board of directors would like to thank all of our members and friends who took the time to fill out the input sheets. It helped tremendously in setting the direction of PLAGAL for the next 5 years.

The following items were presented and discussed at the meeting:

- PLAGAL's achievements of the past year
- Input sheets
- Financial report by Dave Styers
- PLAGAL-PAC by Tim Cravens
- New banner created by our own Betsy Ross – Ken Teise
- Issue of PLAGAL taking up the issue of *in vitro* fertilization and other issues dealing with the destruction of human embryos
- Recognition of members and board members for their dedication to PLAGAL
- Election of board members

**New Banner:** PLAGAL has a fabulous two sided banner that was made by our very own Ken Teise. He spent countless hours designing and making this beautiful banner. It is two sided so that people in front of us and in back of us can see who we are. It also has our name and website address on it. Plus our slogan "Human Rights start When Human Life Begins" There was some worries that it would get ruined if there were arrests this year at the march. Thankfully there were none. You can see our beautiful banner in full color at our website [www.plagal.org](http://www.plagal.org). Ken is taking orders for odd sewing jobs. Just kidding Ken. ☺



**Recognition of members:** During the annual meeting members of PLAGAL were recognized for their dedication and hard work that they have done on behalf of PLAGAL. We want these members to know that we appreciate them and the volunteer hours that they have given to PLAGAL. The following individuals were recognized and given a small token of appreciation. Those

members who were not in attendance received theirs in the mail. Henry S, Mike Ferens, Ken Teise, Steve Everett, Rick Hoffman, Tim Cravens, Maria Krasinski, Joe Kovalioff, Erik Jurik, Chris Hinkle, Moses Remedios, Dave Styers, Bill Crow, and Steve Cook

**Recognition of board members who served for 2002:** Many people are not aware that those who serve on the Board of Directors for PLAGAL are volunteers. Board members who served for the year of 2002 were recognized with a certificate of appreciation and a token gift thanking them for all their work. Those individuals are Chris Hinkle, Dave Styers, John Mina, Moses Remedios, Bill Crow, Erik Jurek, Donna Kearney, Betty Anne Keener, Joe Kovalioff, Steve Cook, Jim McFarland, Philip Arcidi, and Patrick Rothwell. Those individuals who were not in attendance received theirs in the mail.

**PLAGAL Board of Directors for 2003:** The following individuals were elected to serve on the Board of Directors: Moses Remedios, John Mina, Dave Styers, Bill Crow, Erik Jurik, Donna Kearney, Steve Cook, Chris Hinkle, Joe Kovalioff, Cecilia Brown, Tim Cravens, Ken Teise, Rick Hoffman, and Maria Krasinski.

### Annual Board Meeting Results

The annual board of directors meeting was held on January 21, 2003 at the Shady Grove Comfort Inn. The following items were presented and discussed. Since there was not a majority of board members at the meeting, a final vote was taken by way of the PLAGAL board listserv.

- Election of Officers
- Election of Committee Chairs
- Contacts and their role in PLAGAL
- Input Sheet
- GuideStar
- *In vitro* fertilization position

<p><b>Election of Officers:</b> The following officers were elected.  President- Cecilia Brown  Executive Vice President- Tim Cravens  Secretary- Ken Teise  Web Master- Chris Hinkle  Assistant Web Master- Maria Krasinski  Treasurer- Dave Styers  Assistant Treasurer- Bill Crow</p>	<p><b>Election of Committee Chairs:</b> The following committee chairs were elected.  Pride- Maria Krasinski  Newsletter- Joe Kovalioff  Speakers Bureau- Rick Hoffman  Media Relations- Moses Remedios  Invitro fertilization- Ken Teise</p>
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**Contacts:** PLAGAL board has decided to revamp contacts and their roll in PLAGAL.

***In vitro* fertilization/ cloning/ stem cells:** Some PLAGAL members have asked that PLAGAL take a stance on these issues as it concerns the destruction of human life. The board of directors has decided to form a committee to take a look at the issue and where our membership stands concerning these issues. If you wish to be on the committee for this issue please contact [plagal@plagal.org](mailto:plagal@plagal.org)

**Input Sheets:** The following is taken from the input sheets that were sent out to our membership, board of directors and contacts. The board read through all sheets and made final decisions regarding goals and other issues for PLAGAL.

1. Number one goal
  - Educate LGBT community and help women who are in need.
2. Service or education?
  - Both
  - Education will be done by PLAGAL national while local chapters will focus on service.
  - Dave Styers came up with slogan “Educating the community, serving the individual”
3. Short term goal
  - Get a mission statement together
4. Long term goal
  - Build membership, strengthen local chapters
5. What to do if arrested?
  - If arrested move on, keep coming back to the march, but don’t focus on Nellie Gray. While we did not get arrested this year it does not mean that the potential does not still exist. We will just keep this as the standard each year.
6. How can we improve?
  - PLAGAL needs to be savvier when dealing with the media.
  - PLAGAL needs to work on getting information out in a timelier manner.
7. Our goal for the next 5 years.
  - More service to crisis pregnancy centers by chapters. This will be accomplished by having more active chapters.
  - Media seeks us out for information and comments. This will be accomplished as we get more savvy dealing with the media.
  - Well known and respected. This is accomplished as we do more service and become media savvy.

**My Thoughts on the March for Life** by Maria Krasinski

This year's March was my third as a PLAGALite. I unfortunately missed the excitement of the “Year of the Arrest” \*lol\*. As a March veteran of many previous years, I can honestly say that the group you march with makes all the difference. You see, I grew up attending the March. I honestly don't remember any homophobia in its earliest years. But I did see it crawl in when the "Religious Right" jumped on the bandwagon. (No, they haven't always been pro-life.) While I appreciate the fire, numbers, and money they brought, as someone just starting to accept themselves, I could have done without the baggage. The joyous bus ride became a chore, but I still came...because the babies still needed me. I was ecstatic meeting PLAGALites the first year. My joy bordered on bliss this year because, for the first time, I was not the only NY'er..... Thank you Jesus and God bless Tim! This is also the first (and hopefully, last) year I had to march from a wheelchair. I can't tell you how grateful I was that it was not raining or snowing. Though it was bitter cold (Jan., Cold? Go figure) there wasn't a cloud in the sky. After meeting up with each other, it was time to join the March. We met up with Feminists for Life (through whom I found PLAGAL years ago) and were they glad to see us! What was even more delightful (because you expect your friends to be glad to see you) were the perfect strangers who saw our beautiful new banner (thank you, Ken "Betsy Ross" Teise!), knew exactly who and what we are, and said loud enough for others to hear, "I'm so glad you're here!"

### **My Thoughts on the March for Life by Tim Cravens**

This year's March for Life was my third. The first year was exhilarating, having just begun to emerge from the pro-life closet. The second year was disappointing and frustrating, with the arrest of Cecilia and Erik as I was furiously snapping pictures. (At least I can now cross "photographer" off my list of possible careers, having proven in a big way my utter lack of aptitude for that profession!) This year was perhaps the most satisfying. In the first place, the annual meeting felt like a real renewal of commitment to the pro-life cause. PLAGAL suffered two devastating losses in the past two years with the deaths of Tom Sena and Joe Beard, but it is clear from the annual meeting that we are ready to forge ahead and build on their legacy by achieving new heights, which I am sure is how they would wish to be remembered and honored. Cecilia Brown is exactly the right person to lead us in building on this legacy. Secondly, we have a FABULOUS new banner, made by Ken Teise -- it even has two fabulous sides!

But the most satisfying aspect of the March itself is that there were practically no negative comments. One man carrying a Knights of Columbus placard came up to me and thanked us for being here, acknowledging it must be difficult with some of the conservative attendees. Another woman gave us a thumbs up, shouting "I'm with you 100%!" I hope this is a sign of a new maturity in the pro-life movement, a realization that all of us are needed in the fight to end the wholesale murder of unborn children through the evil practice of abortion. Perhaps I am naïve, but I felt a difference in the atmosphere.

I was also very happy to be able to lobby several members of Congress. Our fearless leader Cecilia Brown, Joe Kovalioff, Maria Krasinski, and I visited the offices of three members of Congress who are both pro-life and pro-gay: Reps. Kucinich (D-OH) and Oberstar (D-MN) and Sen. Breaux (D-LA). Maria and I also dragged the group into our own Congressional offices -- both of whom leave much to be desired on the pro-life front. I love lobbying, and I carry away from the lobbying a commitment to write all of my elected officials and let them know of my pro-life views. I will be going to a Lobby Day in New York sponsored by Feminists for Life (and will be handing out PLAGAL literature to the legislators as well).

Of course, a big part of the experience was the drive down and back with Joe Kovalioff and Maria Krasinski, fellow New York City chapter partners in crime. We had a great time, and my only regret was the other faithful New York PLAGALites who could not join us.

But the best surprise of all awaited me when I arrived home. I found, to my surprise, that some of my friends in Log Cabin Republicans had carried on an e-mail discussion about abortion in my absence. As a result, I discovered that three friends over the last year have moved over to the pro-life camp. The very existence of a PLAGAL chapter in New York City has caused much discussion in Log Cabin Republican circles about the issue -- often when no PLAGALite is present. I know that great things are ahead for PLAGAL -- we are going to make a mighty contribution to the pro-life cause. I urge everyone reading this to come to the meeting and March next year, and if you don't have an active chapter in your area, start one -- you'll accomplish more than you know.

### **My Thoughts on the March for Life by Ken Teise**

I packed up my truck in a hurry on that January morning, double checking my list of "bringalongs". Tooth brush? Check. Map? Check. PLAGAL-meeting information? Check. And, most importantly, the PLAGAL banner? CHECK! As I began driving north east on I-4, I found myself wondering why I was in such a hurry. The "March" wasn't for another four days, and I've driven the route from Tampa (my home base) to D.C. plenty of times before. I knew I could make the journey in two days (let alone four). But this trip was different. I was excited, eager, and more than-a-little anxious. The "march" I was planning on attending was the March-For-Life in D.C. This would be my first time attending. This would also be my first time meeting many of the PLAGAL members face-to-face. I started to ask myself questions. Would this former Yankee, whose blood has thinned from years of living in Florida, hold up to those winter winds? What of the banner that I -- oh me of minimal sewing skill volunteered to put together? Would it hold up to the winter winds? Of more concern, could the banner, if necessary, hold up to being dragged through the dirt by the park police. That is what happened the year before. Would the March organizers again allow such abuse? What about me; would I hold up to such dragging? All I knew was that I was determined to never abandon the banner or the pro-gay and pro-life stance it reflected. At least, from the current safety of my truck, one-thousand-miles and four-days away, I hoped I was so determined. "Enough of this crazy thinking!" I said to myself. So, I turned on the radio and set the cruise control at 75 (um - I mean 55).

As expected, I arrived at the designated hotel early - way early. I spent the time unwinding and meeting the other PLAGAL early birds. My hearing fluctuates, and they caught me during a "near-deaf experience. Not only were they gracious, but they gave me a beautiful card, buttons, pizza, and cinnamon buns! The annual meeting was super -- but I'll save those details for some future article (that is, if I'm ever asked to write another after this "piece of work"). The only thing I will say is that if anyone has the chance to attend next year, I strongly encourage you to do so.

Suddenly, it was the morning of the march. Cecilia, our energetic president, had everything so well organized! Even those of us who are NOT morning people were able to start the day with breakfast. I was thankful for that as soon as we walked out the door and into a wind-chill that would put goose bumps on the bravest snowman. We jumped into a very-cramped hotel shuttle and headed for the subway station. As a first-timer, I was amazed at how many pro-life supporters I saw that day. They filled the subway station. They overflowed the streets. "Wow! Look at all those people!" I said out loud as I danced around the Benjamin Franklin statue trying to get warm. Group-after-

group of pro-lifers made their way to the marching grounds. Numerous religious and Right-to-Life organizations from various states were walking alongside us as we made our own way toward the staging area. As we got into position and waited for the march to begin, we "unfurled" our banner. It being my first March experience, I was both nervous and excited. I had heard what happened last year (i.e., PLAGAL had been singled out and asked to take down their banner, and how several members were arrested when they refused). We were shoulder-to-shoulder with so many diverse groups that I didn't know what to expect. Then, as if on queue, the sun came out -- literally and figuratively! Person-after-person walked by and read our banner "Pro-Life Alliance of Gays and Lesbians" and "Human Rights Start When Human Life Begins". It seemed to me that we were greeted with smiles from almost everyone. Some women from Feminists for Life were near by, as was the Missouri Right-to-Life group, and an organization from a religious school for youth.

A member of the local gay press spoke quite a while with Cecilia and also with Eric about how they braved the troubles of last year's marching attempt and their hopes for the day. Because it was my first experience with a reporter at such a visible pro-life gathering, I expected the worst. To my surprise and delight, however, the reporter was great. He seemed genuinely interested and stayed with our PLAGAL group quite some time. We were asked some very good, thought-provoking questions. Being the "new kid at the march", and with my tendency to ramble, I was very impressed at the clear-headed and sincere responses Cecilia and Eric gave to the media. Even the photographer - who had the camera I coveted -- was friendly and all smiles, and he took several pictures of our banner. The march started, but a little later than scheduled. I was personally glad because that gave lots of the people mulling around a chance to come up and chat with PLAGAL. Then pretty much before I realized what was happening, we were out marching amidst all the other pro-life groups. I kept expecting the shoe (from some park policeman) to drop. But it didn't! I guess we made it past the danger point before I even realized it. No arrests, no problems, AND the sunshine to boot! To me, it was a wonderful, first-time experience. We were near a large, Right-to-Life group, and there was a religious organization behind us praying at the start. I only noticed one very small "incident" that happened while we were marching. It involved a teenager from a school group making a disrespectful comment. I the situation may have been motivated more by adolescent angst than vehement gay hatred. Regardless, it lasted all of 4 seconds and it was back to peaceful marching. It being my first time at the march, it was wonderful when several people came up to me throughout our marching experience. People were saying things like, "It's great to see you here!" A straight couple approached me and earnestly said, "We are so glad you are here!" I replied "I was glad we were able to be here too!"

A few times during the march the wind was blowing. It made me realize that I definitely have some things to learn about banner making -- including the art of sewing wind holes. A couple times, I thought Maria (who had the other end of the banner attached to her wheel chair) was going to "lift off" the ground, chair-and-all. She braved not only the weather, but was a true soldier dealing with the challenges of getting around downtown D.C. in a wheelchair and crutches. Cecilia had the foresight to make some additional signs before the march. She wrote some great slogans (such as believing in an "all inclusive" pro-life gathering, etc.). Joe was great -- smiling away his big smile while carrying a sign for all to see! Tim was everywhere helping in a dozen ways and keeping us encouraged with his sense of humor. Eric had to work later that day, but he came anyway, and marched with us right up to the minute he had to leave for work. Near the end of the march, another reporter started chatting with Andy, another PLAGAL member who helped tremendously with keeping our group together during the unavoidable push-and-shove from the crowds at the start of the march. As the march ended, a whole other aspect of march-day work began for several of our brave PLAGAL members. We hung out a bit more at the park near the Capitol. Tim returned my "emergency bail money" that he had been holding "just in case". Many of the members then went on to do "more good work". They headed for the Capital offices to meet with Congressmen and leave letters they had written regarding important pro-life issues and encouragement for support shown us in the past. Some PLAGAL members had important speaking engagements later that day as well.

Since I had the banner and its eight-foot-poles, I couldn't attempt getting into the office buildings. To be honest, I probably could have -- but my feet (new to such marches) were tired and I was glad that my evening would be spent in a cozy hotel room instead of a jail cell. So, I headed back to the Metro (subway) Station. At the station, a woman from another pro-life organization recognized our PLAGAL banner (now folded). She spoke with me and was very supportive. Even the trip back alone from the march was great. I was greeted everywhere with smiles from other pro-lifers. And ... before I got off at my hotel stop, I chatted with a man from a local D.C. pro-life group of adults and teenagers. He was shocked to learn that PLAGAL had been prevented from marching last year, but was happy we had attended this year. I told him it was my first time and how surprised I was at the peacefulness of the crowds marching and on the sidelines. He too thought this year had gone smoothly compared to past years. As I got off at my subway stop, I felt encouraged by the fact that there are many pro-lifers on our side. My first-time experience gave me hope that next year's march will be even better. More importantly, it gave me hope that members from both the pro-life AND pro-gay communities would show increased support for PLAGAL throughout all of 2003 and beyond.

Even though Cecilia, Eric h, and the other members of PLAGAL had to suffer at last year's march, their suffering made it possible for PLAGAL to march this year. And, march we did! Right down the middle and alongside all the other pro-life marchers. I am thankful for the PLAGAL members who were involved in the march of last year (2002). Without the suffering and sacrifice that they endured, we would not have had the success we experienced this year (2003). It is the one who gets knocked down in the street who makes a way for the rest of us.

My experience attending the March helped me realize two things for sure. First: PLAGAL is already known by many more folks than we may imagine -- so let's keep up the good work! Second: The folks who came to the meeting and the march really have been doing GREAT work this past year. To all you members out there that want to get more involved, please do it! We sure can use your help. And it is exciting and rewarding to experience some of the events PLAGAL takes part in. It doesn't matter if the event or task seems big or small. It doesn't matter if you are able to participate for an hour or a day, as long as you can participate. Everyone, who attended the meeting or even a portion of the march-day events, helped a great deal just by being there and being seen! It really doesn't take much at all to have a real

impact. Whether you're an old-timer, or a "newbie" like me, if you can PLAGAL at any events this year HURRAH! In closing, I thank Andy, Cecilia, Chris, David, Eric, Joe, Maria, Tiger-Tim and all the other PLAGAL members who helped make our presence at the March-For-Life in 2003 such as success. From someone who had his first-time marching experience, I appreciated your support, encouragement, and camaraderie. I'll see you ALL next year. And I hope to see some of the folks reading this article too, if you had the stamina to make it through all this, you definitely will do great at the march!

### **Creative Way to Assist Women in Need**

by Frank Stancato, President, Life for Children

Over the years we have all heard the pleas for help, both financial and for more volunteers, from our local Crisis Pregnancy Centers. These centers are run by volunteers who provide help to women and their unborn children in their time of need and are always struggling to financially make it through the year. The constant fundraisers and letters not only emphasize the need, but also remind us of how much time these organizations spend on raising the funds necessary to keep these vital centers open and functioning.

Now there is another way to offer financial help to these centers, one that costs you nothing while allowing the CPC volunteers to spend their time fulfilling their mission.

Life for Children was established to provide financial aid to Crisis Pregnancy Centers. The simple act of performing an Internet search from our website raises cash for the CPCs across America and Canada. As of last month we have been providing financial aid to 12 centers in seven states and a Canadian province. With the popularity of the Internet I saw an opportunity to raise funds for my local Crisis Pregnancy Center that would be free to the user and the Centers. I soon discovered a website Aid for Teens, which uses a search feature to raise monies for the shelters they support. Now, when our users perform searches from our website, the search engine providers make a donation to Life for Children. This benefits our efforts by obviating the urgency to find sponsors, and also encouraging web surfers to use our excellent search engine. You can access our search engine by going to [www.plagal.org](http://www.plagal.org) and go to the Life for Children link.

You perform searches on the Life for Children website as you do any other search engine. The simple act of searching for recipes, researching term papers and planning vacations provides us — and through us our client organizations — with the precious funds needed to help women in crisis pregnancies.

Life for Children is a grassroots organization that relies heavily on word-of-mouth promotion. Thus far, student organizations have been the driving force that has enabled us to expand the number of CPCs we support. (The centers added since we began are located in Lubbock, TX (U. of N. Texas Eagles for Life), Oakland, CA (Berkley Students for Life), and Dayton, OH (U. Dayton Students for Life).

So please use our search engine and help us increase the funds available to assist women and children in their time of need!

**You can access the Life for Children link from PLAGAL's website [www.plagal.org](http://www.plagal.org)**

### **Did PLAGAL Get Ink?**

When anything appears in the lesbian and gay media discussing the Pro-Life movement, or in any media discussing PLAGAL, Please, PLEASE send it to us. We do not have -- and cannot afford -- a clipping service or subscriptions to the multitude of lesbian and gay media. We are always discovering -- sometimes months after the event -- that we were mentioned somewhere. As has become our custom, we would also like to remind our readers that PLAGAL needs the names (and addresses, voice and fax numbers, and now e-mail addresses) of local gay and lesbian media.

Meanwhile --

PLAGAL was mentioned in an article circulated by Cybercast News Service dated January 22, 2003. The article named "**Homosexuals, Democrats and Feminists Rally Against Abortion -- 01/22/2003**" can be viewed at the following location:  
<http://www.cnsnews.com/Culture/Archive/200301/CUL20030122f.html>.

PLAGAL was also mentioned in the Pittsburgh Pennsylvania Post Gazette in an article called "**Buses set to roll to 30<sup>th</sup> anti-abortion march.**" It can be viewed at [www.post-gazette.com/localnews/20030120march0120p2.asp](http://www.post-gazette.com/localnews/20030120march0120p2.asp).

The Metro Weekly, a gay publication from Washington DC featured an article about PLAGAL. It was named "**The Fetal Position : PLAGAL Marches for Life or with Uneasy Allies**" it can be viewed at <http://www.metroweekly.com/gauge/?ak=317>.

The PLAGAL website has been selected as the Pro-Life site of the month at BellaOnline.com for the month of February. The article can be viewed at <http://www.bellaonline.com/articles/art8068.asp>.

## Silent No More Campaign

This past January 22, 2003 President Cecilia Brown participated in the Silent No More campaign in Washington DC with approximately 50 other women who have had abortions. Participants held signs that said "I regret my abortion" and shared personal testimony of their abortion experience. This mobilization of women will be the beginning of a national campaign to raise awareness about the after-effects of abortion. The campaign will also seek to reach the many women who are suffering in silence, offering them abortion recovery help and resources. The Silent No More campaign will tell the truth about abortion's emotional, spiritual and physical consequences.

"We are the voice that hasn't been heard," says Georgette Forney, Executive Director of NOEL, and one of the co-founders of Silent No More who had an abortion at age 16. "There is a lot of talk about whether or not abortion should be legal, but very little attention is given to the women who have actually had abortions. I regret having an abortion and I know that there are millions of women who feel the same way."

"The truth is abortion affects us physically, emotional and spiritually. It's time to speak honestly about the pain we've lived with and we want to help women who are hurting find healing. After 30 years it's time to listen to the women who have experienced it."

If you've had an abortion and want to talk with someone who understands how you are feeling either go to [www.pregnancycenters.com](http://www.pregnancycenters.com) or call **800-395-HELP** for help.

## From the President's Desk

I am so excited about this next year, 2003 holds great promise for PLAGAL. We have a newly elected board and they are fired up and ready to go. So many new faces are a very good sign of things to come. It was good to go through the input sheets sent by our membership. With the issues surrounding Nellie Gray and the March for Life we had become sort of stagnant. We needed membership input to put us back on track. Two themes that were constant throughout the input sheets were education to the GLBT community but more importantly the need to reach out to women in crisis. This was very encouraging to me. As a woman who is post abortive and who has had a child, in not the best of circumstances, it good to see that PLAGAL is going to reach out in service. Without service we are just a bunch of mouth pieces. Service shows to the pro-life community and the GLBT community that we are serious about our pro-life convictions and that we really do care for women and their **real** needs.

I was surprised and elated at the same time about PLAGAL being able to participate in the March for Life without incident. Our members who were at the march were greeted with words of encouragement and solidarity. Even those who did not agree with our being gay expressed how glad they were that we were there. We blended right in with all the other pro-lifers and it felt good to be able to protest Roe-v-Wade along side others who shared our convictions on the issue of abortion. It is my hope that this years participation was not a fluke and PLAGAL will continue to be able to participate in the March for Life without incident in the future.

Later that evening I participated in a program called **Silent No More**. I was one of about 50 women who shared her abortion experience. The purpose of our speaking out was to let others know the hurt that comes with abortion. There was so much power at this event because these were women whose voices have never been heard. For many of these women, it was their first time to speak in such a public forum about their abortion experiences. These were women who had chosen abortion because they felt they had no real choices. These women talked about the reasons they aborted, the feelings that came with have an abortion, and the side effects of abortion that no one ever tells you. NOW also was having a candlelight vigil at the same time in the same location. At first they just were standing there holding their signs, not saying a word, they appeared to be listening. There must have been something very powerful about what the women from the Silent No More campaign was saying. I got the feeling that the NOW camp felt threatened because they pulled their people away from us. It was as if they did not want their members to hear the truth about how abortion affected these women. After all, these women were speaking out about something that NOW for 30 years labeled as a "right" and "legal."

I encourage our membership to become more active. Think about starting a PLAGAL chapter in your area. Volunteer with crisis pregnancy centers. Help a neighbor who may be struggling as a single parent by baby sitting or purchasing diapers or formula. Write your representatives and voice your opinion. Every little bit helps.

## Meet the PLAGAL Board of Directors

PLAGAL prides itself on its diversity of our membership. It is one of the few pro-life organizations that accept all those who are pro-life. PLAGAL members come from different social and economic backgrounds, different political parties, some have religious affiliations while others do not, we have members who are drag queens, parents, bisexual, single, those in long term relationships, and we even have heterosexual individuals in our group. Our Board of Directors mirrors our membership and we felt that it would be good for you to learn a little about our board. This newsletter will feature half of the board and the next news letter will feature the other half.

**Maria Teresa Krasinski** (Pride Committee Chair/Assistant Webmaster) -- I'm a native New Yorker; specifically, an Islander. I'm a Jacklyn of all trades but have made most of my living as a Nurses Aide and Horse Groom. I have an associate in liberal arts and am currently recovering from an SUV accident which has put my education on hold. I have collected donations for my local Birthright chapter and

picketed the local abortion clinic which has since shut down. I have attended the march for life every other year or so since 1975. I have resisted efforts to be drafted for any and every church choir because I am already too proud for my own good. Though raised and educated Roman Catholic, I consider myself a Pentecostal Quaker.

**Steven Wesley Cook** (*In Vitro* Fertilization Committee) -- I'm a native of California, a substitute school teacher of elementary grades, a Licensed Lay-Preacher in the Episcopal Diocese of El Camino Real (as I hold a M.Div. from Fuller Theological Seminary), a San Jose contact person for PLAGAL, and a PLAGAL board member. Outside of PLAGAL, I also am a member of the San Jose Pro Life Council (affiliated with California Pro Life Council and National Right to Life) and served as interim president of the San Jose Pro Life Council in the past. I have been interviewed on three different local radio stations about pro-life concerns in the past, and I have picketed at abortion clinics. I also served on the Medical Ethics Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of El Camino Real when examining abortion from an ethical viewpoint.

**Cecilia Agnes Brown** (President) -- I live in Cleveland Ohio. I am one of 8 children, half of whom are gay. I am a mother of one beautiful 17 year old daughter Margaret. I married my partner Rena in 1993 even though Ohio does not recognize our marriage. We have been together since 1992 (except for a short time apart which we will not discuss ☺) I am a freelance photographer and I currently work as a server because it gives me the flexibility to do my freelance photography and the obligations that come with PLAGAL presidency. I have been on the board of directors of PLAGAL since about 1996. I was elected as the first female president of PLAGAL in 2000. I carry a consistent pro-life ethic that carries over to death penalty, poverty, war, animal rights and environmental issues. I am a lacto-ovo vegetarian. I am also green party member. I have picketed abortion clinics and abortionists' homes, collected clothing and other items needed for crisis pregnancy centers, written my gov't representatives and others of whom I have disagreed with. I try to follow in the footsteps of individuals such as Gandhi, Martin Luther King and Mother Theresa. Sometimes I am successful other times I am not.

**Richard B. Hoffman** (Speakers Bureau Committee Chair) -- I am from Atlanta, GA, or the ATL as I like to call it; currently I am residing in Oberlin, OH, where I go to school at Oberlin College. I am working on a BA in Comparative American Studies, a newly developing major which is an interdisciplinary and comparative study of race, ethnicity, class, gender, and sexuality in American culture and society, with a German Minor and an International Studies Concentration. I was raised and educated Catholic and am still practicing to this day. With regards to the pro-life movement, I have unfortunately only attended 3 Marches for Life, all in high school in Atlanta. I was active in my high school pro-life club, Innkeepers; I served unofficially as their President my senior year. At college this past semester, I virtually single-handedly organized bringing Sally Winn, VP of Feminists for Life, to Oberlin College, a hotbed for pro-choice sympathizers. Lastly, since February 2001, I have worked as an international hotline operator for Birthright, Inc. which in 1968 when it opened its center in Toronto, ON became the first pregnancy service center in the world. I am very much also involved in the struggle for LGBT rights and hold a firm commitment for international human rights for all.

**Tim Cravens** (Executive Vice President) -- Originally from Poplar Bluff, MO (same as Charlene on *Designing Women*) now lives in Peekskill, NY (site of *The Facts of Life*). He joined PLAGAL because he felt he could no longer remain silent about the murder of over a million unborn children each year, as well as getting sick and tired of the knee-jerk support for abortion by most LGBT political organizations. In addition to being involved in PLAGAL, its New York City chapter, and PLAGAL-PAC, Tim is also active in his local Episcopal parish, same-sex marriage advocacy through Marriage Equality New York (although still regrettably single), his local Republican Party, and Log Cabin Republicans, as well as serving on the Peekskill Human Relations Commission.

**Christopher J. Hinkle** (Webmaster) is serving his third consecutive year as a PLAGAL board member. Raised Catholic, he has understood from the start that abortion is murder but later came to see that the issue is not a religious one. Impressed that the people of PLAGAL had the courage to stand up as gays and lesbians and say they were pro-life, Chris became involved in PLAGAL in the early 1990s while attending Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, OH. He has since moved to the Washington DC area and now lives in Alexandria, VA, with his partner Gordon. Chris is an active member of Dignity/Washington and the Master Chorale of Washington and enjoys SCUBA diving with his partner.

**Ken Teise** (*In Vitro* Fertilization Committee Chair) was raised in Michigan, moved to Northern CA in 1986 and then to Tampa, FL in 1994. Ken has been pro-life and pro-gay his whole life. He first met members of PLAGAL while living in San Francisco while working to change that city's practice of funding pro-abortion organizations through donations given to AIDS organizations. Since moving to Florida, Ken has become involved as a PLAGAL member. This January, he was able to attend the March-for-Life in DC for the first time. Ken's pro-life interests also include increasing awareness and support regarding the benefits of adoption (for both gays and straights) as an alternative to abortion or invitro-fertilization. As a project and business consultant for numerous companies, it is a good thing Ken loves to travel. When not on the road, his spare time is camping, painting, attending hockey games and rodeos, and driving friends crazy. Ken is single and ornery (applications and inquires are welcome, but PLAGAL neither endorses any potential new boyfriends, nor shares in any views expressed after the first, second, or unlikely third date).

**Joe Kovalioff** hails from Carteret, NJ and is 37 years old. He became involved in the pro-life movement in high school, picketing a local abortion clinic and attending the March for Life in Washington, D.C. In college he served as treasurer of the Kean College chapter of College Republicans and established a right-to-life group on campus. Joe discovered PLAGAL in August 1999 shortly after coming out as gay and has been active in the New York City chapter. He also volunteers at The Pride Center, New Jersey's only gay community center, located in North Brunswick.

## PLAGAL Membership Form

MEMBERSHIP FORM  
2003 DUES ARE NOW WELCOME

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Status: \_\_\_\_\_ member \_\_\_\_\_ mailing list only

### Dues and Contributions

Annual dues: \$20.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Contribution: \_\_\_\_\_

PLAGAL is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are tax deductible as allowable by law.

Make checks payable to PLAGAL.

### Participation

\_\_\_\_\_ I am willing to organize a local PLAGAL group.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am not willing to organize a group but would be willing to join and participate in one.

\_\_\_\_\_ I can represent PLAGAL by helping out at Pride and other LGBT events in my area.

\_\_\_\_\_ I can represent PLAGAL by participating in events within the pro-life community.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am willing to become a local contact for PLAGAL.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am an articulate speaker and would love to become part of the PLAGAL's speakers bureau.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am willing to be part of a committee if needed.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am a fabulous writer and would be willing to write op-ed articles and other things for PLAGAL.

Please return form to:

PO Box 33292

Washington, D.C. 20033-0292

or email: [plagal@plagal.org](mailto:plagal@plagal.org).