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Mrs. Cheryl Barton receiving the "Full-time Homemaker's Award" from Eagle Forum Chairman Anne Schlafly Cori.

Highlights From Eagle Council's Golden Anniversary

By **Marilyn Statler**, Texas Eagle Forum Editor

Last month in St. Louis, Eagle Forum Chairman Anne Schlafly Cori and President Kris Ullman, JD, welcomed hundreds of Eagles from around the country to the 50th Anniversary of Eagle Council. Anne Cori noted, "Our 50th Eagle Council illustrates how engaged and energized our activists are to take on today's biggest threats to our Country. The kindred spirit they share is our organization's biggest asset." Kris Ullman, who is also a second-generation Eagle, remarked, "While the present problems facing America are daunting, we know the future is shaped by those who get involved."

LIFE after Roe was addressed by Jill Stanek, RN, Community Outreach Manager for Her Pregnancy and Life Assistance Network (Her PLAN). "There are

22 states with "heartbeat" laws (including 15 states where abortion is illegal), seven states leaning pro-life, and 21 pro-abortion states. Are we ready for new mamas and babies?" Stanek's goal is to connect communities with categories of care through herplan.org. Her PLAN currently operates in five states, including Texas, and is coming soon to five more.

A homeschool mom of six, Wendi Stearman's life changed dramatically in 2020 when a conservative candidate she was supporting backed out at the last minute. Knowing nothing of campaigning and with only hours to decide, she stepped out in faith and was elected to the Oklahoma State Legislature. During her first term in office, Rep. Stearman successfully carried and passed the most effective pro-life bill in

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Oklahoma history: HB 4327, which is similar to Texas' SB 8 Heartbeat Bill. She says the Left now asks how are we going to provide for so many unwanted children; wouldn't it be more humane to kill them? "That's Orwellian and evil." Stearman urges us to resist the siren call for more government programs and continue to stand for life.

Matt Sharp, JD, serves as senior counsel with Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF). Focusing on the legal landscape of federal and state policy, he said, "Our overall goal is to create a culture of life from the Supreme Court to state courts. Planned Parenthood and other reproductive rights organizations undermine the foundation of law. Constitutional judges must be elected to the courts, as well as amending state constitutions to ban abortion."

"Science defines sex as binary—male or female. Biology is NOT bigotry!" exclaims **Michelle Cretella**, a pediatrician and outspoken critic of medically transitioning children. "Drugs and surgery can change appearances, but genetics do not change. Children are being abused physically with mutilating surgeries, and mentally by gender-bending books and drag queen story hours. Kids as young as eight years old are pumped with puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones, and young teens are having mutilating and sterilizing surgeries. Studies show older transitioned kids often regret what they have done and have a higher rate of suicide than non-transitioning kids struggling with their gender identity. Dr. Cretella says, "Gaslighting our children is evil."

A former trans kid, **Erin Brewer** is co-founder of Advocates Protecting Children, which supports efforts to stop the unethical treatment of children by schools, hospitals, and mental and medical healthcare providers under the duplicitous banner of "gender affirmation." "Truth is the new hate speech," Brewer reports. "The agenda indoctrinates and recruits vulnerable children to transgender their sexual identity, and parents have to accept it or they will have a dead child. That is emotional coercion." Brewer tells parents to build on family pictures and memories to protect their children.

Quena Gonzalez, head of Family Research Council's (FRC) government affairs division, said 32 states have introduced bills banning gender mutilation, and FRC offers help to other states wanting to enact similar bans. Gonzalez suggests prior to the introduction of the bill, contact your state legislators often to communicate how vital this bill is for families and young children and enlist others to do the same. "Gender transitioning is an experiment, not a treatment, and there is good evidence now it is harmful," he says. "Government should not fund it, nor insurance companies insure it."

Friday evening's dinner speaker was **Seth Dillon**, CEO of *The Babylon Bee*, a fast-growing news satire site poking fun at real-world events and public figures. "This a joke website, but they (the Left) are coming after comedy because there is truth in it." He gave the example of Twitter suspending *The Bee's* account after mocking *USA Today* naming Dr. Rachel Levine, Biden's Asst. Secretary of Health, and a transgendered man, as "Woman of the Year." *The Bee* countered by proclaiming Rachel (formerly Richard) as "Man of the Year." Dillon says they use satire to

ridicule bad ideas. "Make them laugh and when their mouths are open, pour truth in it."

Utah Senator Mike Lee, author of *Saving Nine*, also spoke Friday evening. His new book tells the story of the U.S. Supreme Court, and the nine judges chosen to resolve disputes and interpret the law. The Left wants to pack the Court with enough liberal judges to turn it into another partisan weapon. Currently Sen. Ted Cruz has a Constitutional amendment to freeze the size of the Court. Sen. Lee said, "In 1937, FDR tried to resize the Supreme Court, but the Constitution got in his way."

Saturday morning began with **Francis Arthur**, the author of *Pearls of Wisdom For Homeschooling Moms* and the Student Eagle Director for Tennessee. Arthur shared, "I taught public school for eight years, and the best decision I ever made was homeschooling my two boys. Homeschooling is not public school at home. You can teach to your child's strengths not weakness, real life versus test standards." In 1990, one million kids were homeschooled; today there are four to five million, with many success stories.

"Classical education is a method of teaching young learners how to learn and giving them the tools to become lifelong learners," said **Dr. C. Chris Baker**, a former headmaster and advocate of Christian classical education. "Classical education introduces students to the best literature (The Great Books) and the best thoughts of mankind in the pursuit of goodness, beauty, and truth." He suggests learning as much as you can about classical education, and if you have not received a classical education, it's never too late.

In the late 1980s, **Kathy Wilmot**, a public school teacher in Nebraska, became concerned about changes she observed in the educational system and decided to run for her State Board of Education. She lost three times before finally winning and serving two terms. Wilmot's advice: "Just get started and get involved."

Dena Espenscheid, with the Leadership Institute, gave information on how to run for state and local school boards. The Institute's School Board Campaign Training features presentations from conservatives who have served on school boards, plus campaign professionals experienced in local campaigns. Dena is passionate about electing conservative leaders to school boards to ensure schools focus on their educational mission for our children's future success. She said, "Enough is enough... We must stand up and speak out!"

Addressing an Article V Convention of the States (COS) was **William Woodruff, JD**, who said, "We find a well-funded, sophisticated campaign lobbying state legislatures to petition Congress to call an Article V Convention for proposing amendments to the Constitution. The basic arguments of the advocates ignore James Madison's prescient warnings about the dangers of another convention." Nevada Eagle Forum President **Janine Hansen** has worked tirelessly on this issue, and stated, "To save our Constitution, we have to inform our representatives, mostly Republicans, to oppose an Article V Convention." (See Oct. 22 *Torch*).

Saturday's luncheon speakers were former **Utah Rep. Al and Mrs. Juleen Jackson**, a biracial couple with five children, who envision a post-racial America. Mr. Jackson said, "A



Texas Eagles at Eagle Council

divided house cannot stand. Race, gender, sexuality have divided us. To be anchored in hope for our Nation, look to God, not government, and prioritize family time.” Juleen agrees, “Liberty begins at home with family.”

Ken Cuccinelli, JD, a leading Trump administration spokesman on immigration and homeland security issues, tackled the open borders policies of the Biden administration. He says the Constitution provides “The Guarantee Clause, which gives states power to defend their borders in lieu of the federal government’s failure. He listed three steps states must take: A governor must invoke Article I, Section 10, Paragraph 3 by calling his state “invaded;” the state legislature must support the governor with money and manpower; and the state attorney general must defend the state’s action. Other states can follow and help, but, Cuccinelli asked, “Do the states have the political will?”

“ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) investing is acting like a new branch of government for the progressive Left in our country,” reports **Derek Kreifels**, CEO of the State Financial Officers Foundation. He says, “Radical climate alarmists are pushing to change our entire financial system, including who can and can’t get a bank account or manage retirement/pension investments. Insurance companies are adopting ESG practices and making determinations about who they will and won’t insure based on their ESG score. ESG ratings are weaponizing our financial system.” His advice: “Ask your state treasurer and attorney general where they stand on the issue. These two offices are key to stopping radical ESG activists from using your hard-earned tax dollars for their political agenda.”

Climate Depot publisher and author of *The Great Reset*, **Marc Moreno** gave an update on what the World Economic Forum (WEF) has planned if they are able to collapse capitalism and reset the world’s energy and food supply. As family farms go under, the Chinese and other foreigners are buying American farmland and ranches. WEF member and climate activist Bill Gates is the largest farmland owner in the U.S. and has plans to grow synthetic meat in a lab and use a 3D printer to produce it. Moreno said, “Meat will be permitted as an occasional treat, not

a staple, for the good of the environment and for your own good. Climate policies cause food shortages, not climate change.” He adds, “We didn’t vote for any of this.” (See Jan. 21 *Torch*)

Gordon Chang is the author of *The Coming Collapse of China* and says, “We could lose our Country, because Joe Biden and American elites are not defending us from our enemies. China and Russia are working together to take us and international systems down so they can rule the world. They saw the debacle in Afghanistan and see our failures and deference. While Chinese civilians are ordered to prepare for war, we have a broken military and are not lethal anymore.” Chang believes China poses the greatest risk and says we need to immediately kick China out of the U.S., refuse to buy Chinese products, and demand websites include country-of-origin labeling (i.e. TikTok). “We can do it because we are Americans, the world’s last defense.”

The gala 50th Anniversary Dinner, “A Party with a Purpose,” began with awarding the Full-Time Homemaker Award to Texas’ own **Mrs. Cheryl Barton** for her years of dedication to her husband and three children. **David**, her husband, is the founder of WallBuilders, a national organization that presents America’s moral, religious, and constitutional heritage.

Anne Schlafly Cori wrapped up the conference with “My Mother’s Legacy and YOURS!” She said, “In 1972, the world was in turmoil, at war, riots, terrorism, and efforts to change laws. The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) was passed in many states, and the silent majority wanted their Country back. People rose-up to defend our Country and brought America back to common sense. Fifty years later, we need to do the same thing. The most important issue is the education of our children and future generations. Covid woke America up, which gives me great hope.”

Texas Eagles flew home energized, educated, and inspired to carry on the important work of Eagle Forum.

NOTE: Many bios and websites of the speakers, including those not mentioned in this article, are on Eagle Forum’s website: eagleforum.org. Go to “Events,” then “Eagle Council,” then “Eagle Council 50” for more information.



U.S. Military Ranked “Weak”

An annual ranking of U.S. military strength has ranked the Nation’s armed forces as “weak” for the first time. American armed forces are “at a growing risk of not being able to meet the demands of defending America’s vital national interests,” assessed the report. “It is rated as weak relative to the force needed to defend national interests on a global stage against actual challenges in the world as it is rather than as we wish it were. This is the logical consequence of years of sustained use, underfunding, poorly defined priorities, wildly shifting security policies, exceedingly poor discipline in program execution, and a profound lack of seriousness across the national security establishment even as threats to U.S. interests have surged.” The ranking is based on the overall ability to secure victories in two major conflicts at once in different areas of the world.

SOURCE: Heritage Foundation’s 2023 Index of U.S. Military Strength

NPR: A Case Study in Left-Wing Bias

Although National Public Radio (NPR) receives only a small percentage of its funding from federal grants, the name infers an effort to represent all the people of a country. America is now a nation of sharp edges. Theologically, politically, philosophically, the divisions are increasing and deepening. Yet those differences do not diminish something profoundly important: we remain one Country, and the sincerely held and quite distinct beliefs of all citizens merit faithful representation in public forums. So, you would think that an organization that “was founded on a mission to create a more informed public” would at least be interested in fairness. Not so, at least when it comes to the Supreme Court decision to return abortion policy to the states. From January through September 2022, NPR ran scores of stories on abortion. In a review of their headlines, not one of them indicates anything favorable about ending the abortion-on-demand regime of *Roe v. Wade*. The headlines are repetitively indignant, fear-mongering, and biased. This is not news. It is propaganda.

SOURCE: *The Washington Stand*, 10/19/22

100+ Biden Judges on the Federal Bench?

The U.S. Senate continues confirming federal judges at a record pace. A total of 84 judicial nominees have been confirmed since President Biden took office. After coming back from its August recess, the Senate confirmed seven appellate court nominees. This means there are now 25 Biden judges confirmed to the federal appeals courts, just one level below the Supreme Court, and the place where most major cases are ultimately decided. However, most of Biden’s nominees—close to 60—have been confirmed to the lower district courts. Approximately two dozen nominees are waiting for a Senate floor vote, including six who would take a seat on the appellate courts if confirmed. Will there be more than 100 Biden judges on the bench by January 2023? It’s possible. But there could be pushback from Republicans, as there is deep concern about the record and ideology of many of Biden’s judicial nominees. What’s alarming isn’t just the number of Biden’s judges, but the fact that many, who are now on the federal bench for life, have in private practice fought against Americans’ core freedoms, including religious liberty.

SOURCE: *First Liberty*, 10/21/22

Quote of the Month

“This is grotesque, disturbing behavior. Under Texas law, local district and county attorneys are charged with taking up the mantle to protect Texas kids by prosecuting these types of totally inappropriate acts.”

~ Attorney General Ken Paxton, hoping lawmakers will amend the State’s penal code so his office can prosecute public family-friendly drag-queen shows, if district and county attorneys refuse,
The Texas Minute, 10/20/22

Great American Quote

“Neither the wisest constitution nor the wisest laws will secure the liberty and happiness of a people whose manners are universally corrupt.”

~ Samuel Adams, 1776

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