



OREGON
**RIGHT
TO LIFE**



CHAPTER MANUAL

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Welcome to the team! Thank you for committing to participate in a local chapter of Oregon Right to Life. You are a vital team member in a broad network of volunteer advocates.

Oregon Right to Life's mission is to advocate for the most vulnerable human beings whose right to life is denied or abridged under current law. We work to reestablish protection for all innocent human life from fertilization to natural death. You are a strategic part of that mission. You are the heart and soul of the pro-life movement.

I cannot emphasize enough how important you are to accomplishing the pro-life goals in Oregon. With your help, we can pursue a culture that advocates for and supports life-affirming, life-saving, and life-sustaining decisions. By participating in the local chapter, you will maximize your potential to influence decision-makers and educate your community.

This handbook and the accompanying resource materials are designed to help you participate in the ongoing work to end abortion and euthanasia in the most effective way possible. The staff and board of Oregon Right to Life stand ready to help you in whatever way we can.

Thanks again for your commitment to protecting life. We look forward to working with you.

Because everyone deserves an advocate,

Melody Durrett
President, Oregon Right to Life Board of Directors

Oregon Right to Life (ORTL)

ORTL Vision

We envision a culture in Oregon that advocates for and supports life-affirming, life-saving, and life-sustaining decisions.

ORTL Mission

Oregon Right to Life advocates for the most vulnerable human beings whose right to life is denied or abridged under current law. We work to reestablish protection for all innocent human life from fertilization to natural death.

ORTL Motto

“Because Everyone Deserves an Advocate”

Guiding Values

Integrity — Our decisions and actions reflect our values and position statements. We are truthful, honest, and transparent.

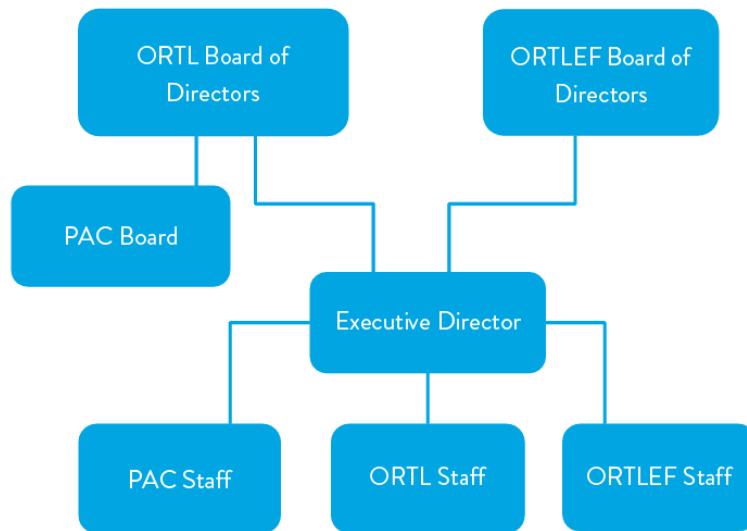
Compassion — We are empathetic to those experiencing physical, spiritual, and emotional pain. In word and action, we treat everyone with dignity and respect, regardless of any differences.

Leadership — We lead pro-life work in Oregon by connecting people and providing reliable, accurate information, resources, and tools. We act responsibly and seek to set a framework for how a state pro-life organization functions and what it can accomplish.

Ingenuity — We encourage the development of creative ways to effectively advocate for the vulnerable. We are innovative, thoughtful, and eager to try new things!

Persistence — We are resolved to advocate for life in any political or cultural environment. We remain hopeful and optimistic about the influence we can have while we seek change that protects vulnerable, innocent human life from fertilization to natural death.

Organizational Chart



ORTL = Oregon Right to Life 501(c)4 ORTLEF = Oregon Right to Life Education Foundation 501(c)3 PAC = Political Action Committee

Updated 1/27/2021

Organizational Structure

Oregon Right to Life is composed of three separate but interlocking entities:

Oregon Right to Life 501(c)(4)

The parent organization of Oregon Right to Life handles lobbying efforts for life, provides support for pro-life organizations and individuals, and organizes events such as its annual conference and rallies. It also widely distributes publications such as *Life in Oregon* and other pro-life materials, as well as communicating information via email.

Oregon Right to Life Political Action Committees

Oregon Right to Life Political Action Committee is made up of a connected state and federal PAC. It focuses on electing pro-life officials at all levels of government as well as publishing a widely used pro-life voter guide each election year. In 2015, the Oregon Right to Life Victory PAC, a federal Super PAC, was formed.

Oregon Right to Life Education Foundation 501(c)(3)

The Education Foundation prepares and distributes pro-life information and hosts booths at fairs, churches, conferences, and other events throughout the state. It provides a speakers bureau, student contests, training for young people through the Launch student leadership retreat, and direction for the Pro-Life Communities Initiative. The Education Foundation actively participates in presenting the annual Oregon March for Life and Together We Advocate, an annual conference.

BENEFITS FOR CHAPTERS

Unity

ORTL chapters become part of a well-established and respected organization. A chapter benefits from its affiliation with ORTL and the organization's solid reputation for pro-life work and accurate information. Chapter leaders and members have the responsibility to uphold the mission, position statements, and policies of Oregon Right to Life.

Support

Chapters are supported by the state office and the statewide network of chapters and advocates. The state office is available to help chapters in a number of ways, including but not limited to:

Apologetics and Messaging:

- Free access to the Equipped for Life Course from the Equal Rights Institute.
- Community Blueprint template and guidance to help the chapter be as effective as possible in the local community.
- Speakers for meetings and special events.

Finances:

- Sending fundraising communications for the chapter.
- Hosting a designated educational fund for the chapter.
- Processing donations to the chapter's educational fund and sending donor thank-yous.
- Processing payments and reimbursements from the educational fund.

Insurance:

- Coverage under ORTL's insurance policy.
- Certificates of Insurance (COIs) for events.

Outreach Materials:

- Pro-life giveaway materials, including stickers, "pocket babies" (12-week fetal models), pro-life informational materials, feet pins, and more.
- Loans of pro-life educational tools, including Touch of Life fetal models, pro-life banners, spinning wheels, heartbeat phones, and more.

Promotion and Marketing:

- Sending emails to churches and individuals in the chapter's region.
- Delivering pre-recorded phone messages (robocalls).
- Sending text messages.
- Printing and mailing postcards or letters.
- Posting chapter events on the Pro-Life Events calendar on the ORTL website.

Volunteer Management

- Volunteer screening to ensure position statement alignment and to check volunteers against ORTL's list of known bad actors.
- Curated monthly newsletter for volunteers.
- Volunteer training.

In addition, ORTL staff are available to support chapter leaders as needed, whether that's through brainstorming new outreach methods, evaluating chapter messaging, or providing information about chapter opportunities.

Involvement Opportunities

Chapters can experience events and continuing education opportunities held by the state office for the benefit of individuals or as a group-building activity.

- **The Oregon March for Life** is hosted annually by ORTL. Historically, the event marked the anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* ruling. Since the *Dobbs v. Jackson* decision that overturned *Roe v. Wade*, the Oregon March for Life has been held in May to mark the anniversary of Oregon's legalization of abortion as the focus shifts toward state policy. Thousands of people demonstrate peacefully and march with pro-life signs to bring attention to the humanity of the unborn and call for change.
- **Together We Advocate** is the ORTL annual conference featuring nationally known keynote speakers and informative, relevant workshops. The conference is for brand-new and seasoned advocates alike.
- **Launch** is a 4-day pro-life leadership training retreat in Salem for ages 16–21 that is held during spring break each year.

Elections

In the Primary, General, and Special elections for the school board, the ORTL PAC issues endorsements for candidates who qualify and participate in our endorsement process. This gives chapter leaders and members confidence in sharing the voter guide as a resource for their community.

Lobbying

Oregon Right to Life has a strong lobbying presence in the Oregon Legislature and works alongside national pro-life groups on federal legislation. The lobbying team also has expertise in county and school board issues. ORTL lobbies for pro-life laws, policies, and ordinances on the issues of abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, bioethics, stem cell research, and end-of-life issues. Chapter leaders and members can utilize and share the information and calls to action, joining together as one voice across the state.

RUNNING A LOCAL CHAPTER

Chapter Purpose

A chapter of ORTL is the essential community-based building block in our vision to restore a culture that supports life-affirming, life-saving, and life-sustaining decisions.

The primary purpose of a local chapter is to:

- Educate individuals and the general public about pro-life topics, including fetal development, abortion, infanticide, abortion alternatives, and euthanasia.
- Share information to persuade individuals to choose life for unborn children, support mothers, and protect those threatened by assisted suicide.
- Provide leadership for grassroots efforts dedicated to protecting life in the chapter's region.
- Inform the ORTL state office about injustices impacting the vulnerable in their community.
- Offer a way for people to be involved in the pro-life movement in their own community.
- Encourage advocates to gather together at ORTL events, including the March for Life and the Together We Advocate conference.
- Promote fundraising efforts for the state office as well as their own projects.

Chapter Formation

To form a chapter, three people must be willing to serve as the core of the new entity.

Suggested steps for starting a chapter:

- Meet as a group or schedule a meeting to see what local interest exists.
- Complete an Application for Chapter Charter (see appendices) and submit it to the ORTL state office.
- Elect primary officers for your board, including a chair, secretary, and treasurer.
- Officers sign the Oregon Right to Life Position Statement Agreement Form (see appendices) and submit it with the Application for Chapter Charter.
- Set a time, date, and location for future meetings.
- Make a plan to advertise meetings and recruit interested members.

Chapter Status

Chapter participation can fluctuate depending on who is in the area, recruitment efforts, etc., and it is normal for chapters to go through different seasons. Choose the chapter status that is the best fit for your chapter's current season.

Active chapters are expected to:

- Have an active chapter leader
- Have at least three members (including the chapter leader)
- Hold at least four meetings per year
- Develop at least one annual educational project
- Notify ORTL of any changes in chapter leadership
- Report bank account status to ORTL annually (required for tax compliance purposes, even if your chapter does not have a bank account)
- Submit the annual chapter impact report (see appendices)
- *Encouraged but not mandatory: complete quarterly reports for the ORTL board*

Associate chapters are expected to:

- Have an active chapter leader
- Have at least three members (including the chapter leader)
- Hold at least 1 meeting per year
- Develop one educational project or activity per year
- Notify ORTL of any changes in chapter leadership
- Report bank account status to ORTL annually (required for tax compliance purposes, even if your chapter does not have a bank account)
- Submit the annual chapter impact report (see appendices)

Please notify the state office promptly of any changes in your chapter's status.

Chapter Recruitment

Every chapter needs effective recruiting techniques to attract enthusiastic new members. Depending on your chapter's status and goals, you may want to focus on building membership generally, or your group may identify needs and look for specific people to ask to get involved.

In the beginning, meetings are crucial to recruitment. Keep to the basics with consistent time and location so that members can always have it on their schedule. Make sure to publicize your chapter meetings. The ORTL state office can help with mailings and emails to known pro-life advocates in your area. Post to social media, hand out and post flyers, contact local churches, and use word-of-mouth advertising.

In addition, the ORTL state office can help with vetting potential volunteers or members. Your chapter can ask volunteers to fill out the volunteer form at ortl.org/volunteers/. During this process, ORTL asks volunteers to sign a position statement agreement form and checks names against our database to screen out known bad actors. *This is not required, but it is highly recommended to help protect your chapter.*

Meetings

Tips for successful meetings:

- Make each person feel valued for attending.
- Have an agenda, a specific purpose, and keep the meeting on schedule.
- Have promotional materials or resources on hand. The ORTL state office will supply these to the local chapter at no cost. It is essential for people to have something they can touch and take with them to look over once they return home.
- Tell your story and share why you are a part of the chapter. People are always interested in why someone is pro-life, and it gives an instant connection with the audience.
- Once a chapter has matured, it can invite guest speakers. Young chapters should emphasize connecting with potential new members.

Chapter Projects

Each local chapter is expected to develop at least one annual educational project. Projects should fulfill ORTL's mission to advocate for the most vulnerable human beings whose right to life is denied or abridged under current law and to work to reestablish protection for all innocent human life from fertilization to natural death. It should educate local communities, reinforce existing pro-life convictions, and encourage pro-life advocacy. Other chapters or the ORTL state office can provide additional guidance as needed.

Common projects that chapters have done successfully in the past years:

- **Fair Booth** — A chapter sponsors and coordinates volunteers to staff an ORTLEF pro-life fair booth at the local county fair (or another local event).

- **Local Contest** — A chapter coordinates a local level of the ORTLEF drawing, essay, and oratory contests. Local winners compete in the state contests that culminate at the annual Together We Advocate Conference.
- **March for Life** — A chapter hosts a local March for Life or rally to mark the anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* court decision or to commemorate the *Dobbs v. Jackson* decision that overturned it.
- **Crosses Display** — A chapter creates a local memorial to babies lost to abortion by setting up hundreds of crosses in a highly visible area.

Examples of Local Chapter Projects

Here are some specific ways local chapters are making a difference.

- **Newsletters** — Some chapters publish newsletters to keep their members informed about important pro-life news as well as upcoming events. The ORTL state office can help with the production and mailing of a newsletter.
- **Radio** — One chapter partners with their local radio station to run pro-life public service announcements regularly.
- **Newspaper Ads** — One chapter runs ads in the local paper with accurate, compelling information about abortion.
- **Billboard Ads** — Several chapters pay for billboard ads at key locations on local roads. At least one chapter buys ads on an electronic billboard and shares its time with another pro-life group.
- **Website and Social Media** — Many chapters have a website and/or a social media page. This allows chapters to focus on local events while also linking to state and National Right to Life news.
- **Pro-Life Partners** — Examples of effective pro-life partner organizations:
 - **40 Days for Life** — A national organization that coordinates local prayer vigils in front of Planned Parenthood and other abortion facilities, provides sidewalk counseling, and has a vast network of resources for women in need. A chapter could partner with them by helping cover vigil time slots or supporting the moms whom they rescue from abortion with baby supplies.
 - **Pregnancy Resource Centers** — These centers are on the front lines for providing life-giving help for women with unsupported pregnancies. They are great community partners that provide free health services, free ultrasounds, free baby supplies, parenting classes, and post-abortion support.

- **Students for Life of America** — These groups of students recruit, train, and mobilize the pro-life generation to abolish abortion. Chapters can partner with Students for Life groups to do local outreach.
- **Equal Rights Institute** — A national organization whose mission is to train pro-life advocates to think clearly, reason honestly, and argue persuasively. Oregon Right to Life provides free access to ERI's Equipped for Life training course for chapter members. Contact the state office for more information.

Community Blueprint

In 2023, Oregon Right to Life created the *Community Blueprint for Chapter Leaders*. This is a tool to help you and your team better understand the community you live in as it relates to the pro-life movement, identify venues for engaging others in this challenging but important topic, and provide strategies to you as you develop your local chapter.

The ORTL Community Outreach Specialist will provide you guidance in conducting the Community Survey and Needs Assessment, help you identify the areas of advocacy that naturally align with your passion for the movement, and equip you with practical strategies and tactical initiatives that have been successful with other chapters.

In addition, the research conducted in completing the Community Blueprint can be useful to the Pro-Life Communities Initiative. To learn more about the Community Blueprint, reach out to the Community Outreach Specialist.

Political Involvement

Oregon Right to Life is a 501(c)(4) organization according to the IRS code; therefore, it is allowed only certain forms of advocacy.

Local chapters can:

- Do all kinds of educational advocacy (e.g., provide information to the public schools about human development, abortion, and euthanasia processes, apologetics, resources, current law and impact, etc.).
- Provide educational materials to the local community to help persuade them to make pro-life choices.
- Lobby on pro-life issues to help the public and elected officials make educated decisions.
- Promote and participate in activities supporting pro-life candidates endorsed by the ORTL PAC.

Local chapters cannot:

- Endorse or donate to candidates as an organization.

All political work must be coordinated with the Political Director at the ORTL state office.

Chapter Continuation

Every chapter will have changed in membership and leadership over time. When a change in officers occurs, ORTL should be notified promptly through the Change in Chapter Leadership form (see appendices).

Chapters are encouraged to seek out future leaders and plan for succession.

Chapter Fundraising

For a chapter to be effective in its advocacy, it will need funding. This looks very different for each chapter.

Examples of fundraising strategies:

- The ORTL state office can send out a **fundraising letter** on a chapter's behalf.
- **Local churches** may donate to a chapter, and some churches do so on a recurring basis.
- Several chapters host very successful **garage sales** driven by community donations, which can yield thousands of dollars for the local chapter.
- **Fair booths** themselves can be a source of funds for a chapter. Chapters can accept monetary gifts, and items can be sold. The ORTL state office provides Precious Feet Pins and other pro-life items that a chapter can order to have at their booth. These items are purchased by the state office at a bulk discount and offered to the chapter at cost. Chapters may sell them to raise funds.
- One chapter took artwork from their student contest and made magnets to sell at their fair booth and other events. The **student artwork** also makes lovely notecards.
- One chapter is involved in a **Christmas bazaar**. A local farmer donates cranberries to their group to use in baked goods and to offer as raw produce. Between student artwork and yummy treats, this fundraiser is a sweet success.
- **Plant sales**. Partner with a pro-life nursery owner and sell plants around a holiday, like Mother's Day. During Christmastime, chapters can partner with a tree farm to sell wreaths, garlands, or even whole trees.
- **Sponsorships** are another way to fundraise and help pay off the expenses for an event, even before it happens. One chapter used a sponsorship fundraiser to help pay for participating in a local parade. They sold sponsorships to pro-life people in their community to offset the parade entry fee, float building and supplies, and other parade-related costs. Each sponsor was featured publicly on the float.

Sponsors can also be named in a newsletter, on a local March for Life program handout, or on the back of notecards. Sponsors can help pay for a billboard, host someone from the speakers bureau, or sponsor part of the local fair booth.

- **Supporting Pro-Life Partners.** A chapter can designate a fundraiser to help another group or fundraise in conjunction with another group. Chapters can help raise money to support their local pregnancy resource center. Some chapters work with the local Students for Life of America group to fundraise for students and send them to the Walk for Life West Coast.

Chapter Data

The state office has an extensive database of pro-life advocates around the state of Oregon. While a chapter may have limited contacts of its own when it launches, the ORTL state office can use its database to promote events and volunteer opportunities to help connect the chapter with other pro-life people in their area.

To ensure strong communication, coordinated outreach, and unified representation across the state, all chapters are required to provide contact lists for chapter members and other pro-life contacts.

Accurate contact information allows the state office to send targeted updates, resources, action alerts, and event support on behalf of each chapter, ensuring that local advocates receive the information most relevant to their community. As integral parts of the statewide organization, chapters operate within ORTL's structure and mission and may not withhold contact information from the state office.

Insurance

Chapters are covered under ORTL's insurance policy. When you table at an event, you may occasionally be asked to provide a certificate of liability insurance (COI). If you need a COI, you can request one through ORTL.

To request a COI, send the following information to outreach@ortl.org:

- The event's "Risk Management Insurance Information." This is generally part of the contract. In some cases, it is a stand-alone document that spells out their specific instructions about coverage amounts for the event. When sending this, be sure to include the entire coverage request section.
- Some certificates are required 30 days before the event.
- Dates of the event, including the set-up and tear-down dates.
- Address of the physical event. Double-check this - it can be different from the risk management division's address.
- *In most cases, the simplest thing to do is to send the contract in its entirety to outreach@ortl.org.*

Please allow two weeks to obtain a COI through ORTL.

Due to insurance limitations, chapters that wish to distribute durable childcare items, such as car seats, high chairs, cribs, strollers, etc., must purchase brand-new items. Used items are not covered under ORTL's insurance and may not be distributed.

Chapter Financial Management

Chapters are chartered by the board of ORTL, which is a 501(c)(4) organization. A chapter has two options for receiving and spending funds: an ORTL 501(c)(4) bank account and/or an ORTLEF 501(c)(3) designated educational fund.

In order for ORTL and our local chartered chapters to be in compliance with the IRS, chapters must comply with the following guidelines.

ORTL 501(c)(4)

- Chapters may have local bank accounts in their own communities. These bank accounts must:
 - Be formally affiliated with Oregon Right to Life.
 - Include Lois Anderson, ORTL Executive Director, as an additional signer. *This promotes chapter continuity and ensures access to the funds in the event that the chapter disbands. Funds are at the chapter's disposal and will not be used by the state office.*
- Gifts to chapters are under their 501(c)(4) status and **are not tax-deductible**.
- The balance of these local accounts must be reported annually for ORTL taxes via the Chapter Financial Statement form (see appendices).
 - *Please note that this form is **required** for tax compliance purposes. Chapters that do not have a local bank account should complete the form with zeros.*

ORTLEF 501(c)(3)

- Local chapters may set up a designated fund with the state office to receive donations under the 501(c)(3) Education Foundation for educational projects.
- Donations designated for special education projects are tax-deductible.
- Donations to state chapter accounts must be accompanied by a note identifying the chapter. A gift acknowledgment will be sent to the donor from the state office on behalf of the chapter, and the chapter will be notified of the donation.
- The balance of the chapter account is provided to the chapter annually or upon request of a chapter officer for tracking purposes.
- In the absence of a local chapter, remaining designated funds may be used to support local educational projects at the discretion of ORTL staff (e.g., fair booths and student contests).
- Donations to a chapter's educational fund must adhere to the following:
 - Check: Be made payable to Oregon Right to Life Education Foundation and state the chapter name in the memo line.
 - Online: Be made to the Oregon Right to Life Education Foundation and state the chapter name in the donation notes.

Designated ORTLEF Fund Parameters

Chapters may use their designated ORTLEF fund to pay for educational expenses directly or to reimburse someone for educational expenses.

Educational expenses directly support learning, skill-building, or community education activities connected to ORTL's pro-life mission. Examples of educational expenses include ORTLEF fair booth fees and supplies, student contest promotion and prizes, and sidewalk advocacy-related activities. The fund may not be used for personal items, household goods, childcare equipment, or any expense not directly tied to an approved educational activity.

Chapters are expected to uphold ORTL's branding, messaging, and staff guidance in all community outreach and education activities. When a chapter does not follow established standards or disregards staff direction, ORTL may suspend access to the designated fund until compliance is demonstrated. Continued eligibility for use of the designated fund is dependent on the chapter's alignment with ORTL's expectations.

Accessing Designated ORTLEF Fund

When accessing the fund, the chapter chair or treasurer must submit a written request (via mail or email) to have a check sent directly to a third party or to reimburse educational expenses.

- **For checks to third parties**, the request should be submitted in writing by the treasurer or chair (via mail or email) to the Community Outreach Director and should include:
 - The reason for the funds
 - The deadline for payment
 - Name and address that the check should be mailed to
 - Any relevant invoices or documents
- **For reimbursement checks**, the request should be submitted in writing by the treasurer or chair (via mail or email) to the Community Outreach Director and should include:
 - The reason for the reimbursement
 - The deadline for payment
 - Name and address that the check should be mailed to
 - Relevant receipts
- Checks from ORTLEF are processed once a week and mailed directly to the payee unless otherwise directed.
- Reimbursement requests should be submitted to the state office within two months of the expenditure. Late submission may result in denial of reimbursement.

Payment and reimbursement deductions will be reflected in the chapter's balance.

Quarterly Report for ORTL Board of Directors

The ORTL board of directors meets quarterly. The quarterly board report has been developed for local chapters to use in submitting updates on activities (see appendices). These reports are not mandatory but highly encouraged and anticipated by the members of the ORTL board.

A reminder will be sent to chapter leaders one month before the meeting to allow time for the local chapter board members to draft the document for submission. Local chapters are asked to include in the quarterly board report information about current projects, community events, and any resources that are being used or are needed.

Annual Chapter Impact Report

Chapters are required to submit an Annual Chapter Impact Report in lieu of the quarterly board report in April of each year (see appendices for form).

This report provides accountability for the chapter and ensures that the state office is apprised of chapter activities. In their report, chapters are to include:

- Chapter status
- Current leadership information
- Meetings and dates for the last calendar year
- Educational projects completed in the last calendar year
- Other chapter projects
- Volunteer and member contact information
- The chapter's digital presence (i.e., website, social media platforms)
- Additional supports needed
- Any additional relevant information

Closing Thoughts

"Because everyone deserves an advocate" is the motto of Oregon Right to Life. You are the hands and feet in your community, inspiring and equipping Oregonians to advocate for the unborn as well as those who are endangered by physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia.

Thank you for stepping forward into leadership in this essential effort. We want to be both a support and a megaphone for your efforts. Please contact the ORTL state office at 503-463-8563 for any questions or necessary support.

Other local chapter leaders are happy to serve as mentors. Call the ORTL state office to be directly connected with someone.

APPENDICES



Position Statements

Policy of Peace

Oregon Right to Life has had long-standing opposition to the use of force, intimidation, and violence by any person pursuing pro-life activities. Our commitment to the well-being of all human life requires that we respect the inherent value and dignity of all people. Just as we condemn abortion and euthanasia, we oppose private acts that take human life, inflict bodily harm, or destroy another's property. No board member, officer, employee, or chapter officer may participate in any illegal or harmful act against another person or property in pursuing pro-life activity. Oregon Right to Life will not knowingly do business with any organization or business which endorses violence in any way toward pro-abortion persons or businesses.

Single Issue Policy

All public statements or presentations such as fair booths, conferences, rallies, newspaper articles, letters to the editor, press releases, radio interviews, etc. made by the executive director or other officers of Oregon Right to Life will only discuss Oregon Right to Life's single issue of protecting innocent life from fertilization to natural death. Any other issue, no matter how closely related, such as birth control, death penalty, etc., shall not be promoted or argued.

The executive director, as well as the Political Action Committee director, and the President of the Board, will refrain from making public comments on other issues, as they are so closely associated with Oregon Right to Life that in the public's eye, even in their personal lives, they represent the organization. Chapter chairmen are asked to use discretion on issues when they speak publicly.

Abortion

Oregon Right to Life believes in the sanctity of all human life from the moment of conception to natural death.

Abortion ends the life of a genetically distinct, growing human being. We oppose abortion at any point of gestation. In rare cases, a mother may have a life-threatening condition in which medical procedures intended to treat the condition of the mother may result in the unintended death of her preborn baby. At the same time, ORTL recognizes that in most cases, modern medical practice has and will continue to increase the ability to save both the life of the mother and the baby.

Updated by board vote: November 7, 2020



Position Statements

Euthanasia

Oregon Right to Life supports the sanctity of human life from the moment of conception until natural death. We oppose all cases of euthanasia, whereby a person is deliberately killed through direct action or omission even if that act is by their permission. In contrast, a person who chooses to refuse life-prolonging treatment is not committing assisted suicide but is rather allowing nature to take its course. Examples of euthanasia include allowing disabled newborns to die of routinely treatable medical conditions, withholding food or water from the comatose or lethally injecting a terminally ill patient. In Oregon, the legal form of euthanasia is assisted suicide, and is euphemistically called "death with dignity." In this act, a health care professional prescribes lethal drugs knowing their patient intends to use the drugs to commit suicide.

Updated by board vote: February 7, 2026

Infanticide

Oregon Right to Life (ORTL) advocates for innocent human life from fertilization until natural death. Therefore, ORTL opposes infanticide, which is defined as the intentional ending of the life of any human infant from birth through the first year of age. This includes not only active violence, but also withdrawal or withholding of care, such as fluids, nutrition, and life-saving medical or surgical treatments. A subset of infanticide is neonaticide, which is the destruction of a child in the first month after live birth. This often happens within several hours of delivery as a response to an unwanted pregnancy or an unexpected disability or deformity. This earliest form of neonaticide is sometimes referred to as "post-birth abortion."

Updated by Board vote 11/5/2022

Human (including fetal) Experimentation

Experimentation on human beings, born or preborn, must be with full and informed consent, unless consent is impossible due to age or condition of the person involved. When informed consent is not possible, experimentation is acceptable only if it is for the intended benefit of the patient and the amount of pain and risk have been considered. All other human experimentation is unequivocally condemned including the gathering of scientific data by the experimentation on a human being scheduled for death or in the process of being killed.



Position Statements

Contraceptives

Oregon Right to Life takes no position on any birth control method which prohibits the sperm and egg from uniting. Once the sperm and egg have united, however, a new human life begins and ORTL opposes any drug, device, or procedure which destroys the new human life. ORTL supports the full disclosure of information by a physician to women considering contraceptives. ORTL supports the right of medical professionals to exercise their conscience in all medical care.

Assisted Reproductive Technology

The natural process of human conception is the union of egg and sperm within the maternal body, which provides the safest and most supportive environment for the maturation of the newly created human being. Oregon Right to Life (ORTL) upholds the natural process of human conception. ORTL opposes any techniques of human conception occurring outside of the maternal body which lead to the destruction of human life, whether for family growth or experimentation.

Updated by Board vote: February 5, 2022

Cloning

Oregon Right to Life opposes human cloning for any purpose. All humans have equal value. Cloning results in a human that has the same nuclear DNA as another human. Human beings produced by scientific bioengineering have the same inherent value as humans produced by natural processes. Human beings should not be produced for experimentation (therapeutic cloning) because they are not mere tools for research. Cloning humans would likely result in numerous deaths, just as animal cloning has. Such a result would violate each embryo's right to life. Producing human beings to assist reproduction (reproductive cloning) is broadly condemned because it is dangerous to the clones, ethically irresponsible, and treats human beings as mere merchandise in a commercialized reproductive process.

Updated by Board vote: February 1, 2025



Position Statements

Stem Cell Research

Oregon Right to Life affirms the inherent value of all human beings from the moment of fertilization to natural death. As such, ORTL asserts that all human lives started by any form of natural or assisted reproduction for cloning or any purpose, are to be protected from intentional harm.

Oregon Right to Life opposes both the destruction of human embryos created by any method and any research conducted with human embryonic stem cells. Research is unethical if it is predicated on the destruction of one human being for the gain of another.

Oregon Right to Life supports the current successful medical research and treatments with non embryonic stem cells (e.g. those from umbilical cord blood and adult tissues).

Updated by board vote: February 6, 2021

Capital Punishment

Oregon Right to Life does not take a position on the death penalty. The death penalty, when carried out by due process of law, is punishment for a capital crime which kills the person after being found guilty. Abortion is not a punishment, yet it kills an innocent person without due process of law. Oregon Right to Life is dedicated to protecting innocent human life and remains neutral on capital punishment.



Oregon Right to Life Volunteer Agreement

Below is the list of issues on which Oregon Right to Life has taken positions. The Position Statements can be found on our website: <https://www.ortl.org/positions/>. Please indicate each position with which you agree.

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| ☐ A Policy of Peace | ☐ Human (including Fetal) Experimentation | ☐ Stem Cell Research |
| ☐ Abortion | ☐ Contraceptives | ☐ Capital Punishment |
| ☐ Euthanasia | ☐ In Vitro Fertilization | |
| ☐ Infanticide | ☐ Cloning | |

- ☐ I fully support the ORTL written Position Statements without reservation.
- ☐ I support the ORTL written Position Statements except for those left unchecked above.

Please list below any Position Statements with which you disagree or for which you have not yet formed an opinion or conviction. Please explain the reasons. Use additional paper if needed.

By signing this agreement form:

- I agree to uphold these position statements in my role as a volunteer for Oregon Right to Life.***
- I agree to follow all Oregon Right to Life policies, guidelines, and staff instructions.***
- I understand that a failure to abide by this agreement will result in being dismissed from my role as a volunteer with Oregon Right to Life.***

Name (Please Print)

Signature

Date



OREGON RIGHT TO LIFE CHAPTER CHARTER APPLICATION

Chapter Name: _____ Date: _____

We hereby subscribe to the vision and mission of Oregon Right to Life as follows:

Vision Statement: We envision a culture in Oregon that advocates for and supports life-affirming, life-saving, and life-sustaining decisions.

Mission Statement: Oregon Right to Life advocates for the most vulnerable human beings whose right to life is denied or abridged under current law. We work to reestablish protection for all innocent human life from conception to natural death.

The primary purpose of this ORTL chapter is to provide thorough, factual information that helps individuals and the public make informed decisions regarding fetal development, abortion, euthanasia, infanticide, and assisted suicide, and through that information, encourage the protection of innocent human life by:

- a) Developing a minimum of one educational project designed to educate local communities or reinforce existing pro-life convictions and pro-life advocacy.
- b) Provide educational materials and opportunities to interested individuals and groups.
- c) Offer assistance to women with unexpected pregnancies through community resources and compassionate concern.
- d) Communicate with elected officials about pro-life issues as they relate to the public office they hold.

The undersigned make a petition for a Chapter Charter of Oregon Right to Life.

Charter Members:

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____



OREGON RIGHT TO LIFE CHANGE IN CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

Officers of _____ Chapter:

Chair: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Co-chair (optional): _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Treasurer: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Secretary: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Meeting Day: _____ Meeting Time: _____

Meeting Place: _____

ANNUAL CHAPTER FINANCIAL STATEMENT



Chapter _____ Calendar Year _____

Chair _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Treasurer _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Cash on hand and/or in the bank as of January 1st

Starting Balance (a) \$ _____

Money Received

Gifts \$ _____

Other Income

_____ \$ _____

_____ \$ _____

_____ \$ _____

_____ \$ _____

Total Income (b) \$ _____

Add lines (a) and (b) (c) \$ _____

Disbursements and Expenditures

_____ \$ _____

_____ \$ _____

_____ \$ _____

_____ \$ _____

_____ \$ _____

_____ \$ _____

Total Disbursements and Expenditures (d) \$ _____

Cash on hand and/or in the bank as of December 31st

Ending balance (e) \$ _____

Return completed form & 12/31 bank statement (if applicable) to the state office by 3/31.



Chapter Board Report

Chapter:

Contact:

Email:

Phone:

Quarter:

What projects has your chapter been working on?

What community events has your chapter been involved in? *(Supporting local PRCs, 40 Days for Life, Community education etc.)*

What resources have you used, and what resources would be helpful to your chapter?

Use additional pages if you like. Please include any pictures you have.



OREGON RIGHT TO LIFE ANNUAL CHAPTER IMPACT REPORT

Chapter Name: _____

Chapter Status: ☐ Active ☐ Associate

Reporting Year: _____

Submitted By: _____

Date Submitted: _____

1. Chapter Meetings

List dates and attendance numbers for all chapter meetings held in the last calendar year:

Date	Attendance Numbers	Other notes (optional)

2. Chapter Leadership

Current Chapter Leaders

Include fair and chapter coordinators, if applicable.

Name	Role	Phone	Email

3. Educational Projects Completed

List all educational or community-education projects completed within the last calendar year. Include brief descriptions and a summary of the community impact.

Project	Date(s)	Description & Impact Summary

4. Other Projects

List all other chapter activities or projects completed in the last calendar year.

5. Volunteer Participation

Include a list, with known contact information, of all volunteers who participated in chapter activities during the last calendar year, including fairs, outreach events, and educational projects. List here or attach a roster.

6. Supports Needed

What support from ORTL does your chapter need to be successful?

7. Additional Information

What else would you like to share about your chapter?

Chapter Resource: Mailing and Data Assistance

The ORTL state office can help your chapter put out mailings and emails. To request mail/email resources, contact the ORTL office to get a link to our Mailing Request Form.

Filling out the [Mailing Request Form](#)

1. Contact information of the member of your chapter that will be directing the mailing
2. Request date and mail date. We do need a minimum of 3 weeks to process and compile mailings.
3. Select services - check all that apply using the descriptions below
 - Data - names, phone numbers, emails, and addresses of identified pro-life advocates and organizations in your area
 - Address labels - ORTL prints labels only, to be affixed on mail pieces printed by your chapter
 - Design/Formatting - primarily editing existing pdfs, however if in need of more comprehensive design creation, let us know and we will work something out
 - Printing & Assembly - ORTL will print, cut, and assemble the mail pieces
 - Bulk mail registration - ORTL and its chapters have a bulk mail permit number for sending 200+ mail pieces at a discounted price. ORTL handles all of the paperwork with the post office
4. Mail piece specs
5. Data Scope
 - There are many individuals in our database that do not regularly interact with ORTL or have not interacted with ORTL in many years. The following questions help us narrow down the list to ensure an effective use of resources.
6. Submit

Our admin team will be in touch shortly after receiving your request form, but if you have any questions while filling it out, please don't hesitate to call the office at 503-463-8563.

Paying for your mailing

After ORTL determines the cost of postage for your mailing, the admin team will reach out and let you know what the cost is. We will then use the funds in your chapter's account at the ORTL office to pay for postage. Questions about your account and available funds can be directed to the Community Outreach Director.

Staff Contacts

The ORTL staff are experts in their fields and can be used as a valuable resource when questions or needs come up in the local community. Call the main ORTL number 503-463-8563 with general questions or to be connected with a specific staff member.

Role	Name	Email	Topics
Community Outreach Director	Makyrá Williamson	makyra@ortl.org	Educational funds & chapter finances, Speakers Bureau, church connections, research/data requests, pro-life communities project
Community Outreach Specialist	Robert Young, Jr.	robert@ortl.org	Chapter support, student contests, fairs, resource/material requests, Community Blueprint
Eastern Oregon Community Outreach Coordinator	Shannon Garlitz	shannon@ortl.org	Eastern OR support
Communications Director	Ashley Sadler	ashley@ortl.org	Local media requests, email advertising
Political Director	Sharolyn Smith	sharolyn@ortl.org	Political questions and doorknocking opportunities
Administrative Assistant	Madison Hoffmeister	madison@ortl.org	Mailing requests or questions



PURPOSE

Oregon Right to Life (ORTL) recognizes the importance of atmosphere and messaging during pro-life events and to preserve the purpose of the event and to protect the participant's experience, disruptions by either pro-choice or other pro-life groups are prohibited.

To maintain ORTL branding, messaging, and consistency at ORTL sponsored events, event organizers, including chapter leaders, are responsible for adhering to the following guidelines:

GUIDELINES

Before the Event

Early Planning and Awareness: Initiate event planning well in advance and conduct a comprehensive review with your team. Acknowledge the potential presence of pro-choice and/or disruptive pro-life groups, and implement proactive precautions as outlined below.

Goal Setting and Anticipation: Clearly define event goals in advance. Anticipate potential interferences and develop strategies to mitigate any disruptions that may arise.

Audience, Venue, and Security Considerations: Evaluate the target audience, venue, and security guidelines when selecting speakers or materials, such as signs, for the event.

Strategic Leadership Assignment: Assign strategic roles to leadership team members, positioning them effectively among participants. Develop communication plans for seamless coordination with the event leader and/or law enforcement during the event.

Familiarization with Conduct Expectations: Ensure that event leaders are familiar with Oregon Right to Life's "Conduct Expectation for Event Participants" in advance. If appropriate, distribute these guidelines to event participants well before the event.

Notification and Permitting: Notify police or sheriff authorities about a month prior to the event. Voluntarily apply for city or county permits through the appropriate department, with a heightened focus on permits for larger events.

Security Assessment: Assess security needs based on the venue and its location. If necessary, establish a dedicated security team capable of handling potential problems.

Group Distinction: Consider implementing a distinctive "uniform" (e.g., hat, t-shirt) to visually distinguish your group from others.

Graphic Image Caution: Avoid using graphic images at public events. Reserve the use of graphic images for non-public events or within personal conversations, strictly with permission.

Documentation of Disruptive Behavior: Evaluate the potential benefits of documenting disruptive behavior through video footage from a distance, a lapel pin, or a decibel counter to monitor noise levels.



Management of Aggressive Behavior Training: Consider providing training for leaders or volunteers at your event in Management of Aggressive Behavior (MOAB).

Promote Goodwill Before the Event

Business Outreach: Notify neighboring businesses about your event, fostering a positive relationship within the local community.

Church and Clergy Notification: Inform churches and clergy about your event, promoting awareness and potential support.

Engagement with Pro-Life Elected Officials: Encourage pro-life elected officials to attend your event, offering them an opportunity to speak if it aligns with the event's objectives and is deemed appropriate.

During an Event

Event Leaders' Responsibilities:

Communication Plan Confirmation: Meet with designated leaders to confirm the communication plan for the event, ensuring seamless coordination.

Strategic Leadership Presence: Have designated leaders go to assigned strategic areas, modeling desired behavior to participants. They can also remind participants of ORTL Conduct Expectations.

Vigilance and Participant Aid: Be vigilant and immediately go to the aid of participants if disruptive behavior occurs, ensuring their safety and well-being.

Emergency Response: Call 911 if needed, taking swift action in case of emergencies or severe disruptions.

Participant Guidance (Provide either verbal or written handout with expectations):

Emphasize Peaceful Atmosphere: Communicate that the event is intended to be peaceful and respectful.

Share Conduct Expectations: Distribute ORTL's Conduct Expectations for Event Participants, outlining guidelines such as refraining from blocking driveways and standing at the back of the sidewalk for pedestrian passage.

Politeness and Calmness Reminder: Remind participants to maintain politeness and remain calm if confronted during the event.

Immediate Notification of Disruptive Behavior: In the event of disruptive behavior, participants should notify the event leader promptly.

Emergency Procedures: If the situation becomes unsafe, participants should leave the area and call the city or county non-emergency phone number. In cases of immediate danger, call 911 for emergency assistance.

Following an Event

Evaluation and Debrief: Conduct an evaluation or debrief of the event at your next leadership meeting, such as a chapter board meeting.

Leaders' Discussion: Allow leaders of the event to discuss each aspect, including successes, challenges, and opportunities for improvement.

Engagement with Local Authorities: Reach out to local authorities as needed for any required follow-up or collaboration.

Volunteer Appreciation: Encourage volunteers with a follow-up email expressing gratitude and providing any necessary explanations of the event proceedings.

Handling Disruptions: If a disruption occurred during the event, discuss as a group whether it may be helpful and productive to reach out to the disruptive group for further understanding or resolution.

Preventive Measures Discussion: Discuss as a group the steps that might be taken in the future to prevent another occurrence of disruptions in your future events.

Guidelines for Disruptive Group Outreach: A Proactive Solution

Preliminary Strategy Meeting: If deemed appropriate, initiate a preliminary meeting with pro-life pastors/leaders on your side to develop a strategic approach.

Neutral Territory Dialogue: Consider engaging in a dialogue with the leader of the oppositional group on neutral territory. Facilitate this meeting with a mediator, such as a local pastor or 40 Days for Life advisor, particularly in cases where there are repeated disruptions caused by oppositional groups.

Meeting with Oppositional or Disruptive Groups:

Common Ground Discussion: Initiate a discussion about shared objectives, emphasizing the mutual goal of ending abortion.

Peaceful Event Emphasis: Emphasize that your events are peaceful, encouraging a calm and kind attitude.

Conduct Expectations Sharing: Share ORTL's Conduct Expectations for Event Participants, fostering understanding and adherence to agreed-upon guidelines.

Respectful Coexistence Proposal: Simply ask if we can agree to disagree and respectfully allow each other to hold our separate events at separate dates and locations to establish a foundation for peaceful coexistence.