



Will You Take the Baton?

When I look back over 20 years, I remember some of the key events happening at Concerned Women for America. In 1985, CWA moved its national office from San Diego, where my husband and I lived at the time, to Washington, D.C.

Then in 1986, I made my first fact-finding mission to Nicaragua to determine how CWA could help the refugees living there in camps. Also that year I had the opportunity to testify in Supreme Court confirmation hearings for now-Justice Antonin Scalia.

While the national office was minding developments in the nation's capital, one of CWA's faithful prayer warriors was launching her Prayer/Action Chapter in Orange County, California. Margaret Matthews, of Laguna Beach, is retiring this month (January) after 20 years of leading her chapter. I think she may have set a record, and I am delighted to honor her in this column.

Next month, Margaret passes the baton to Pat Herrick, a long-time chapter member.

Some of you readers may be more familiar with CWA staff members speaking out on news programs or lobbying in Congress. But the backbone of CWA consists of some 600 prayer/action chapters around the country, where ladies meet monthly to pray and act on pressing issues. These are the principles upon which I founded CWA in 1979.

For all these years, Margaret has faithfully called together her chapter members to pray for concerns facing our nation. She has used the issues and prayer requests contained in the *Prayer/Action Newsletter*, which our field department provides monthly to all our leaders in the field. They pray and then follow a suggested action, such as writing or calling their legislators on a specific piece of legislation.



Margaret Matthews (center, in gray) is retiring from leading her Prayer/Action Chapter, shown here, after 20 years.

Margaret has added speakers to her chapter meetings, and the ladies enjoy the fellowship so much that they usually have lunch together.

Undergirding everything CWA does are faithful women who are earnestly interceding for our nation. To Margaret, I want to offer a personal thank you, and may God bless you for your faithfulness.

I'd like to encourage other CWA members to start or join a Prayer/Action Chapter. For more information, visit www.cwfa.org/states, or call 1-800-964-2203.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Beverly LaHaye". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Beverly LaHaye
Founder and Chairman