



AFFILIATED WITH THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION

D.S.S.A. NEWS

DELAWARE STATE SPORTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION
A PUBLICATION OF THE DELAWARE STATE SPORTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Visit us on the web: DSSA.us
P.O. Box 94, Lincoln, DE 19960



Merry Christmas

Happy New Year

Happy Hanukkah

Vote to Increase Hunting Fees Failed at Advisory Council on Wildlife & Freshwater Fish Meeting

The original hunting license fee increase packaged proposed by the Delaware Division of Fish & Wildlife was not approved by the Advisory Council on Wildlife & Freshwater Fish at a meeting held in Dover on December 9.

Possible increases to Delaware hunting and trapping license fees were discussed at several public workshops held by Delaware's Division of Fish & Wildlife during the first week of December.

Division of Fish & Wildlife figures show a hunting license revenue shortfall greater than \$310,000 in 2013, and an estimated shortfall of nearly \$430,000 for fiscal year 2015. Revenue shortfalls, caused by decreasing sales of hunting licenses (due to increasing numbers of license exemptions for seniors and fewer new hunters), by a \$430,000 loss in state-appropriated general funds, and by increasing operating costs, have led to the State's inability to maximize funding from the Robertson Act.

Through the Pittman-Robertson Act, funding is provided for wildlife restoration; habitation acquisition, development and management; hunter education; and public shooting range development, operation and maintenance. Funds come from an 11 percent federal excise tax on sporting firearms, ammunition, and archery equipment, and a 10 percent tax on handguns. These funds are apportioned to states using formulas that consider each state's total area its number of licensed hunters.

Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife says that each dollar of state hunting license revenue could bring in an additional three dollars of federal Pittman-Robertson funds. However, Delaware's license revenue shortfall of \$429,674 prevents \$1.29 million of matching in federal Pittman-Robertson funds, resulting in a total lost funding opportunity of \$1.72 million per year.

The Division of Fish & Wildlife cut costs in 2014, including reducing hours at the Ommelanden Shooting Range, eliminating or reducing wildlife food plot and dove hunting sunflower plantings, reducing seasonal staff, reducing the number of days that wildlife areas are open to hunting, and reducing other maintenance and operational activities.

Several major concerns were raised at the workshops and at the December 9 meeting. Some hunters are concerned that new fees may be too high. Some hunters question why costs are not being passed along to non-hunters. Others want to make sure license fees will be put to good use. And most question why it is still illegal to hunt on Sundays in Delaware. Additionally, DSSA raised concerns regarding the new fee authority granted by the 147th General Assembly in section 93 of the House Bill 425 Epilogue. DSSA opposes any increases in Hunting, Trapping and/or Fishing license fees at this time. DSSA questions DNREC's legal authority to increase statutory fees without prior authorization by the Delaware General Assembly, citing a prior Supreme Court decision pertaining to the Separation of Powers Doctrine and an analysis by its own attorneys which indicates that the Epilogue language DNREC is relying upon does not pertain to those fees.

DSSA also wants to see each of the following issues addressed and resolved before any meaningful discussion of increased hunting, trapping and fishing fees can be discussed:

1. Repeal the regulation (arguably unconstitutional) that bans the carrying of otherwise lawful firearms in state parks – at least for concealed carry permit holders.
2. Amend 7 Del. C. § 704 so as to make clear that persons possessing a valid Concealed Carry Permit issued by the state of Delaware may carry a handgun while hunting.
3. Repeal the ban on Sunday Hunting
4. Provide a public accounting for how much P&R money the State has received and how it has been used over the past 10 years.

Since some of these items require legislative action, DSSA and NRA will be leading the way in enacting required changes. We recognize the need to help Delaware's hunters and trappers, but we will not blindly accept questionable fee increases.

INVITATION

You are cordially invited to attend DSSA's
2015 Second Amendment Freedom Banquet
February 27, 2015
featuring



NRA's Chris Cox
Executive Director of NRA's Institute for Legislative
Action
At the Modern Maturity Center
1121 Forrest Ave. Dover, Delaware
For Tickets call
Carolyn Thompson at 302-697-6769.

ATTENTION CLUBS, BUSINESSES, ORGANIZATIONS & INDIVIDUALS

As you can see from the announcement contained elsewhere in this newsletter, the Delaware State Sportsmen's Association is hosting its 2nd Annual Second Amendment Freedom Banquet at the Modern Maturity Center in Dover on February 27, 2015, where NRA's Chris Cox will be our keynote speaker.

We will once again have a Silent Auction and a very limited Live Auction - Delaware Registration plate number "NRA 6" will be among the limited number of items in the Live Auction.

And we will have another "Program Booklet" featuring those who support DSSA and our work to preserve, protect, defend and expand the right to keep and bear arms in Delaware.

- Clubs, businesses, organizations and individuals purchasing a complete table (10 tickets) will be recognized by having their names appear in the table for all to see
- Clubs, businesses, organizations and individuals can purchase either a full-page (\$100) or a half-page (\$50) in the Program Booklet as a way of showing their support
- Clubs, businesses, organizations and individuals who wish to donate items for either the Live Auction or the Silent Auction will have their names appear with the item donated so that those bidding on those items will be able to see your support of DSSA's pro-gun, pro-hunting efforts in Delaware
- All clubs, all businesses, all organizations, and all individuals who donate to the success of this dinner will be recognized on the "Donor Page" of the Program Booklet.

This is a great opportunity for every club, every business, every organization, and every individual to contribute to the

cause of Firearm Freedom in Delaware and to proudly announce to others that they support DSSA's efforts to protect, defend and expand the rights of all Delawareans to keep and bear arms for "defense of self, family, home and State, and for hunting and recreation". (DEL. CON. ART. I§20)

For specific details about how you, your club, your organization, or your business can contribute to the Silent Auction or Live Auction, or how to get your name or the name of your club or business or organization on your table or on the Donor's Page of the Program Booklet, please call Carolyn Thompson at 302-697-6769 – or contact any member of the DSSA Board of Directors.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

The **Annual Meeting of Members of the Delaware State Sportsmen's Association, Inc.** will be held on Sunday, January 25, 2015 at the FOP Lodge located on Kitts Hummock Road in Dover, Delaware. This will be a corporate business meeting.

Doors will open at 12 Noon, and the corporate business meeting will commence at 1 pm. Limited light refreshments will be available.

If you have not already renewed your membership for 2015, or if you want to up-grade your membership, this Annual Meeting of Members is a great opportunity to do so.

This is also a great opportunity to purchase your tickets for the **2nd Amendment Freedom Banquet** featuring NRA-ILA Executive Director Chris Cox to be held at the Modern Maturity Center in Dover on Friday evening, February 27, 2015.

STATUS REPORT

Foster W. Rennie Memorial Cup



As you will remember, in September of this year, the Foster W. Rennie Memorial Cup was approved by the NRA's Smallbore Rifle Committee for introduction into NRA national championship competition for presentation to the High Collegiate Competitor in the Conventional Smallbore Rifle, 3-Position, Metallic Sights at the national Smallbore Championships. Pursuant to NRA's internal procedures, the Smallbore Rifle Committee then referred the matter for consideration and review by the Competitions Rules and Programs Committee which is made up of the Chairs of the various NRA competitive shooting committees.

On Sunday, December 7, 2015, the NRA's Competitions Rules and programs Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the Board of Directors accept the Foster W. Rennie Memorial Cup into National Competition.

The Board of Directors will consider this matter on January 10, 2015 during its Winter Board Meeting which will be held in

Birmingham, Alabama. If approved by NRA's Board of Directors, this will join the "Alves Trophy" in national competition and will be the second National Championship Trophy donated to NRA by DSSA in conjunction with family members in memory of outstanding Delawareans who dedicated their lives to the NRA, the Second Amendment and to the youth who are the future of the shooting sports in the United States of America.

The Rennie Family and the DSSA Board of Directors thank all of you who contributed to this project – THANK YOU!

2014 DELAWARE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ELECTION RESULTS
"PROGNOSIS FOR THE FUTURE"

The 148th Delaware General Assembly is due to convene on January 13, 2015. For Delaware's gun owners, sportsmen and hunters this means that we can expect a new round of attacks on your right to keep and bear arms for lawful purposes as well as a new round of taxes and fees designed to negatively impact your ability to exercise your right to keep and bear arms in a responsible manner.

Based upon the results of the 2014 elections, here's what the four caucuses will look like in terms of legislative ratings.

DELAWARE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Majority Caucus (Democrat)	Minority Caucus (Republican)
A+ Rated = 1	A+ Rated= 6
A Rated= 3	A Rated= 7
B+ Rated= 0	B+ rated= 1
B Rated= 0	B Rated= 1
C Rated= 2	C Rated= 1
D rated= 8	D Rated = 0
F Rated= 11	F Rated= 0

DELAWARE SENATE

Majority Caucus (Democrat)	Minority Caucus (Republican)
A+ Rated= 0	A+ Rated= 6
A Rated= 1	A Rated = 1
B Rated= 1	B Rated = 0
C+ Rated= 1	C+ Rated = 0
C Rated = 1	C Rated = 0
C- Rated = 0	C- Rated = 2
D Rated = 2	D Rated = 0
D- Rated = 2	D- Rated = 0
F Rated = 4	F Rated = 0

And, of course, we retained our 2-term, F Rated Governor who is joined by a new F Rated Attorney General – the good news is that we lost an F Rated Lt. Governor, thus eliminating an F Rated tie-breaker in the Senate.

Looking at these results, we can see that we have a total of 17 probable pro-gun votes in the House that we have every reason to believe will vote on the side of your constitutional right to keep and bear arms on the vast majority of issues. Add to that another 2 House members who can be expected to vote on behalf of Delaware's gun owners and hunters most

of the time, and another 3 who can be counted on to defend your rights at least some of the time.

Unfortunately, we will also have to endure the pain of at least 11 House members who will invariably vote against your right to keep and bear arms at every opportunity and another 8 House members who will probably join those 11 whenever asked to do so. All of this means, of course, that it will be more important than ever for you – Delaware's pro-gun voters and activists – to ramp up your efforts to positively influence the House members from your district and to encourage them to remember that the right to keep and bear arms is a fundamental, God-given right which is protected by the Delaware Constitution.

It also means that the margins in the House are very close and that the "center" or "swing" votes are the most important votes on any issue in the House. The same is true in the Senate.

The good news in the Senate is that there will be at least 8 Senators who are likely to take their oath of office seriously and can be expected to stand shoulder to shoulder with Delaware's hunters, gun owners and sportsmen on (hopefully) all of issues. These 8 courageous and conscientious Senators will be joined by at least 2 more Senators on most issues of interest and importance to you, while another 3 can be counted upon to vote with you and your interests at least some of the time.

But here's the bad news in the Senate: There are at least 4 Senators who can be expected to actively attack your right to keep and bear arms at almost any time and on every issue. These four will probably be joined by another 4 Senators whose records indicate no love for you, your guns, your right to hunt or your need to defend yourself, your home or your family. Again, the margins in the Senate are very close, indeed – and the "center" or "swing" votes will determine whether we win or lose on almost every issue.

So, while the picture in the Senate is not nearly as bleak as the picture in the House, the bottom line is that the 148th General Assembly will, in all likelihood, be marginally better for Delaware's gun owners, hunters and sportsmen than was the 147th General Assembly – but only if you, your friends and neighbors step to the plate on a regular basis to respectfully call, email, fax, write and visit with these legislators on a regular basis to politely remind them that you expect them to stand with the law-abiding people of Delaware by defending and respecting the rights protected by Article I § 20 which unequivocally guarantees that " A person has the right to keep and bear arms for defense of self, family, home and state, and for hunting and recreation." Please politely remind your legislators of these very important words whenever you possibly can.

NATIONAL ELECTION REPORT
By Chris Cox, Executive Director – NRA-ILA

With the Louisiana runoffs now behind us, I wanted to give you a brief overview of the NRA's efforts in the 2014

midterm elections and the success of those efforts. The NRA did more in this election cycle than any in our history. But not just more overall activity – more targeted activity designed to specifically reach and motivate Second Amendment supporters across the country. As a result, we are now in an even stronger position in Congress, Governor's mansions and state legislatures nationwide.

To give you an example of the amount of our activity in this election cycle, the number of our mail pieces and phone calls to Second Amendment supporters across the country totaled 38 million. We ran tens of millions of targeted television, radio and digital ads. In addition to our hundreds of Election Volunteer Coordinators, we deployed two dozen Campaign Field Representatives in key areas who in turn recruited tens of thousands of volunteers and supporters; made over 175,000 specifically targeted GOTV phone calls; and knocked on nearly 50,000 doors of identified Second Amendment voters.

At the federal level, we were successful in over 90 percent of our races. For the U.S. Senate, we focused the majority of our independent expenditure activity in AR, CO, GA, IA, LA, KS, KY, NC, NE, MT, SD and WV – races in which there was a clear choice for gun owners. Our endorsed candidates won in each of those states. As a result, majority control will switch in the 114th Congress, with NRA-endorsed Mitch McConnell replacing Harry Reid as Majority Leader. The new breakdown will be 54 Republicans, 44 Democrats and 2 Independents (both of whom caucus with the Democrats). This represents the first time that more than two incumbent Senate Democrats were defeated since 1980.

In races for the U.S. House, we focused the majority of our independent expenditure activity in a handful of races that presented a clear choice for gun owners. Those were AZ-2, AR-2, CA-21, CO-6, FL-2, FL-26, IA-3, MI-1, MN-8, NH-1, NH-2, NY-19, OH-14, PA-6 and VA-10. Our endorsed candidates won in the overwhelming majority of those races. As a result, the new breakdown will be 246 Republicans and 188 Democrats, with one race still not called. This represents the largest margin for Republicans in the U.S. House since 1946.

The race that has not yet been finalized, as it is undergoing a mandatory recount, is a notable one – AZ-2. As you might recall, this is Gabby Giffords' former seat. Her former district director, Ron Barber, has held the seat since Giffords left Congress. The race pitted Barber against NRA-endorsed Martha McSally, a former Air Force Colonel. The gun control group Americans for Responsible Solutions, founded by Giffords and her husband Mark Kelly, made this race their top priority, spending more than \$2 million to re-elect Barber. To that end, they ran numerous television ads savagely attacking McSally on the gun issue. McSally currently leads Barber by 161 votes in the recount.

In state and local races, we also achieved a success rate of over 90 percent. At the gubernatorial level, NRA-endorsed candidates won critical elections in FL, GA, ID, KS, MD, ME, TX and WI, among others. The race for FL Governor, pitting incumbent Rick Scott against former governor Charlie Crist,

was especially close, and NRA has been credited with making the difference in that election.

Also notable at the gubernatorial level was the race for MD Governor, which pitted NRA-endorsed Larry Hogan against current Lt. Governor Anthony Brown. Brown, backed by gun control groups and Michael Bloomberg, ran television ads attacking Hogan specifically on the gun issue. Despite being in a solidly blue state, Hogan stood strong in the face of these attacks and won by a 52-47 margin.

In every election cycle there are surprises and disappointments – and this one was no different. While there were a handful of losses, the results clearly show that the big losers in the 2014 midterm elections were Michael Bloomberg, the gun control groups, and candidates who either supported gun control or tried to hide their anti-gun votes or positions. The majority of the American people, and certainly of the American people who vote, support our Second Amendment freedoms and this organization remains their most trusted voice.

That said, we still face the most well-funded and well-organized opposition in our history, who will attack us at every opportunity. So despite a great election cycle for the Second Amendment and our members, we must remain vigilant in defending our freedoms, whether in Congress, the state legislatures, the courts, the international arena or on the ballot.

I look forward to seeing you at the DSSA's Second Amendment Freedom Banquet in Dover on February 27th.

FBI: U.S. Murder Rate Fell Again in 2013 (and Other Bad News for Gun Control Supporters)

Posted on November 14, 2014

All categories of violent and property crime declined from 2012 to 2013, the FBI has announced, in conjunction with the release of its annual crime report for 2013.

From 2012 to 2013, the nation's murder rate decreased five percent, to at least a 57-year low. The 2013 rate was down 56 percent from the all-time high recorded in 1980, and down 54 percent since 1991, when total violent crime hit an all-time high.

We say that the 2013 murder rate was "at least" a 57-year low, because it may well have set an even more impressive record. Mathematical projections accounting for the change in the FBI's data reporting methodology in 1957 indicate that the 2013 rate was lower than any time since at least 1935, which translates into a 78-year low. There is even reason to believe that additional computations may reveal that the 2013 rate was at or near the lowest in American history.

The nation's total violent crime rate, which includes murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault, decreased five percent between 2012 and 2013, to a 43-year low, down 52 percent since the all-time high recorded in 1991. Rape fell seven percent, to a 40-year low, down 40 percent since 1991. Robbery fell 3.5 percent, to a 46-year low, down 60 percent

since 1991. And aggravated assault fell 5.6 percent, to a 39-year low, down 47 percent since 1991. Crime data for years 1960-2012 are available from the online FBI UCR Data Tool and data for previous years are found in hard copies of the FBI's Crime in the United States reports.

While Americans acquired between 135-140 million new firearms from the end of 1991 through the end of 2013, the nation's violent crime rate decreased in 19 of those 22 years.

And that inspires us to reminisce.

In the 1970s, the Brady Campaign--then known as the National Council to Control Handguns and as Handgun Control, Inc.--predicted "consequences . . . terrible to imagine" if Americans continued to buy handguns. Americans owned 40 million handguns when the anti-gun group first made that prediction, and now we own over 100 million.

Alas, now we realize what the group meant by "terrible consequences." Consequences NOT for the American people, but for gun control supporters whose agenda depends on convincing people that more guns necessarily means more crime.

Record-Level of Support for Guns in the Home

Posted on November 14, 2014

Score this one as a victory for the judgment of the American people.

For decades, anti-gun groups have been trying to scare Americans into getting rid of their guns, with the claim that you're more likely to have a problem if you have guns in your home, than if you don't. But whatever they've been doing all these years apparently hasn't been working. Not only have Americans been acquiring guns at record levels, Gallup recently reported that 63 percent of Americans now believe that having guns at home makes them safer, nearly double the percentage reporting the same belief 14 years ago.

Furthermore, Gallup found, support for having guns at home is shared by majorities of men and women, white and other Americans, people in all major geographic regions of the country, and Republicans and Independents. Only among Democrats does a majority still believe that having a gun at home makes them less safe.

Gallup's findings are, in a word, huge. Ever since the mid-1980s, anti-gun activists have realized that to achieve their goal, they can't attack only handguns, or compact handguns, like they did in the 1970s and early 1980s. Instead, they now attack gun ownership in general, with a particular emphasis on dissuading parents from introducing guns of any kind to their children, believing that children who aren't introduced to guns won't become gun owners as adults.

Most obviously, the fact that anti-gun groups now target guns of all types is evident in the groups' names. The National Coalition to Ban Handguns has been renamed the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence. The National Council to

Control Handguns has been renamed the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence. Newer groups have taken the names Mayors Against Illegal Guns, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense, and the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence.

Additionally, whereas in the late 1980s, anti-gun activists wanted a waiting period on retail handgun sales, now they want a background check on commercial and private sales and trades of all guns. They complain about "gun" nuts, the "gun" culture, the "gun" lobby, and the "gun" industry. Even mentioning the word "gun" or wearing a T-shirt with the image of any kind of gun can get a kid suspended from school (and sometimes even arrested). And the words "gun" or "guns" appeared 13 times in President Obama's list of 23 executive actions on "gun violence," issued in January 2013.

The anti-gun Washington Post covered Gallup's new findings last week, but found it "interesting" that "even as people are increasingly embracing the idea of guns in the home, the number of homes with guns in them hasn't really risen." With a little additional research, however, the Post would have found Gallup's explanation for the trend in household gun ownership reported to pollsters.

Referring to the period during and immediately after the Clinton Administration's campaign against guns, Gallup said, "A clear societal change took place regarding gun ownership in the early 1990s, when the percentage of Americans saying there was a gun in their home or on their property dropped from the low to mid-50s into the low to mid-40s and remained at that level for the next 15 years. Whether this reflected a true decline in gun ownership *or a cultural shift in Americans' willingness to say they had guns is unclear.*" (Emphasis added.)

Gallup's finding that personal safety is the top reason that Americans own guns today, and its finding in 2008 that 73 percent of Americans believe the Second Amendment protects an individual right to keep and bear arms, clearly show where the American people stand. The news that most Americans believe that guns enhance their safety at home should cause anti-gun activists to re-think not only their strategy, but the point of their disarmament crusade.

BRIDGEVILLE & CABELA'S MAKE HISTORY

A whole new chapter was added to Delaware's competitive shooting history during the weekend of November 7-9, 2015, when the Bridgeville Rifle & Pistol Club hosted the 1st Annual Cabela's Mid-Atlantic Long Range Regional Championship on its relative new 1,000 yard range.

Shooters from almost a dozen states began gathering at the Bridgeville range on Friday for practice sessions and team matches, followed by a late lunch/early dinner in the club house. Shooters new to the range at first expressed optimism that "this range doesn't look that hard", only to find that the prevailing southwesterly winds could be tricky, and at times reached gusts approaching 35 miles per hour – so much for "easy". Those who arrived in time to fire either practice or team matches on Friday were very happy that they had done

so when they took to the range on Saturday and Sunday for the Individual Aggregate matches.

Saturday saw a total of 59 shooters go to the line to fire three matches consisting of 20 rounds each at 1,000 yards. Among those shooters were a total of 17 “sling shooters” firing Match Rifle,



15 shooters firing Palma Rifle,



plus two additional “sling shooters” firing in the “Optic” category.

These 34 “sling shooters” were joined on the line by a total of 25 F-Class shooters, 17 of whom fired in the F-Open category



and 8 of whom fired in the F-T/R category.



Among these F-Class shooters were two members of Team USA, Don Nagel who fires as a member of the USA F-Open Team and Nik Taylor who fires as a member of the USA F-T/R Team. Nik is also the reigning world F-T/R Champion.

The level of competition on Saturday was exactly what you would expect in a Regional Tournament, with 12 of the Match Rifle competitors firing as High Masters and almost half of the Palma Rifle competitors firing in the High Master Class – and the scores reflected that level of expertise.

Leading the Match Rifle category by winning Match #1 with a score of 199-9x ahead of Nathan Sanders who won Match #2 with a score of 197-9x and Match #3 with a 197-6x, was Delaware’s own Jon Howell with a three-match Saturday aggregate of 589-20x, just three points ahead of Sanders who finished the day with an impressive 586-18x, and only five points ahead of third place finisher Charlie Trickett who closed out the day with an aggregate score of 584-29x. Thus, the stage was set for Sunday’s face-off between these three very fine High Master Match Rifle competitors.

And, oh by the way, did I tell you about the wind – it did blow... and how!

Competition among the Palma Rifle competitors was even stiffer and the scores even closer during Saturday’s shooting. High Master shooter Nate Guernsey of “Team Remington” lead the way among the Palma competitors by winning Match #1 with a score of 200-12x and a three match Saturday aggregate score of 589-26x. Nate was followed by Master Class shooter Robert Hudson who won Match #3 with a score of 200-12x and a three match Saturday aggregate score of 587-26x, edging out Bridgeville Club member, New Jersey resident High Master shooter Angel Rodriguez by only 4 x’s when he posted a Saturday aggregate score of 587-22x.

Reigning World F-T/R Champion Nik Taylor posted Sunday scores of 196-6x in Match #4 and 193-5x in Match #5 to win the two-day Regional Championship aggregate in F-T/R with a score of 960-23x, beating Second Place Winner Todd Strasavich by 9 points on the day and 16 points on the two-day Regional aggregate after Todd posted a 944-9x on the five-match aggregate.

In the F-Open category, Don Nagel, Keith Trapp and Bridgeville’s own Keith Weil continued their duel on Sunday with Don winning Match #5 with a 198-8x and Keith Trapp winning Match #4 with a 199-10x, while Keith Weil proved that consistency is the key to success by posting Second Place finishes in both Matches #4 and #5 with scores of 199-7x and 198-6x, respectively and a five-match, two-day Regional aggregate score of 984-38x to place Second behind Regional F-Open Winner Keith Trapp’s 987-40x and ahead of Don Nagel’s Third Place score of 983-40x.

In addition to the NRA Regional Championship Medallions each of the Regional Match Rifle, Palma Rifle F-Open Rifle and F-T/R Rifle Champions won a \$250 gift certificate donated by Cabela’s. Additionally, proving beyond a doubt that this was truly a “Mid-Atlantic Regional event, the High Resident shooters in each of those four rifle categories from Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey and New York received awards from their home NRA State Associations.

Bridgeville members Jon Howell, Tom Snodgrass and Paul Williams each won High Delaware Resident honors in their respective categories. Other members of the Bridgeville Rifle & Pistol Club winning High resident awards from their respective NRA State Associations were Tom Guercio and Rich Kussman from Maryland, plus Mike Schallow and Angel Rodriguez from New Jersey.

To say that Bridgeville’s (and Delaware’s) first Long Range NRA Regional was a success would be a huge understatement, to say the least. Everyone seemed happy with the way the match was run and several competitors asked to be put on the list for next year’s Cabela’s Mid-Atlantic Long Range Regional – because there is no doubt that the 2015 event will sell out early.

By the time it was all over, between Cabela’s, Remington, Asbury Precision Ordinance and many other sponsors, over \$15,000 in prizes and products were awarded to the shooters.

Congratulations to the Bridgeville Rifle & Pistol Club on a job well done – and thank you, Bridgeville, for adding yet another positive chapter to Delaware’s well-deserved competitive shooting legend.

Congratulations to all!

House Committee Faults FDIC for Participation in Operation Choke Point

In May, we reported on a House Oversight and Government Reform Committee exposé that substantiated improper activities by the Department of Justice (DOJ) under the guise of Operation Choke Point. While DOJ insisted that the operation was meant to protect the soundness of America’s financial system by targeting fraudulent businesses, the committee report concluded that the true goal of the operation was to “choke out” legitimate industries that regulators considered objectionable. Among others, these included firearm and ammunition sales.

A new report by the committee, “Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation’s Involvement in ‘Operation Choke Point,’” makes equally damning findings about the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the “primary federal regulator of state-chartered banks” outside the Federal Reserve System. According to the report, FDIC officials “targeted legal industries” and deliberately portrayed disfavored business types as “high-risk” to send a “message” to banks about the regulatory consequences of dealing with them. They did so, moreover, based on FDIC officials’ own judgments about the moral standing of these industries as a whole, rather than on the compliance and financial performance of individual companies. The report also concludes that a senior FDIC official’s statements under oath to Congress materially mischaracterized the degree of cooperation between the FDIC and DOJ in implementing the program, as well as the program’s intentional targeting of specific business sectors. “As a consequence of Operation Choke Point,” the report states, “banks are indiscriminately terminating business relationships with legal and legitimate merchants across a variety of business lines.”

In particular, the report cites several examples of firearm and ammunition businesses that have suffered the ill-effects of banks being effectively forced to drop lawful and well-performing clients. “The experience of firearms and ammunition dealers – one of the most heavily regulated businesses in the United States – is a testament to the destructive and unacceptable impact of Operation Choke Point,” it states. It further notes how in representative cases, “the financial institutions and payment processors made no reference to the merchants’ creditworthiness, individual risk profile, or due diligence findings.” Rather, the “sole basis for the termination is their participation in an industry deemed ‘high risk’ by federal regulators.” Indeed, the animosity of federal regulators toward firearm and ammunition sellers was so well understood that at least one private producer of compliance and risk management training software for bank

employees included a related warning within its program. Ludicrously and without justification, it advises, “Arms and Ammunition Dealers are identified as higher risk businesses because they have a higher risk of being associated with terrorism and terrorist acts.”

Just what caused the FDIC to lump in firearm and ammunition sales with such inherently fraudulent or improper operations as Ponzi schemes, “Racist Materials,” and drug paraphernalia? The FDIC has not offered an official explanation. While it purported to identify criteria common to “high risk merchants,” none of these factors applied to the gun shops victimized by the operation. Under federal law, retail firearms sales must occur in face-to-face transactions between licensed dealers and customers, leaving a paper trail that remains accessible to law enforcement officers and compliance auditors. Yet the FDIC’s claimed risk factors included, “1) the consumer’s lack of familiarity with the merchant, 2) uncertainty with respect to the quality of goods and services being offered, 3) online or telephonic sales, and 4) the consumer’s ability to verify the identity or legitimacy of the merchant.”

The report impliedly offered another potential explanation in a lengthy examination of how FDIC regulators characterized another targeted business, payday lenders. “Personal animus toward payday lending,” it states, “is apparent throughout the documents produced to the Committee.” This even included one senior FDIC official’s directive to “always mention pornography when discussing payday lending,” the better to “convey ‘a good picture regarding the unsavory nature of the businesses’” on the “high risk” list.

Needless to say, the current administration’s attitude toward the firearm and ammunition industry is similarly condemning. President Obama last year characterized congressional rejection of his demands for gun control as “shameful,” and alleged the “gun lobby and its allies willfully lied” about the expanded background check bill defeated in the Senate. More recently, outgoing U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder called the administration’s inability to translate the horror of Newtown into increased federal gun control “something that I take personally as a failure.” While the report leaves open the question of how high up the chain of command creation of Choke Point’s target list reached, numerous federal officials obviously concluded that firearm and ammunition sales should similarly be treated as obscene.

House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chairman Darrell Issa (R-Cal.) is to be commended on his leadership in pursuing and exposing the corruption of Operation Choke Point. Internal investigators at DOJ and FDIC are even now pursuing formal inquiries into the program and the officials and staff involved. Hopefully this will lead to more transparency and accountability. It should also be a recurring theme in vetting Eric Holder’s replacement as U.S. attorney general.

**MEMBERSHIP FEES AND DONATIONS,
PLEASE TAKE NOTE:**

Our Organization exists and is sustained by the membership fees and donations we receive annually. Please note that we appreciate and need your support more than ever. Our membership has virtually doubled in the past few months and with this infusion of support DSSA can and plans to move forward in areas and ways we have not been able to do before. We ask that when making donations to DSSA or DFLA that you use a separate check for each organization. This will ensure that the monies will be used as you the member/donator would have us use it. To help in this area, DSSA has set out to allow online payments and registration for membership. As you read this, provisions are being made to facilitate credit card usage in a secure manner to make payments and to donate. THANK YOU

DSSA NEWS

The DSSA NEWS is a bi-monthly publication of the Delaware State Sportsmen's Association. It is distributed to each member as a benefit of membership. Additional copies are provided to elected officials and other NRA state associations. If you would like to contribute to the DSSA NEWS please submit your material to jeff.hague@dssa.us. Questions or concerns may be sent to the same address.

Mail Delivery Option

If you have paid dues at the full rate of \$25.00 per year you may elect to receive your newsletter through the USPS. To make a change please contact DSSA Membership Secretary, William D. Bell at:

dabll@comcast.net or 302- 245-4822.

DELAWARE STATE SPORTSMEN'S
ASSOCIATION P.O. BOX 94
LINCOLN DE 19960
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED