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D.S.S.A. NEWS

DELAWARE STATE SPORTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION
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HB 88 (Mental Health Bill)

Late Monday night, prior to Tuesday's vote in the House, the DSSA Second Amendment Action Alert Network put out a Call for Action, asking everyone to call their House member to tell them to oppose HB 88 in its then-current form - and you did! Because of your action NRA and DSSA were able to have our amendments considered and included in the final version. Good job!

HB 88 was on a fast track toward passage and if it hadn't been for all of your calls and emails, and if it hadn't been for the letter from NRA-ILA State Liaison Shannon Alford to all legislators, a very bad bill would have become the law of Delaware. But because of your efforts and the efforts of our team in Legislative Hall, disaster was averted and we now have a much better bill wending its way over to the Senate - a bill that might actually do some good in making our mental health system actually work. Because of YOUR actions, HB 88 now does not infringe upon the constitutional rights of law-abiding Delaware citizens of sound mind. We applaud all of the legislators of both parties who helped to make this happen.

Unlike all of the other bills being pushed by the Markell/Biden regime, HB 88 was a legitimate attempt to address the mental health issues raised by the tragedies at Newtown, CT and elsewhere. Because of that, HB 88 deserved legitimate consideration and would have passed either with or without DSSA and NRA amendments - and that's a fact. Because of your efforts and your response to Monday night's Action Alert, HB 88 now contains many of the safeguards Delaware needed.

Here are just some of the safeguards that are now in the bill that probably would not have been included without your help and without NRA and DSSA oversight and participation:

1. Adequate due process safeguards are now in place that can ensure that only the truly mentally ill individual who clearly manifests a danger to self or others will be impacted by the bill
2. The burden upon the state to prove that a mentally ill person poses a legitimate danger to self or others is now the same standard that is used for involuntary commitment of a mental patient into a mental institution - "clear and convincing evidence" - that is the highest civil burden of proof available. The "clear & convincing" standard is consistent with the right to keep and bear arms being a fundamental right.
3. Only real, licensed and duly certified "mental health professionals" will be involved in the process.

4. Guns and ammo of a person duly adjudicated to be mentally ill and proven to pose a danger to self or others can now be turned over to family members for safe keeping, sale or disposal - they do not have to be relinquished to the police in most cases.
5. Law-abiding members of the mentally ill person's household will now fully retain their individual right to keep and bear arms.
6. There will be no adverse action taken against a person deemed mentally ill without due process of law, including the right to appear and defend and the right of appeal
7. The process for adjudication is a multiple step, multi-tier process during which the Superior Court serves as the ultimate decision maker (subject to appeal), not some politically motivated police officer, prosecutor or bureaucrat.
8. The bill contains a provision for the return of firearms relinquished pursuant to this procedure.
9. The impact of the bill will be prospective, only, and cannot be used to go back in time looking for cases to bring before the court.
10. Hearings will be private, closed and confidential so as to maintain the privacy of the person who is alleged to be mentally ill and that person's family.

With your help and your support we accomplished a lot. But our job is not yet done.

As this bill goes to the Senate, NRA and DSSA will be working to make the protections already in the bill even stronger and more robust. HB 88 is now in the hands of our attorneys to determine what further amendments might be offered during Senate proceedings to further ensure overall fairness and to protect the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens of sound mind. We believe that a full and in-depth examination of HB 88 by our attorneys will probably show that there is still room for improvement and for that reason you may rest assured that NRA and DSSA will continue our efforts on behalf of all law-abiding gun owners here in Delaware.

Your continued support and your participation will be of great value as this fight moves to the Senate.

Call your State Senator today and politely ask him or her to work with the NRA and the DSSA to further ensure that your rights are fully protected by HB 88.

Contact information for the Delaware State Senate may be found on the DSSA Web Site <http://dssa.us/>

HOUSTON 2013 NRA ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

By: Mark Garfinkel

I would like all those who read this article to use the information I am providing as a guide looking towards Indianapolis in 2014.

With exhibit space exceeding 639,000 sq. ft., and another 600,000 sq. ft. of meeting rooms, classrooms, ballrooms, theaters, 240 NRA staff, 500 NRA volunteers, over 450 exhibitors and their staff, and, most importantly, the friendliest 86,228 attendees (NRA official count) from all over the country, you can easily see that all this can be overwhelming at first.

This is my third annual meeting in four (4) years and, to date, the best and largest (thank you, Houston). I am just now learning the lay of the land (NRA land, that is). With seven (7) days of meetings and events scheduled, I would like this article to be a "How To Guide" for all of you planning on attending future NRA conventions, and a 2013 report of what I learned from the Houston convention.

First, set several goals for the meeting. My first was to learn more about our organization. I attended the entire membership meeting on Saturday and the Board of Directors meeting on Monday. I would like to thank John Sigler for answering all my endless questions. On Monday, at the Board of Directors meeting, it was announced that the Harrisburg, PA show is going to be sponsored by the NRA.

The next goal was to organize my time around the different seminars being offered on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. My passion is education and training, and my choices were directed by those seminars that fit the bill.

The next goal and biggest challenge was navigating the exhibit hall. In advance, using nraam.org I mapped out a plan of attack targeting exhibitors with whom I wanted to spend time. The Excel spreadsheet that I developed kept us on track, and I would recommend you doing the same.

The last and most important goal is to have fun. Yes, Houston, we have a problem, but our politicians did not count on you, standing up for your 2nd Amendment and your freedoms. So, set a goal for 2014 and let's see if we can have an attendance of over 100,000 in Indianapolis in 2014.

NSSF Updates Firearms Retailer Survey Results

For the past five years, the National Shooting Sports Foundation has surveyed federally licensed firearms retailers across the country to find out what products are the biggest sellers and who is buying. NSSF has just issued the latest version of that report from an online survey conducted last month. The data shows which types of firearms and ammunition were most popular in 2012, and at the same time allows retailers to compare their businesses to that of other gun stores across the country.

"What retailers tell us in this survey helps our entire industry assess the current state of the shooting sports market," said NSSF Managing Director of Business Development Randy

Clark. "The NSSF Retailer Survey is an extremely valuable business tool."

A total of 752 firearms retail businesses located in all 50 states provided responses to the survey. The businesses ranged in size from single proprietors to large outdoor specialty retailers.

One of the most important benefits of the report is that it identifies retailing trends by comparing results from past years' surveys. "These surveys have given NSSF and industry a valuable benchmark to identify trends during what has been an extraordinary sustained dynamic market for firearms, ammunition and accessories," said Jim Curcuruto, NSSF's director of industry research and analysis.

Categories in the report include products sold, sales trends, markets and customers, advertising and online marketing, and shooting ranges and buying groups, among others.

A sample of finding in the new report include . . .

- 84 percent of retailers surveyed reported that overall sales in 2012 exceeded sales from the previous year.
- 76.9 percent of retailers surveyed said sales of AR-style modern sporting rifles in 2012 exceeded sales from the previous year (60.1 percent), the largest increase in the firearms category.
- Retailers surveyed said that 25.8 percent of their customers were first-time firearm buyers in 2012 compared to 25 percent in 2011 and 20.8 percent in 2010.
- For the third year in a row, the number of female customers increased. For the year 2012, 78.6 of retailers surveyed said more women came to their stores, compared to 72.8 in 2011 and 61.1 in 2010.
- Firearms most often purchased by women were a semi-automatic handgun followed by revolvers, modern sporting rifles, shotguns, traditional rifles and muzzle-loaders.

In addition to retailers benefiting from the report, manufacturers can gain valuable insights from the survey results into the kinds of new products they should look into developing.

Curcuruto said that the number of retailers who participate in the survey has grown each year. Retailers who participated in the survey, as well as NSSF Voting Members, receive a free copy of the report.

For more information on this report, please visit NSSF's Retailer Survey Report Web page.

Airgun Collection

Those interested in the history of guns might be unaware of an interesting collection of firearms and airguns at the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) in Lexington, VA. An alumnus who apparently did well for himself gave his extensive collection to the school. It includes probably every small arm used by the US plus many from other countries as well. The various frontier periods in US history were represented by the appropriate firearms. Most of these can be seen at other well appointed museums, consequently the exhibit that intrigued me the most

were the airguns. I didn't know that they were making working airguns in the 16th century. Anyone familiar with the precision needed to do so will be as surprised as I was.

The museum is in the chapel building facing the drill field quadrangle. The museum also has a pretty good exhibit about the Civil War which includes Stonewall Jackson's rain slicker he was wearing while shot at Chancellorsville, complete with a large bullet hole in the arm. The George C Marshall Museum and Library is at the other end of the quad.

Submitted by: Clint Hubbard

FRIENDS OF NRA DINNER HUGE SUCCESS

On April 19, 2013, the Friends of NRA hosted its Annual Spring Dinner and Auction at the Modern Maturity Center in Dover. The event was a huge success with over 510 attendees and over 35 guns to be won or purchased. The roast beef dinner was fabulous as always.

There were lots of games to play and prizes to win. The popular gun box with tickets and goodies sold out very quickly. Thirteen sponsorships were purchased with five upgrades to higher levels of sponsorship.

The silent auction had some really neat items this year and the live auction was very exciting with great items including a Charlie Daniels fiddle, the Gun of the Year and a NRA two digit license plate that sold for \$2,000.00.

This Spring Dinner is the most successful dinner yet and we appreciate all those who helped with the event and especially all those who attended and contributed to its success. The total net income from this event was \$48,000.00. Remember, half of the monies raised at these dinners stay in the area to promote gun safety, gun ranges, etc.

If your Club needs assistance you should contact the NRA or a local Friends of NRA member to be directed as to how to apply for funds to help your organization.

Our Annual Fall Dinner and Auction will be held on October 3, 2013, at Wild Quail Golf & Country Club in Wyoming, DE. Tickets are limited for this event to 200, so if you are interested in our fall dinner please contact your local Friends of NRA member to get tickets ASAP.

Again, thanks for your support and hope to see you at the fall dinner.

Carolyn Thompson

The Ultimate Insult; SB 16

While you were sleeping - or working, or otherwise being a good, law-abiding and responsible citizen, the Delaware General Assembly voted as an institution to insult you in a way that no one would have ever believed.

Yes. That's right. As unbelievable as it may seem, a majority of Delaware's Senators and Representatives voted to label you as inherently untrustworthy and inherently irresponsible. Not all of

them did it - just a few, enough to make up a majority of both Houses. Here's how they did it.

Senate Bill 16 is the provision that now makes it a crime for a person not to report the loss or theft of a firearm within 7 days of learning of its loss. For some reason, the Delaware General Assembly, led by the bill's prime sponsor, Senator Margaret Rose Henry of Wilmington, felt that it was absolutely necessary for your government to place the heavy boot of its authority directly on your neck and to threaten you with criminal prosecution so as to coerce you into doing that which everyone agrees a responsible citizen would do any way - report the loss or theft of a firearm. What an insult!

Many of you joined the NRA and the DSSA in our efforts to educate the General Assembly of the fact that every gun owner worth his or her salt was going to do it anyway. We all told them that gun owners were just like everyone else - we understood that it only made sense to report the loss or theft of a gun. After all, every one of us wants our guns back; we all want the insurance company to pay what they owe in terms of replacement value; and none of us want to be held responsible should the bad guys use our stolen guns for bad purposes - but did they listen? **NOoooo,**

When we told them that more crimes are committed with stolen cars yet there is no law that requires us to report our cars stolen, or lost, they just looked at us and said - "but these are guns".

And when we told them that children and young people are far more likely to harm themselves with lost or stolen prescription drugs through overdose or suicide, but that no law requires that lost or stolen drugs be reported to the police, they just shrugged and said "you don't understand, these are guns".

But what they were really saying was - "but you own guns - and therefore we can't trust you". If the truth be known, when they said "but these are guns" what they were really saying was "but you are gun owners".....

So who are these "insulters"? Who showed their inherent disrespect for and bias against law-abiding gun owners like you by voting "yes" for SB 16, you ask? Well, here they are: (* means co-sponsor)

In the Senate:

Sen. Blevins *	Sen. Bushweller	Sen. Cloutier
Sen. Henry	Sen. Marshall	Sen. McBride
Sen. McDowell	Sen. Peterson*	Sen. Poore*
Sen. Sokola	Sen. Townsend	

In the House:

Rep. Barbieri*	Rep. Baumbach*	Rep. Bolden
Rep. Brady	Rep. Heffernan*	Rep. Jaques
Rep. J. Johnson	Rep. Q. Johnson	Rep. Keeley*
Rep. Kowalko*	Rep. Longhurst*	Rep. Mitchell*
Rep. Osiensky*	Rep. Potter	Rep. Ramone
Rep. Scott*	Rep. B. Short*	Rep. M Smith
Rep. Viola*	Rep. D.E. Williams	

Rep. K. Williams

Rep. Schwartzkopf

Let us all hope that these folks do not continue their biased and prejudicial ways. Let's hope that when the time comes to stand up for you and your right to keep and bear arms and the oath they took to protect and defend our Delaware Constitution every one of these elected representatives do the right thing, and that they will put their biases and prejudices aside and vote to defend our Constitution. Let's hope that at least some of these folks will stand with their constituents and vote against the anti-gun measures still in the pipeline.

DELAWARE ASSOCIATION OF SECOND AMENDMENT LAWYERS

Delaware's Second Amendment community wishes to welcome to our ranks a new organization that has long been needed in the First State - the Delaware Association of Second Amendment Lawyers. This is a spanking new organization made up of lawyers whose practices, academic interests or intellectual pursuits include matters pertaining to the historical, constitutional, jurisprudential and legal principles and concepts pertaining to the right to keep and bear arms for lawful purposes, the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution, and Article I §20 of the Delaware Constitution, and the promotion of social welfare with regard to those constitutional and legal principles.

The Delaware Association of Second Amendment Lawyers (DASAL) is organized to carry on programs to perpetuate and encourage academic exploration and study of the history and evolution of Second Amendment jurisprudence and the right to keep and bear arms for lawful purposes under Article I §20 of the Delaware Constitution; to educate other lawyers and the general public in matters pertaining to the right to keep and bear arms, the Second Amendment and Article I §20, and to encourage others to engage in the study and practice of the law pertaining to those matters.

Although still in its infancy, DASAL intends to carry on programs and activities designed to encourage the continued development, evolution and expansion of Second Amendment and Delaware constitutional jurisprudence; to assist the greater community and community leaders in developing a greater understanding of the issues that may impact them with regard to Second Amendment issues and jurisprudence; to provide social and recreational activities for its members and to plan, schedule and conduct such activities as may be consistent with these interests, goals and activities.

Once fully organized and operational, DASAL also intends to serve as a lawyer referral service through which those individuals and organizations seeking legal counsel with regard to Second Amendment issues and other issues of interest to the gun owning, hunting and sporting community may find a lawyer competent and qualified to handle legal issues that may arise within the larger Second Amendment community.

Delaware lawyers seeking more information about DASAL or who wish to join DASAL may contact the following founding members via email: **Anthony N. Delcollo, Esq.** at

anthony@delcollo.com; **Thomas D. Shellenberger, Esq.** at tom.shellenberger@outlook.com or **John C. Sigler, Esq.** at jsigler@ps-corp.net. Charter Memberships in DASAL are still available.

The Delaware State Sportsmen's Association (DSSA) welcomes the Delaware Association of Second Amendment Lawyers (DASAL) to Delaware's "Second Amendment Family".

First State Cowboy Mounted Shooters

By: Pam Nebel

The First State Cowboy Mounted Shooters held their Delaware State Championship competition last year at Lever's Arena on Saturday July 14, 2012. It was an exciting event and well attended. Even though it rained part of the time, there was not one shooter who asked to delay the shoot. They all ran their horses through the courses of specifically patterned balloons to get the fastest time with the least amount of misses. Die-hard balloon shooters, that's what they are!

The winning overall shooter was Rob Johnston, Vice President for the MD Marauders, for the Mens division and Samantha Davis won the Womens division. Congratulations to both of these excellent riders...and their horses!

If you have not had an opportunity to attend one of these exciting events, you might want to consider it. It is a great spectators sport as well as fun to compete. The crowd is cheering for the horses and riders as they fly through the course with guns blazing and balloons bursting while trying to beat the timer. The sound of the pounding hoofs throughout the arena is exhilarating. Let me assure you that there are no real bullets. The guns are 45 single action revolvers with "blanks." The 2013 schedule is posted at the end of this article. Come on out and join the fun.

Not only do the Cowboy Mounted Shooters have their own competitions, they will help you "gun-break" your horse if you are interested. Pat Levers holds a clinic once a year for people who are unfamiliar with the shooters. I took my horse, Tony, last year to participate in the clinic. Never in my wildest dreams did I imagine that he would stand still with a gun going off anywhere near him, or, for that matter, far away from him. My expectation was that he would run for the hills. I was proven wrong more than once that day. The process is extremely well planned and safety is of the utmost importance.

You never know, perhaps you would surprise yourself and be interested in actually becoming a Cowboy Mounted Shooter! They are always looking for more folks to participate and they love what they do.

For those of you who may be unfamiliar with the mounted shooters, below is website information describing how the organization originated.

"Cowboy Mounted Shooting started out west about 14 years ago. It finally made its way to Delaware approximately 7 years ago. One of its main objectives is to keep the old west alive. The contestants wear period clothes, pre-1900s, and shoot a 45-caliber old west style gun, loaded with black powder blanks.

Our spectators are also encouraged to breakout their old west clothes and join the era, as well.

Our sport is a family-oriented event and we have classes for just about any age group.

The Wranglers, 12 and under, is our youngest group. They ride the course on horseback without a gun. Then we set up balloons on the side of the ring for them to practice shooting (on-foot), with a parent by their side, as safety ALWAYS comes first.

Because of the nature of our sport, we have a certified range master in the ring at all times to ensure that safety is always practiced.

Next, there are our Men's, Women's and Junior division riders who complete the course with a loaded gun, on horseback.

We also have a Senior division for our old-timers, whose gun slinging days have perhaps slowed down a bit, but are far from being over.

The object of the game is to:

#1...BE SAFE

#2...Have fun

Then comes . . .beat the timer!"

Admission is FREE! Refreshments are available. Come on out and have some fun!

Upcoming events are scheduled for:

- Saturday, June 22 at 6:00pm
- Saturday, July 20 at 4:00pm
- Saturday, August 17 at 6:00pm
- Saturday, September 21 at 6:00pm

All events will be held at Lever's Arena at 543 Hickman Road, Greenwood, DE. Contact Pat Levers at 302-349-4082 or Dean Records at 302-236-9133 if you have any questions. Don't miss out on some great fun. Hope to see you there! Please visit their website at www.1ststateshooters.com

PENDING LEGISLATION SUMMARY

In addition to the legislation discussed in other articles in this Newsletter, there are a number of additional bills pending in the Delaware General Assembly that should be of interest to every Delaware gun owner, competitive shooter, collector, hunter and second Amendment activist. Below is a brief listing and summary of these bills for your use. Each of these bills may be accessed by going to the DSSA web site: <http://dssa.us> or by going to the Delaware General Assembly's web site and clicking on "Bill Tracking".

HB 72 - Prime sponsors are Rep. Mitchell and Sen. Ennis. This bill is currently on the "Ready List". This is a sentencing enhancement bill which calls for a one (1) year minimum jail sentence for Carrying a Concealed deadly Weapon Without a Permit to Do So where that weapon is a firearm. This targets those who illegally carry firearms while ignoring those who illegally carry other types of deadly weapons.

SB 32 - Prime sponsors are Sen. Lavelle and Rep. Briggs-King. This bill pertains to those persons who knowingly give or sell a firearm to a person prohibited. This bill is stalled in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

HB 37 - Prime sponsors are Rep. Hudson and Sen. Lawson. This bill provides enhanced penalties for those convicted of possessing a deadly weapon during the commission of a felony, differentiating for the first time between those who simply possess and those who actually use a weapon. This bill is on the House Ready List.

HB 82 - Prime Sponsors are Rep. Briggs-King and Sen. Cloutier. This bill provides for enhanced penalties for those convicted of using firearms to inflict physical injury or death. This bill is on the House Ready List.

SB 18 - Prime sponsors are Sen. Pettyjohn and Rep. Wilson. This bill addresses those who falsely report the loss or theft of a firearm. This bill is stalled in the Senate Judiciary Committee whose Chair, Sen. Henry, refuses to allow it to come up for a vote in committee.

SB 23 - Prime Sponsors are Sen. Marshall and Rep. Boulden. This bill would repeal municipal pre-emption laws and allow all of Delaware's 57 municipalities (including and especially the City of Wilmington) to write their own anti-gun laws. This bill is currently in Senate committee.

SB 40 - Prime sponsors Sen. Ennis and Rep. Mitchell. This bill would provide for enhanced penalties for those convicted of possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony. This bill has passed the Senate on a 20-0 (1 absent) vote and is now pending in the House, appearing on the Ready List.

HB 62 - Prime sponsors are Rep. Boulden and Sen. Marshall. This bill would exempt the City of Wilmington from Delaware's pre-emption laws and allow the City of Wilmington to enact Councilwoman Shabazz's plan to register, ban and confiscate firearms currently owned by law-abiding citizens of Wilmington. This bill is currently assigned to the House Administration Committee.

HB 36 - Prime sponsors are Rep. Briggs-King and Sen. Cloutier. This bill would provide for enhanced penalties for those convicted of possession of a firearm by a person prohibited. This bill is currently on the House Ready List.

HB 58 - Prime sponsors are Rep. Mitchell and Sen. Peterson. This bill would ban the manufacture, sale, possession and use of standard capacity magazines for rifles, pistols and shotguns, limiting those firearms to a magazine capacity of no more than 10 rounds. This is a very dangerous bill in that it would limit your ability to defend self and family and make criminals out of otherwise law-abiding gun owners, hunters, competitive shooters and sportsmen. This bill now appears on the House Ready List.

SB 37 - STRICKEN BY SPONSOR - We list this bill because it is expected that AG Biden will eventually offer a replacement for Senator Marshall's original bill which banned a long list of semi-auto rifles, pistols and shotguns, provided for mandatory registration and eventual confiscation of those firearms.

Connecticut: Lawsuit Filed in U.S. District Court Challenging Constitutionality of New Firearms Law

Posted on May 23, 2013

Bridgeport, CT – Yesterday, a widely-anticipated lawsuit was filed in U.S. District Court in Connecticut, challenging the constitutionality of the new firearms law that was passed hastily by the Connecticut Legislature in response to the tragic shooting in Newtown by a disturbed individual. Despite this new law being called “An Act Concerning Gun Violence Prevention and Children’s Safety,” Connecticut’s new firearms law makes Connecticut citizens less safe. This lawsuit seeks immediate injunctive relief and a ruling declaring the new law unconstitutional under the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. It alleges that Connecticut’s new firearms law violates the Second Amendment, and makes both citizens and law enforcement less safe by depriving citizens of modern firearms that are in common use throughout the country for self-defense.

Brought on behalf of individual gun owners, retailers and Second Amendment groups, this lawsuit seeks to vindicate the constitutional rights of citizens who are harmed by the broad prohibitions and unworkable vagueness of the new law. This legal challenge focuses on Connecticut’s ban of more than 100 additional commonly-owned firearms, demonizing design features that provide improved safety, accuracy and ease-of-use features, including magazines that hold more than ten rounds of ammunition. This lawsuit also challenges the practical bans imposed by the new law on an even broader array of firearms due to the new law’s vague language and interpretative confusion combined with severe criminal penalties.

Plaintiffs bringing this lawsuit include an elderly widow who lives alone in a rural area where the emergency response time of a lone resident trooper serving the area is 45 minutes, a Rabbi whose synagogue in the Bridgeport area was broken into by intruders, a young professional woman whose efforts to defend herself are made more difficult by the loss of an arm due to cancer, among other individuals. In addition, retailers whose businesses have been severely harmed by the law have joined this lawsuit, which was conceived and organized by fellow plaintiff organizations: the Connecticut Citizens’ Defense League (CCDL) and the Coalition of Connecticut Sportsmen. Both organizational plaintiffs represent large numbers of Connecticut citizens whose rights to own the firearms of their choice for self-defense and other purposes such as sports shooting and hunting has been infringed upon by the new law.

Bob Crook, Executive Director of the Coalition of Connecticut Sportsmen, says, “This law will do nothing to

prevent a tragedy or solve the problem of crime committed with guns. Instead of violating constitutional rights, we need to get serious about addressing violence and mental illness.” He continued, “Two recent independent studies by Pew and the federal government have just revealed that gun homicides are down almost 40% and general crime involving guns has dropped a whopping 70% since 1993, which corresponds with the elimination of the federal assault weapons ban. In contrast, the few areas of the country where gun crimes have increased dramatically are the very places where local or state governments have banned or severely restricted gun ownership by law-abiding citizens.”

This Connecticut lawsuit, along with similar legal challenges in New York and Colorado are expected to better define the extent of a responsible citizens’ right to own a commonly used firearm of personal choice for self-defense, defense of family and other lawful uses. Each of these states has enacted new firearms laws that, despite law-makers best intentions, make citizens and law enforcement less safe against criminals and the mentally ill who do not obey these laws.

Your NRA will continue to work in Connecticut and in other states across the nation to support and protect our Second Amendment rights.

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NRA Supports Lawsuit Against Gun Control in Colorado Joining 54 Sheriffs, Disabled Individuals

Posted on May 17, 2013

Fairfax, Va. – The National Rifle Association is proud to support a lawsuit filed today in federal court by 54 Colorado county sheriffs, the firearms industry trade association, several firearms retailers, individuals with disabilities and other parties which challenges the State of Colorado’s recently enacted gun control laws.

“The National Rifle Association, the many plaintiffs in this case, and the law-abiding gun owners in the state of Colorado know that the recently enacted gun control laws are unconstitutional,” said Chris W. Cox, executive director of the NRA’s Institute for Legislative Action.

The laws being challenged include an unconstitutional magazine capacity limit which has a negative effect on all law-abiding citizens, and disproportionately so on disabled adults. Also, the law requires ‘transfers’ to be conducted through a federally-licensed firearms dealer as if they are selling the firearm from their own inventory. This creates administrative and regulatory burdens on the dealers, the cost of which dealers will not be able to recoup. It is reasonable to assume that many dealers will not be able provide this service, making it impossible for firearms owners to comply with this unenforceable, unconstitutional law.

New Government Report Undercuts Obama Anti-Gun Agenda

Things haven't been very good for President Obama lately. This week, Congress heard from witnesses concerning his administration's fatal failures related to the September 11, 2012, attack on our consulate in Benghazi, Libya. Not buying into the make-believe nonsense that Obama has improved America's standing among terrorists devoted to our destruction, jihadists recently attacked the Boston Marathon. The unemployment rate has decreased by only 0.4 percentage point since January.

And then there are the things that Obama really cares about. Perhaps symbolically, this week, Republican senators Bob Corker (Tenn.) and Saxby Chambliss (Ga.) defeated Obama and Sen. Mark Udall (D-Colo.) in a game of golf. Likewise, reporters have been suggesting that the defeat of Obama's gun control agenda in the Senate puts his political clout in as much doubt as his golf prowess.

Adding to the bad news for the Obama agenda, a report issued by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS-a component of the Justice Department) shows that firearm homicides in general, and violence at schools, have decreased substantially during the last two decades; the percentage of homicides committed with firearms has decreased; and only a tiny percentage of state prison inmates imprisoned for gun offenses obtain their guns from gun shows. As the Washington Post's Jennifer Rubin characterizes it, the report is "wonderful news for the country and rotten data for anti-gun advocates."

To make matters worse for Obama, the story has been picked up by some heavy hitters in the national news media. In an article for U.S. News and NBCNews.com, veteran reporter Pete Williams points out that the BJS report shows that 40 percent of criminals get their guns from friends and family members, and another 37 percent get theirs from theft or other illegal sources. Lest gun control advocates accuse the BJS or Williams of having a pro-gun political agenda, Williams notes that "The report is strictly factual."

In his article for the Washington Post, Jerry Markon says that while "gun shows were central" to the recent debate in the U.S. Senate over expanding background checks to cover private firearm transactions, "Less than 1 percent of state prison inmates who possessed a gun when they committed their offense obtained the firearm at a gun show," according to the report. (To be precise, the figure reported by the BJS is 0.8 percent.)

NRA members probably are not surprised at the gist of the BJS report. In the NRA's magazines and NRA-ILA's Grassroots Alerts, we've been reporting the decline in violent crime, the relative safety of schools, and the relative rarity of criminal acquisition of firearms at gun shows, for nearly 20 years. But for the general public, the contents of the BJS report may come as a revelation, especially given the way that many in the media have reported on the gun control issue over the last few months.

As another U.S. News article and a Fox News article that covered the BJS report point out, a recent Pew Research Center poll found that while "The gun homicide rate in 2010 was the lowest it had been since [the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention] began publishing data in 1981," 56 percent of respondents believe that gun crime is higher than it was two decades ago, against 12 percent who believe it is lower.

To be clear, 2010 is the most recent year for which the CDC has released homicide data. For the record, FBI data show that the murder rate dropped again in 2011, and again in the first half of 2012. But let's give the president a break; this much good news for the country might be more than the poor man can stand.

Delaware State Sportsmen's Association, Inc. Membership Application

Send to: Membership Secretary

Delaware State Sportsmen's Association

P.O. Box 94 Lincoln, DE 19960

Individual Membership (check one)

A. Life \$400 ___ B. Annual \$ 25 ___ C. Family \$ 40 ___ D. Junior \$ 10 ___ E. Email \$20 ___

Name: _____ NRA Member? _____

Street Address: _____ New DSSA member? _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ DSSA Renewal? _____

Phone Number: (_____) _____ Occupation: _____

Email: _____ (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

Family Memberships (Must be part of life or annual member's household.)

_____, _____
_____, _____

I certify that I am not now and never have been a member of any organization which has as any part of its program the attempt to overthrow the government of the United States by force or violence; that I have never been convicted of a crime of violence; that if admitted to membership in the Delaware State Sportsmen's Association, I will fulfill the obligations of good sportsmanship and uphold the Right to Keep and Bear Arms found in the Constitution of my State of Residence and of the United States of America.

**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 lawman515@aol.com. 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.

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