



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

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PREPARING FOR 2016 ELECTIONS

The 2016 Elections are now less than a year away. A year sounds like a long time, but in the world of Second Amendment politics, a year is a very short time, indeed.

In just a few weeks the first votes will be cast by Republicans and Democrats alike in the Iowa Caucuses in their quest to choose a presidential candidate to represent their respective parties in the General Election on November 8th, 2016. Soon thereafter voters in New Hampshire and South Carolina will vote in their respective Primaries.

If the various Republican and Democrat debates are any indication, it is pretty safe to say that whoever the Democrat nominee will be, they will be no friend of the Second Amendment and certainly no friend to Delaware's law-abiding hunters and gun owners.

Conversely, it would appear that whomever the Republicans choose for their presidential candidate will, without a doubt, be much more of a friend of the Second Amendment and certainly much more respectful of the rights of Delaware's law-abiding gun owners' right to keep and bear arms for lawful purposes.

So, it would be surprising, indeed, if most of you have not already made up your mind how you are going to vote and which party you will support in the 2016 Presidential Election.... But what about here in the First State? What's going to happen here?

What about our General Assembly? Will we be given choices that will make a positive difference in the lives of Delaware's law-abiding hunters, sportsmen and gun owners; or, will our Delaware General Assembly take a turn for the worse and make Delaware the next New Jersey, California, New York or Connecticut?

Obviously, all of those questions remain to be answered – but answered they will most certainly be. And what role will you play in answering those questions?

Will you let others decide for you? Or will you take an active role in creating a Delaware General Assembly that will protect, defend and respect your God-given right to keep and bear arms?

If you have not already done so, will you register to vote? Will you make sure that every gun owner, hunter and every pro-freedom person you know is also registered to vote?

Will you take the time and make the effort to educate yourself, your friends and your family about the importance of electing pro-gun legislators?

Will you actively help to carry the all-important message "VOTE FREEDOM FIRST"?

Will you take the time to learn who the candidates are and whether they are willing to stand with you in defense of our God-given, individual right to keep and bear arms?

Will you reach out and volunteer to actively help pro-gun candidates running for public office?

Will you contribute your time, your money and your expertise to help a pro-gun candidate?

Will you personally take the plunge and run against one of the many anti-gun senators and representatives who have insulted you and your family by voting against your right to keep and bear arms?

Will you actively help to recruit and educate pro-gun leaders from within your church or your community to challenge an anti-gun legislator from your area?

Will you agree to help a pro-gun candidate by putting a bumper sticker on your car or truck and their campaign sign in your yard?

Will you volunteer to help pro-gun candidates knock on doors, distribute literature, make phone calls, meet your friends and neighbors, and help greet voters at the polls on Election Day?

Will you renew your membership in DSSA and the NRA so that we can help to elect pro-gun candidates and defeat anti-gunners?

Or, will you simply sit back and let others carry your load and do the work you should be doing?

Or, will you sit back and simply let the anti-gunners win, because you were too timid or too busy to get involved? Make no mistake – the choice is yours.

Freedom is not free – Freedom must be won, protected and fought for by everyone, every day.

The choice is yours – you can either become an active and energetic part of the solution, or you can be part of the complacency problem....

Now is the time to take a stand – Now is the time to choose sides and become an active part of the solution.

Now is the time to stand with your brothers and sisters who believe as you do; who believe that the Right to Keep and Bear Arms is an individual right – a God-given right – a right that must be protected and defended every day - a right worth fighting for.

Don't wait – do your part – join the fight now, before it's too late.

Do your part – become involved – now!

And always remember --- VOTE FREEDOM FIRST.

A GOOD GUY WITH A GUN!

The US Census statistical data published by WAPO caught my attention. In summary: "In 1992-2002, over 2,000 of the persons interviewed disclosed they had been raped or sexually assaulted. Of them, only 26 volunteered that they used a weapon to resist. In none of those 26 cases was the rape completed; in none of the cases did the victim suffer additional injury after she deployed her weapon." This totally contradicts with what the anti gunner like to claim!

"As a result, in Colorado, as in other states, persons with carry permits, tend to be highly law-abiding. For example, in the five-year period between 2009-13, there were 154,434 concealed handgun carry permits issued in Colorado. During this same period, 1,390 permits were revoked. 931 of these permits were revoked following an arrest. Contrast this with the arrests of over 200,000 Colorado adults in 2013 alone.

The Colorado Sheriffs' support for defensive arms carrying is confirmed by national data. For example, the U.S. Census Bureau conducts in-person interviews with several thousand persons annually, for the National Crime Victimization Survey. In 1992-2002, over 2,000 of the persons interviewed disclosed they had been raped or sexually assaulted. Of them, only 26 volunteered that they used a weapon to resist. In none of those 26 cases was the rape completed; in none of the cases did the victim suffer additional injury after she deployed her weapon.

Professor Gary Kleck, author of the above study, then conducted a much broader examination of NCVS data. Analyzing a data set of 27,595 attempted violent crimes and 16 types of protective actions, Kleck found that resisting with a gun greatly lowered the risk of the victim being injured, or of the crime being completed.

In 2012 the Colorado Supreme Court ruled 7-0 that the University of Colorado must obey the Concealed Carry Act. This was consistent with precedent that CU has no special exemption from civil rights statutes.

But in 2013, a bill was introduced to outlaw licensed carry on all campuses. Rape survivor Amanda Collins testified before the Senate State Affairs Committee about how a ban on campus carry had affected her life. As a 21-year-old, Ms Collins had a Nevada defensive handgun license. But the University of Nevada at Reno did not allow licensed firearms on campus. She was raped in the parking garage of the campus police station, which was closed for the night.

The crime took place just a few feet from an emergency call box. "How does rendering me defenseless protect you against a violent crime?" she asked the Colorado Senators. State Senator Evie Hudak told Collins that if Collins had been

carrying a gun, statistics showed that the gun would have been taken from her. Actually, statistics show that fewer than one percent of defensive gun use results in the defender's gun being taken.

"Respectfully senator, you weren't there," Collins responded. "Had I been carrying concealed, he wouldn't have

known I had my weapon; and I was there. I know without a doubt in my mind at some point I would've been able to stop my attack by using my firearm. He already had a weapon of his own; he didn't need mine."

Because the rapist was not stopped that night, he later raped two more women and murdered one.

Senator Hudak resigned in December 2013, to avoid a recall election.

The experience on Colorado campuses since 2003, and at the University of Colorado since 2012, shows that adult students or professors who are permitted by their local Sheriff to carry a concealed handgun for lawful protection do not perpetrate unlawful aggression. There has been one case in which an employee at CU's dental school was showing off her gun, and accidentally fired it. She was immediately and properly fired.

Colleges should respect the rights of responsible persons, such as Amanda Collins, to protect themselves. As the Sheriffs told the Colorado Supreme Court, law-abiding adults who have been licensed to carry guns throughout the state should retain their self-defense rights when they attend or teach at a public institution of higher education.

Maine, Constitutional carry takes effect

Dave Workman
Seattle Gun Rights Examiner
October 15, 2015

It's a historic day in Maine, where "constitutional carry" – that is, legally carrying concealed sidearms without having to get a permit – is now the law, and according to a poll running in today's Bangor Daily News, a clear majority of respondents like the idea.

But not everyone is happy, the newspaper is reporting. One retired police officer identified as Dusty Rhodes of Winterport, liked the idea of requiring citizens to get "a background check (including providing fingerprints), a mental health check" and demonstrate proficiency. One retail gun shop employee, identified as Rick Lozier, is dismayed that the "handgun training" now consists of a basic gun safety brochure he is required to give to all new handgun purchasers, the newspaper said.

Ditto in the Portland Press Herald, where that city's police chief, Michael Sauschuck, is "very concerned about the new law." He told that newspaper that he thinks the new law will "put his officers, and the public, at risk." Reader responses indicate some strong disagreement with the chief's position. State Sen. Erik Brakey (R-Auburn), sponsor of the new law, apparently disagrees. Quoted by the Press Herald, he observed, "A criminal is not going to get a permit. He's going to break the law. The same goes for gun-free zones. Criminals are not going to obey these zones."

Likewise, a firearms instructor in Saco identified as Adam Foster added the perspective of someone who lived with a similar law already, in Alaska. His observation: "The world

continued to turn round and round. Nothing changed, really. There were no wild, crazy gunfights in the street."

Ah, yes, the old "gunfights-in-the-street" scare rhetoric. That's the dripping-blood prediction repeatedly put forth by anti-rights gun prohibitionists who consistently opposed the spread of concealed carry reform laws two decades ago. But, as the National Shooting Sports Foundation reported earlier this week, "Historical data from FBI Uniform Crime Reports show significant decreases in both the number of annual violent crimes committed as well as the violent crime rate in the United States."

The NSSF's weekly on-line Bullet Points noted, "The figures show a 35.2 percent decline in violent crimes over the past 20 years and a 16.2 percent decline over the past 10 years. The continuing decrease in violent crime comes at a time when firearms ownership have increased significantly across America, a fact that utterly contradicts the mantra of anti-gun groups that more guns equals more crime."

By no small coincidence, according to NSSF, last month's "adjusted" National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) figure of 1,071,945 "is the highest September on record for the 17-year-old system, with an increase of 4.7 percent compared to the September 2014 NSSF-adjusted NICS figure of 1,024,272. For comparison, the unadjusted September 2015 NICS figure of 1,786,743 reflects a 23.4 percent increase from the unadjusted NICS figure 1,447,485 in September 2014."

Translation: Increasing numbers of guns are being sold to more people. NSSF didn't report on the number of concealed carry licenses now in circulation, but some reports place that figure as high as 12.5 million. At last report, Washington State was nudging the half-million mark back on Oct. 1.

And yet the other night, the leading Democrat hopefuls to become the next president were all solidly on the gun control bandwagon. Is it time yet for voters – and especially those who describe themselves as liberal Democrat gun owners and strong Second Amendment supporters – to start wondering whether the left-tilting front runners are out of touch with, a) FBI crime data, b) rising gun sales data, and, c) the American public.

As if to underscore that point, the National Rifle Association has posted a short video on Facebook, titled "Hillary Clinton, Wrong Again." It simply notes that the U.S. Supreme Court confirmed in the 2008 Heller ruling that the Second Amendment affirms an individual right, and then uses a soundbite from Clinton declaring, "The Supreme Court is wrong on the Second Amendment." Her state-of-denial attitude may appeal to her far-left core supporters, but it doesn't wash with the majority of Americans whose votes she is seeking.

Only time will tell how Maine citizens measure up to constitutional carry. Residents of Vermont have been doing it for generations, and their fellow citizens in Alaska, Arizona, Kansas and Wyoming aren't causing problems. Six states down. Only 44 left to go.

DSSA Again Advocating for Delaware Hunters New round of proposed fee increases on the table; Sunday hunting; Rifle hunting; And more

At the monthly Advisory Council on Wildlife and Freshwater Fish meeting held on October 27, 2015, Delaware State Sportsmen's Association Lobbyist Jeff Hague and Delaware NRA Lobbyist Rick Armitage addressed another round of fee increases proposed by the Delaware Division of Fish & Wildlife (F&W).

According to F&W, current revenues from hunting and trapping license fees are insufficient to meet wildlife program operational needs. The Division of F&W attempted to raise hunting and trapping license fees last year after presenting financial figures and potential fee increase scenarios in statewide public workshops (one in each county). Last year's figures showed an estimated hunting license revenue shortfall of nearly \$430,000 for fiscal year 2015. Revenue shortfalls, caused by decreasing sales of hunting licenses, loss of state-appropriated general funds, and increasing operating costs, led to the State's inability to maximize funding from the Pittman-Robertson Act.

Much of the public feedback in 2014 showed that hunters were against license fee increases, especially if they received no additional value for the increases. Many hunters asked for things like legalization of Sunday hunting, additional public hunting locations, and better maintenance and preparation of existing facilities. Many hunters also disagreed with the amount of the proposed increases, and others wanted to see implementation of cost-sharing measures so that non-hunting users of wildlife areas will have to pay access/use fees.

As a result of the public feedback, the Advisory Council on Wildlife and Freshwater Fish voted against increasing fees at their December 9, 2014 meeting.

Without an increase in fees last year, F&W implemented various cost-saving measures, including not filling full-time and seasonal positions, eliminating unnecessary vehicles, and reducing wildlife habitat management services. Wildlife management service reductions included reduced hours at Ommelanden, elimination of food plots on public hunting areas, and reduced dove hunting sunflower plantings of wildlife areas.

This year, F&W says it will need approximately \$600,000 in additional fee-based revenues in order to restore reduced services, avoid additional wildlife program reductions, and meet future program costs. They also say that additional service reductions will be necessary without additional revenues. Some of those reductions include closing Ommelanden, eliminating dove plantings, reducing public hunting lottery days, and eliminating non-lottery duck blinds and deer stands on wildlife areas.

Because the DSSA recognizes F&W's need for additional funding, Jeff Hague presented some commonsense considerations to the Advisory Council and the public at the October 27 meeting. The DSSA advocates on behalf of

Delaware hunters, so we want to see real and verifiable value for any fee increases. As conditions of endorsing potential fee increases, DSSA strongly believes that:

- Hunting and trapping license fee increase should not exceed 15% (which is in line with the inflation rate since the last fee increase in 2007).
- Sunday hunting for all game species except migratory birds must be legalized;
- People with concealed carry permits must be allowed to carry their concealed guns while hunting;
- The current language regarding acceptable handgun calibers for hunting must be modified to show a range of accepted calibers, rather than listing individual calibers (that are potentially limiting);
- Deer hunting with rifles that use straight-wall pistol cartridges be allowed;
- Fees must be charged to non-hunting users of public wildlife areas.

Delaware hunting population has an extremely strong voice, and we at DSSA have heard you. We understand that we are all in difficult financial times, so we will work with you, F&W, and our state legislators to obtain value for any license fee increases. In fact, Jeff Hague made it clear to the F&W director that DSSA will work F&W to submit a comprehensive bill to the legislature that addresses the items mentioned above.

In turn, we ask that each of you follow DSSA's action alerts and news updates so that you can help our cause by contacting your legislators. Additionally, we ask that you attend the public fee increase workshops that will be held in early December so that you can once again voice your concerns and fight for your hunting rights.

WHY JOIN DSSA?

If you are reading this you are already a member of the Delaware State Sportsmen's Association (DSSA) so you can stop reading right here, correct? No, not really.

The simple fact is that far too few of Delaware's hunters, trappers, competitive shooters, gun collectors, gun owners and NRA members belong to and actively support NRA's official state affiliate in Delaware- the Delaware State Sportsmen's Association (DSSA).

Yes, we have 15 constituent NRA clubs that fall under our umbrella with total combined memberships well in excess of 5,000 people; and yes, we have almost 700 individual members.

But there are over 15,000 NRA members in Delaware, over 11,700 people holding Delaware Concealed Carry Permits, plus literally thousands of licensed hunters in Delaware and tens of thousands of gun owners in Delaware – and each of these people should be members of NRA's official state association in Delaware – and that's DSSA.

WHY? Why should every NRA member, every hunter, every concealed carry licensee and every gun owner in Delaware be a member of the Delaware State Sportsmen's Association?

Fair question – and here's the answer: Because the Delaware State Sportsmen's Association IS the NRA in Delaware.

Yes, the NRA has a presence here in Delaware, and yes, NRA sends a lobbyist to Legislative Hall to help defend our rights from the anti-gun legislators we all fear and distrust. But that NRA lobbyist covers many states, Delaware being just one, and we are certainly the smallest state assigned to her.

But it is the Delaware State Sportsmen's Association that provides the "boots on the ground" year in and year out – it's the DSSA that is the local presence that our Legislators listen to and respect.

If you will look back at what we have accomplished over the years you would simply be amazed – there is a reason Delaware hasn't become just like Maryland and New Jersey - or become the next New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut or California – God knows, this Governor has done his dead-level best to bring California policies to Delaware – and not just DNREC policies, but gun policies too. And that reason is DSSA! Here are just a few of our biggest "Wins" in the Delaware General Assembly over the years – and remember, there have been many, many others:

1. Passage of a constitutional amendment in 1987 protecting "*the right to keep and bear arms for defense of self, family, home and State, and for hunting and recreation*". ART.I Sec. 20, Delaware Constitution.
2. Passage of State Preemption which bars cities, towns and counties from passing a confusing patchwork of anti-gun laws that would result in law-abiding citizens from being trapped in "gotcha" situations
3. Defeated at least six (6) attempts to repeal "pre-emption", successfully limiting the most recent attempts to modify "preemption" by limiting their scope to municipal and county buildings while protecting the rights of citizens and employees to exercise their rights to carry concealed in accordance with their licenses.
4. Defeated repeated attempts to limit gun purchases to "One-Gun-A-Month"
5. Defeated several attempts to ban gun shows as we know them today
6. Passage of "Range Protection"
7. Passage of Handgun Hunting in Delaware – thus proving to then-governor Carper that handguns do have a legitimate sporting purpose (something we all knew but he refused to acknowledge).
8. At least four (4) times in the past 20 years DSSA has defeated attempts to ban semi-automatic rifles
9. Passage of Concealed Carry Reciprocity
10. Passage of over a dozen (12+) separate amendments to Delaware's Concealed Carry Laws, all of which made our laws much more fair and much easier to use – and much

harder to be abused by judges and prosecutors. There are now over 11,700 CCDW licenses in Delaware. When we started this process there were less than 2,500.

11. Defeated numerous and repeated attempts by both Republican and Democratic Governors to register and/or license guns and to impose other draconian restrictions on law-abiding citizens and their ability to own, possess and/or carry otherwise lawful firearms
12. Protected the rights of Delaware's hunters and trappers from attempts to make hunting and trapping difficult and expensive for the average hunter and his/her family – passing many new initiatives to make hunting easier and access to hunting lands easier and more uniform
13. Amending really harmful anti-gun bills so as to protect the rights of law-abiding citizens and turning those bad bills into either good bills or at least bills that are no longer true "gun bills". This amendment process occurs at least a dozen times per Legislative Session and has occurred several hundred times since DSSA began protecting the rights of Delaware hunters, shooters and gun owners in 1968.

But it doesn't stop there – Every election cycle DSSA rates candidates and helps you to understand where each candidate stands on issues important to you, helps to elect and re-elect pro-gun candidates and helps to defeat anti-gun candidates and incumbents. Some years we are more successful than others. But each and every election year, your DSSA works closely with your NRA to help keep Delaware from joining Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, and Massachusetts as anti-gun safe havens for criminals. In recent years, in addition its legislative and electoral efforts, the DSSA has added a third leg to the pro-gun freedom fight – that leg being the litigation leg – so that now our freedoms are being supported by a tripod – legislation, elections and, most recently, litigation.

The DSSA played a pivotal role in the Delaware Supreme Court victory we now know as Doe v. Wilmington Housing Authority. Not only did we assist the NRA in its efforts but DSSA served as one of the amici ("friends of the court") filing a brief defending the right to carry and, specifically, open carry. If you were to check closely, you would find language in the Court's opinion that comes directly from DSSA's Amicus Brief.

And now, the DSSA Board of Directors has authorized forthcoming litigation to challenge DNREC's regulations banning all firearms from state parks. And we have more litigation in mind for the future – we won't stop there.

And, if that weren't enough, DSSA, in its role as NRA's State Association in Delaware, sanctions competitive shooting state championships, Eddie Eagle Gun Safe Programs, Women-on-Target Programs, youth hunter education programs and other safety and education programs designed to make

Delaware's gun owners, families and children safer and more responsible in terms of firearm use and ownership.

DSSA has been around since 1968. We have been successful. But the only way we will remain successful and the only way we can build upon past successes is if you – our members – continue to support our efforts, maintain your memberships and help us to recruit new members.

And let there be no doubt – the anti-gunners have learned from us and have learned from NRA. They are active here in Delaware and they pose a clear and dangerous threat to your firearm freedoms here in the First State. They are mostly funded by outside entities (the names Bloomberg, Soros and Giffords readily come to mind) but that doesn't mean that they can't harm your rights – they can, they have, and they will – but only if you let them.

Numbers count – and when our pro-gun activists and lobbyists speak with a candidate or elected official, the very first thing that candidate or office holder will want to know is "How many of my constituents do you represent?" The higher that number is, the more likely that candidate or elected official will listen to our message.

Renew your membership today – become a Life Member – and then help your friends, families, shooting buddies, hunting partners and business associates to become part of the solution – help them to join DSSA. Get the ladies to join, get them involved. The ladies are important to our effort – after all, women are buying more guns than men these days. They need to be part of the fight too.

To assist someone to join DSSA or to renew your membership or to buy a membership for a family member, simply go on line to <http://dssa.us> and follow the prompts. It's easy to do – do it today.

Be a part of the solution – be part of our team.

Help us to reach our goal of 1,000 DSSA members by the time our General Assembly reconvenes in January – and help us to grow our ranks to 1,500 or more by Election Day 2016.

We can do it – but only if you help. Do your part for freedom here in Delaware.

Thank you!

DELAWARE LAW ENFORCEMENT MARKSMANSHIP ASSOCIATION WINTER SCHEDULE

Location: Nanticoke Sportsman Association- Seaford DE
Course: NRA Stock Pistol (Revolvers permitted)

November 14, 2015	0900 hrs
December 12, 2015	0900 hrs
January 9, 2016	0900 hrs
February 13, 2016	0900 hrs
March 12, 2016	0900 hrs

Events are indoors. Acceptable weather will allow outdoor shoots.

Cost: \$8.00 per Relay (No entry fees or club fees)

DLEMA Shooting Schedule for 2016 (April through October) will be announced in the newsletter after the first of the new year.

The Delaware Law Enforcement Marksmanship Association is open to all shooters. This is not a Law Enforcement only discipline.

COURSE OF FIRE- 48 rounds

Stage 1: 3 yards, double action - 6 shots one hand standing without support, eight (8) seconds.

Stage 2: 7 yards, double action - 12 shots, one or two hands standing without support position, twenty (20) seconds, includes reloading for second 6 shot string. CHANGE TARGET

Stage 3: 15 yards, double action - 12 shots, one or two hands standing without support, twenty (20) seconds, includes reloading for second 6 shot string.

Stage 4: 25 yards, double action - 18 shots, one or two hands; 6 shots kneeling, from behind the barricade for cover and support; 6 shots standing left hand from behind the barricade; and 6 shots standing right hand from behind the barricade. Ninety (90) seconds, includes reloading for subsequent 6 shot strings.

Any questions, feel free to contact Mark Hester at 302-270-0412.

DELAWARE'S JUNIOR HIGHPOWER RIFLE COMPETITOR

The saga continues with Jonathan Howell, now collegiate student at Centenary College in Hackettstown, NJ.

When Jon arrived home from Camp Perry, guess what was waiting for him? Yep, you guessed it, a High Master Mid-range card. He had not only graduated from High School, and had done remarkably well at the 2015 World Championships, but he now finds himself shooting in the rarified air of being with the mid-range high master BIG DOGS, those who can shoot a 98.5 every time. For those of you who need extra fingers and toes to count it up, it means you need to shoot 197 out of 200 every time, to be competitive.

And, around the Bridgeville/New Holland/Cumberland ranges, even though we aren't many, it's a pretty tough pond. We have a fair number of national champions and record holders. The Bridgville Long Range team won the NRA National Mid-range Palma Team match this summer. Needless to say, competition is always tough, in these parts. There are probably a dozen guys who, on any given day, can shoot over 595 or more, out of 600. We have a congenial group competition. Someone is always checking to see who is having the hot hand in the days match. Woe be it to the one who cross fires or stumbles by shooting below a 199, for they are in for some serious kidding.

Well, on October 18th, "Uncle Donnie" Phister (longtime family friend), picked Jon up about 6 am for a Match run at New Holland by Col (ret) Rich Kussman. I am here to tell you that's early for a college student on a Sunday morning, and he was all bright eyed and bushy tailed, except he slept the hour or so we were waiting to start. Typical college student! Rich

runs a great match, but I am sure he didn't order up the coldest day of the fall so far just for us, but well maybe he did after all.

There were lots of High Masters, many shooting guns with scopes and 'serious horsepower' like 6X47, 6.5X284, and you know, throwing smoke. There were also a couple of us shooting 308 Palma Rifles or a few other mere mortals using Iron Sights, one of which was Jon. He was using the same rifle he did so well with at the Worlds. When the scoring was done after the 1st match, Jon had a 199-11X, 2nd place HM, just behind Nate Sanders (200-12X) and getting Creedmoored by "Uncle Jeff Hague - 199-11X. He shot a 9 on the 1st record shot, and then, as the champion he is becoming, cleaned the rest. I can tell you from experience many people just give up, but not Jon. After the second string, where he put everyone on the bus with a blistering 200-12X. Dad and Uncle Donnie were right behind with 199'2. We were starting to wonder if anyone would be able to catch him.

After we came out of the pits and laid down to start the final match, Rich had a special treat for us. He ordered up a snow squall for the 1st relay. It was distracting and after all the shooting was done for the day, Jon had a very respectable 595 with 30X's and was third overall. Rich won with a 596-30X, and Dad is starting to be, not only be proud of Jon, but worry, since he only out-X'ed Jon by 5X's, in a come from behind 200-12X in the last string.

Stay tuned for up-coming shooting adventures of the young Jon Howell.

NOTICE 2016 ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

The 2016 Annual Meeting of members will be held on Sunday, January 31, 2016 at Kent County FOP Lodge #3 located at 1584 Kitts Hummock Road, south of Dover Air Force Base in Dover.

This will be a business meeting, only. Set up will be at 12:00, noon. Doors will open for admission of voting members at 1 pm. The meeting will commence at 2 pm.

This meeting is open to DSSA members, only.

2016 NRA BOARD ELECTIONS DSSA ENDORSES COL. RICHARD L. KUSSMAN, U.S ARMY (Ret.) FOR NRA BOARD



COL. Richard L. Kussman in his "trophy room" holding the rifle with which he won NRA's Wimbledon Cup

The 2016 NRA Board Elections are right around the corner and this year the Board of Directors of the Delaware State Sportsmen's Association is endorsing a DSSA member for election to the NRA's Board of Directors.

On May 4, 2015, the DSSA Board of Directors unanimously voted to endorse retired United States Army Colonel Richard L. Kussman for election to the NRA Board of Directors. We ask that you join the DSSA Board in supporting COL. Richard L. Kussman, and that you vote for Rich Kussman when the NRA Board Election Ballot arrives at your home in early 2016.

COL. Kussman, known to his friends and shooting buddies simply as "Rich", was nominated as a candidate for the NRA Board by NRA Members' Petition, which means that he has received the support of a large number of NRA voting members for his name to be placed on the ballot – in other words, Rich's candidacy is a grassroots effort supported by the members who know him and trust him to represent them and our beloved Second Amendment on the NRA Board. Every member of the DSSA Board signed Rich's petition as did every member of the Board of Directors of the Bridgeville Rifle & Pistol Club.

Although not a Delawarean, Col. Rich Kussman has close ties to Delaware. In addition to being a member of the Delaware State Sportsmen's Association, Rich Kussman also serves on the Board of Directors of the Bridgeville Rifle & Pistol Club which has also endorsed Rich's candidacy. Rich is also a firing member of the Bridgeville Rifle & Pistol Club's very successful Long Range Rifle Team, representing Bridgeville and Delaware at Camp Perry and in Long Range Rifle competitions throughout the United States.

A copy of the biographical sketch which will appear in the NRA magazines is set forth below for your consideration. We believe that once you read that "bio" you will understand why the DSSA Board is asking for your support and your vote for Rich Kussman:

COLONEL RICHARD L. KUSSMAN, U.S.A. (Ret.)
Stewartstown, Pennsylvania

Benefactor Member. Lifelong hunter, competitive shooter and influential Second Amendment activist. Retired U.S. Army Colonel, member U.S. Army Pistol Team (1978-1980). Two-term president, Maryland State Rifle & Pistol Association, former MSRPA Vice-President for Legislative Affairs fighting alongside NRA-ILA against Maryland's draconian semi-auto and ammunition bans; testified in House Committee in defense of Maryland's law-abiding gun owners and hunters; worked closely with pro-gun legislators; outspoken Second Amendment advocate, strong supporter of NRA-ILA's efforts to win National Concealed Carry Reciprocity. "Double Distinguished" Rifle & Pistol; 2010 winner of NRA's prestigious Wimbledon Cup; member President's Hundred-Rifle. Undergraduate and graduate Civil Engineering degrees, Kansas State University; former business executive with Battelle

Memorial Institute, world's largest private research and development firm; founding partner, H&K Associates, ammunition development firm. Avid hunter, USA and Africa, member SCI, RMEF & DU. Nominated by Members' Petition. Colonel Kussman has dedicated a lifetime to defending American Freedom.

As you can see, COL. Rich Kussman is more than qualified to represent us on the NRA's Board of Directors. Please join us in voting for COL. Richard L. Kussman in the 2016 NRA Board Elections.

Shooting Accident – It could happen to you.

By: Roger Boyce, Board of Directors, DRPC/DSSA

Some of you may have heard of the recent shooting accident at local public range. Good third-hand information has it that during an instructional class a participant was shooting a .22 caliber pistol when a hot casing got caught between an article of clothing and the skin of the shooter. The shooter's reflexive reaction was to reach up with their strong hand (gun in hand) to clear the burning case. The pistol fired striking the shooter in the arm and the person next to them in the abdomen. Both injuries were serious and the abdomen wound has resulted in extensive damage. It was a very sad and unfortunate incident.

Looking back, it is clear that the shooter lost muzzle control and had their finger on the trigger. NRA Safety rules #1 and #2 were violated.

The problem is that many new shooters have not developed the skills to manage a surprise such as a hot casing getting caught on the skin. The reaction is normal and should be anticipated by an instructor or any gun owner that is introducing a new person to the sport.

When you are working with a new shooter:

- Evaluate the shooter's clothing to reduce the possibility of skin contact with a hot casing or gun barrel. Be sure they have closed-toed shoes, socks, no open cleavage, shirts or open sleeves at the wrist where a casing can lodge. Look at their safety glasses and ear protection so they don't leave a space for the casing to get between the frame and the face. Even with these safe guards, it can still happen. So;
- Impress upon the new shooter the need to "KEEP THE MUZZLE DOWN RANGE" no matter what happens. You need to emphasize this because the new shooter does not have the experience to make this a reflexive reaction.
- Impress upon the new shooter the need to "TAKE THEIR FINGER OFF AND KEEP THE FINGER OFF THE TRIGGER" when not on target no matter what happens. Again, you need to emphasize this because the new shooter does not have the experience yet to make this a reflexive reaction.

- While shooting, give the new shooter all your attention until you are sure that the new shooter can shoot and respond safely to any surprise.

This is great advice for any gun malfunctions or surprise event while shooting. None of us can afford an accident like the one discuss here. Please stay safe and keep your new shooter safe.

OPEN LETTER TO THE DSSA MEMBERSHIP

John C. Sigler, NRA Past President

As most of you are aware, I have had the honor and privilege of representing Delaware on the NRA Board of Directors since 1996. Throughout that time, the DSSA and its rank and file membership have supported me in every possible way. Because of your support I was privileged to serve as the Chairman of the Finance Committee and the Law Enforcement Assistance Committee for ten years under Presidents Marion Hammer, Charlton Heston, Kayne Robinson and Sandra Froman.

I thank you for your support and for the opportunity you have given me to serve the NRA and the cause of Firearm Freedom in America.

Because of your support I rose within the ranks of the NRA Board to become NRA's Second Vice President (two terms), NRA's First Vice President (2 terms) and ultimately NRA's President (two terms, 2007-2009). Additionally I have served upon or been privileged to chair a number of other NRA committees including Bylaws & Resolutions, Hearings, Gun Collectors, High Power Rifle, Clubs & Associations, Meeting Site Selection, and Nominating Committee. As the NRA President I was an ex-officio member of all of NRA's committees.

I share these facts with you for the purpose of demonstrating (1) the importance of your support for my efforts; and (2) to demonstrate to you that I have a rather expensive knowledge of the type of person who has the type of education, training, and NRA-related experience to effectively serve our membership and the cause of Firearm Freedom in America on the NRA Board of Directors.

With these thoughts in mind I now respectfully request your support for a very good friend who is running a grassroots-based campaign to serve on the NRA Board of Directors – his name is Rich Kussman. You will find another article elsewhere in this news letter announcing the DSSA's endorsement of COL. Kussman's candidacy and laying out for you some of his qualifications.

I will not repeat that which is contained in the other article but I do want to share with you the fact that I believe that NRA needs people like Colonel Rich Kussman on its Board. I firmly believe that Rich Kussman will make a very effective member of the NRA Board. He has a broad base of knowledge, skill and experience that is much needed on the NRA Board of Directors as we endeavor to protect, defend and expand the Right to Keep and Bear Arms throughout the United States of America.

Throughout my time on the NRA Board of Directors I have never come to you and personally asked for your support for another candidate for election to the NRA Board of Directors. But because I think that it is important that I do so on this occasion, I do so now.....

Please accept this Open Letter to the DSSA Membership as my personal and respectful request to you and to all DSSA members to vote for Colonel Richard L. Kussman, U.S.A. (Ret.) in the 2016 NRA Board Elections.

Thank you for your continued support and thank you for voting for my friend and shooting colleague, Col. Rich Kussman for the NRA Board.

BRIDGEVILLE LONG RANGE RIFLE TEAM GOES TO F-CLASS NATIONALS

In keeping with its tradition of fielding competitive teams at national championships, the Bridgeville Rifle & Pistol Club sent rifle teams to both the 2015 F-Class Mid-Range National Championships and the 2015 F-Class Long Range National Championships, both of which were held in Phoenix, Arizona at the famed Ben Avery Shooting Complex during the final two weeks of October.

Both teams held their own and proved to the F-Class Rifle Community that the Bridgeville Rifle & pistol Club is a major player on the Long Range and Mid-Range F-Class Rifle field.

Bridgeville has been well known in the conventional rifle competitive shooting communities for many years and its Long Range Rifle Team is a familiar and formidable player within that genre of rifle competitions. Within the past several years, the Bridgeville Rifle & Pistol Club's Long Range Rifle Team has added F-Class competition to its list of rifle disciplines representing both Bridgeville and the state of Delaware at the national level.

Bridgeville's Mid-Range Rifle team, shown below, consisting of Team Captain John Sigler and team shooters Dwayne Draggoo, Earle Liebetrau, Mark Holland and Dave Kokoszka competed as a High Master Team, finishing 6th overall and proving to the world that Bridgeville is a force with which other teams must contend.



Bridgeville Rifle & Pistol Club's Mid-Range F-Class National's Team in Phoenix

Once the F-Class Mid-Range National Championships were completed it was time for the Bridgeville shooters to take to the 1,000 yard line for the F-Class Long Range Nationals.



**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.

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Bridgeville Rifle & Pistol Club F-Class Long Range Nationals Team in Action at 1,000 yards in Phoenix

The Bridgeville Rifle & Pistol Club's F-Class Long Range Nationals Team was slightly different than its Mid-Range Team. This Long Range Team, shown below, consisted of John Sigler as Team Captain with firing team members Jim Fowler, Mark Holland, Jasan Pagan and Dave Kokoszka. This was a Master Team that did very well, indeed, tying for the title of First Master Team, only to lose the title to the NRA's tie-breaking system.



Bridgeville Rifle & Pistol Club's 2015 F-Class Long Range National's Team in Phoenix.

The Delaware State Sportsmen's Association congratulates and commends the Bridgeville Rifle & Pistol Club and the members of the Bridgeville Rifle & Pistol Club Long Range Rifle Team for a great showing at the F-Class Mid-Range and Long Range Championships – well done!

Is There a Gun Violence Epidemic? The Numbers Say No

By Jason Snead | November 13, 2015 | 3:05 PM EST

The recent mass shooting in Oregon has brought the seemingly endless debate on gun control back into the national spotlight.

Are we, as some insist, in the midst of a gun violence crisis? Gun control advocates would certainly have you think so. Rolling Stone magazine has an entire section on its website dedicated to gun violence entitled "America's gun violence epidemic."

Hillary Clinton recently stated that "this epidemic of gun violence knows no boundaries." Even the American Public Health Organization states in its section on gun violence that "a comprehensive public health approach to addressing this growing crisis is necessary."

A quick look into the facts reveals an entirely different picture. According to the FBI, in the past two decades, violent crime has been falling almost continuously. In 2013, the number of violent crimes perpetrated was 37 percent lower than it was just two decades earlier.

In 1994, there were 23,326 murders in the United States; by 2013, that number had fallen to 14,196, an incredible 39-percent decline. More specifically, according to the Department of Justice, the

number of firearm-related homicides declined from 18,253 in 1993 to 11,101 in 2011.

The Department of Justice further concludes that even non-fatal gun-related crimes are declining, dropping 69 percent between 1993 and 2011. While the exact causes for this dramatic decrease can be debated, the decrease itself raises the question: Where does this idea of an "epidemic" of rising gun violence come from?

The most significant factor may be the large-scale media coverage of and public interest in mass shootings. Americans are captivated by stories of mass shootings and have followed them closely.

According to the Pew Research Center, in 2012, 57 percent of the American public said that they followed the Newton, Conn., school shooting "very closely." The attention given was second only to that year's presidential election. The Pew Research center further reports that 48 percent of Americans also payed close attention to the movie theater shootings in Aurora, Colo.

The simple fact is that horrific headlines, such as the number of children gunned down in a school, have a greater shock value than nearly any other kind of story. The media understand this. Seeking, as always, the highest ratings, media companies tend to disproportionately report on mass shootings even though mass shootings account for only a fraction of the total number of homicides committed each year.

The result is biased news coverage that creates the perception that an uncommon event is in fact happening all the time. Add to this the fact that news outlets, particularly local ones, already dedicate substantial portions of their time to general crime reporting, and it is no wonder that Americans consistently overestimate the violent crime rate.

A Pew research poll in 2013 showed that 56 percent of Americans believed that violent crime or gun-related crimes were up from 20 years previously. A Gallup poll conducted this year reports that 70 percent of Americans believe that crime is on the rise.

Then there is the fact that terms like "gun violence" can be deliberately manipulated to serve political agendas. Gun control advocates frequently cite the alarming statistic that 33,000 Americans are victims of gun violence each year. Statements like that clearly give the impression that 33,000 Americans are murdered with a firearm; the truth is that two-thirds of those gun deaths are suicides, not homicides. Suicide is certainly a tragedy, but it is hardly equatable with homicide.

Half-truths and misleading facts like these help gun control advocates sell the narrative of an out-of-control "gun violence epidemic." Their goal is simple: scare citizens into supporting policies that curb the sale and possession of firearms. Some in the media are willing accomplices, exploiting their position to advance the cause of gun control. But the truth is, ideological bent or not, ratings-hungry media outlets have many self-interested reasons to play along.

Vigorous public debate is at the very core of our democracy. If done sincerely, it encourages people to examine all the aspects of an issue, challenge their own preconceptions, and, if necessary, rethink their positions. It helps to produce the best and most sound public policy, grounded in reality and solving real problems. But the value of these debates is lost when facts are manipulated to advance an ideological cause.

How should the nation deal with gun violence and instances of mass shootings? Let's start by getting the facts right.