



AFFILIATED WITH THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION

D.S.S.A. NEWS

DELAWARE STATE SPORTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION
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Visit us on the web: DSSA.us
P.O. Box 94, Lincoln, DE 19960



148th General Assembly Finally Ends

Eight years ago, Governor Jack Markell came to office as an avowed enemy of the fundamental right to keep and bear arms. As you remember, he vowed to ban the semi-automatic rifles he termed "assault weapons" and to do everything he could to advance the anti-gun agenda of his friend and co-conspirator, Barack Obama.

Aided and abetted by his friends and colleagues in the Delaware General Assembly, Gov. Markell has done his dead-level best to make Delaware's gun owners second class citizens and to infringe upon your God-given right to self-defense. Throughout his eight years in office, your NRA and DSSA have fought against sometimes seemingly overwhelming odds to defeat Markell's Obama-inspired agenda. And for the most part we have been successful – remembering, of course, that sometimes not losing is winning.

The Second Session of the 148th Delaware General Assembly was Markell's last chance to fulfill his promises, and for the most part he and his anti-gun allies have failed – thanks to you and the many emails, phone calls, in-person conversations and letters you have sent to your legislators explaining the truth about the lies the anti-gunners like to tell in order to justify their actions.

Thank you for all that you, the rank and file members of DSSA, have done on behalf of Firearms Freedom in the First State – keep up the good work – this fight is far from over.

In prior editions of this Newsletter and throughout the Legislative Year we have reported various votes and various legislative actions. Now, with the final session of the 148th General Assembly behind us, we report below on the final matters that were addressed during the last days of this legislative session. We hope that you will find this report to be both informative and helpful.

HB 23 Rep. Spiegelman (R) and Sen. Ennis (D) – NOT WORKED

This bill was designed to modernize the requirements for handguns used for deer hunting by adding a range and limit to allowable handgun calibers to accommodate changing handgun availability while maintaining public safety and handgun hunting efficacy.

While this Bill was successfully released from Committee in January, it never received a vote on the floor, primarily due to the political effects of the tragedy resulting from the Islamic Terrorist Attack in Orlando, Florida.

Look for this measure to be addressed in the up-coming 149th Delaware General Assembly.

HB 26 Rep. Ramone (R) and Sen. Peterson – TABLED IN COMMITTEE

This bill would have provided for hunting license exemptions for companions assisting disabled hunters.

HB 97 Rep. Outten® and Sen. Simpson – READY LIST- NOT WORKED

This bill would have allowed use of handguns by farmers on properties DNREC has determined crop depredation to be a problem

HB 198 Rep. Brady and Sen. McDowell – STRICKEN

This bill would have enlarged the scope of a criminal charge of Possession of a Weapon in a Safe School and Recreation Zone and added parklands to Safe School Zones. Currently, the definition of a "Safe School and Recreation Zone" focuses on buildings and structures used as a recreation center, athletic field or sports stadium. It does not expressly apply to parks used as a recreation area or to parkland under 9 Del. C. § 8110(a)(2).

This poorly drafted and poorly conceived measure was stricken by its sponsor on January 20, 2016 as the result of the intense opposition generated by NRA and DSSA members and by the NRA and DSSA lobbyists who testified against the bill in Committee.

HB 204 Rep. Lynn and Sen. Peterson – STRICKEN

This bill was a long and extensive revision to Delaware's animal cruelty laws and would have had a very negative effect on Delaware's trappers.

HB 217: Rep. Keeley (D) and Sen. Henry (D) - PASSED

One of the findings of the Wilmington Public Safety Strategies Commission was that the Wilmington Police Department should enhance its use of firearms investigative and intelligence tools and ballistics technology in investigating and preventing violent crime. The report went on to recommend adoption of a protocol such as the one employed

by New Jersey statute in 2013 to mandate statewide the use of certain nationwide firearm and ballistics databases. This bill is modeled on the New Jersey statute. It mandates the entry of ballistics information collected at crime scenes into the National Integrated Ballistics Identification Network, and firearm information into the ATF E-Trace system and the National Crime Information Center System. This bill further directs the Department of Safety and Homeland Security, in cooperation with the Department of Justice, to develop a statewide standard protocol for the recovery and processing of firearms and firearm related evidence.

This Bill essentially directs the city of Wilmington to use the same investigative techniques as the rest of the police departments in the state when dealing with firearm related crime. Because this bill does not infringe upon the rights of law-abiding citizens and because it simply requires the use of modern crime fighting techniques by the City of Wilmington, the DSSA and NRA tacitly supported bill.

HB 263 Rep. Dan Short and Sen. Ennis (D) – DIED IN COMMITTEE

Bill would have clarified right of Delaware Concealed Carry Permit holders to carry a pistol concealed while hunting. DNREC and current law seem to indicate that carrying concealed while hunting is not allowed.

HS 1 for HB 289: Reps. Carson (D) and Spiegelman (R) and Sens. Ennis (D) and Pettyjohn (R) - PASSED

See article on page 6 of this issue.

HB 401: Rep. Mulrooney (D) and Sen. Ennis (D) - PASSED

See article on page 6 of this issue.

HB 325: Rep. Osienski (D) and Sen. Townsend (D) - PASSED

This Bill addresses what the anti-gun establishment views as a "loophole" in the way the FBI conducts NICS checks pursuant to federal law. The current federal statute allows for guns to be transferred to a potential purchaser if the background check is delayed for more than 3 business days. Therefore, under the current federal law, it is possible that in some cases a gun may be transferred to a person who should not be in possession of a firearm. This leads to law enforcement having to retrieve a gun from a person prohibited if the background check provides that a person should not have a gun. This has occurred a total of 16 times in Delaware over a span of two years (2014 & 2015) and in each and every case the firearm was returned and no crime was committed with that firearm.

As originally written, the bill called for up to a 30 day delay but because of the manner in which the days are counted, it would have resulted in a total ban on the transfer – what we referred to as "the black hole". We fought the gallant fight but eventually lost when the bill was amended to remove the

thirty (3) days, reducing it down to 25 days, when Sen. Bushweller (D) flipped and supported the amendment.

This bill eventually passed the Senate on a vote of 11 yes and 10 no. The House had originally passed the bill on April 21 and, because of the 25-day amendment was required to pass it again. In an unusual move, the House passed the amended bill within 15 minutes of the bill's passage in the Senate. The Governor signed the measure that evening.

On the positive side, we were able to successfully amend this dramatically anti-gun piece of legislation in the House by adding LEOSA licensees, active and certain retired, to the list exemptions for background checks on private sales (HB 35). Unfortunately an additional four pro-gun amendments failed in the Senate. Also defeated in the Senate was an amendment proposed by anti-gun radical Senator Marshall (D) from Wilmington which would have dealt with attempting to prohibit anyone on a terrorist watch list or no fly list from purchasing a firearm. Due to opposition from both pro-gun and anti-gun Senators, this clearly unconstitutional amendment was stricken by its sponsor before a vote could be taken on the amendment.

SB 19: Sen. Marshall (D) and Rep. Mitchell (D) - DEFEATED

This bill would have allowed undercover law enforcement officers to purchase firearms using CFRP (Community Firearm Recovery Program)(so-called gun buy-back) funds.

NRA and DSSA actively opposed this bill which was ultimately defeated in the Senate on March 8th on a vote of 6 yes and 15 no.

SS1 for SB 156: Sen. Peterson (D) and Rep. Lynn (D) – DIED IN Committee.

This Act would have prohibited a person from purchasing, selling, offering for sale, possessing with intent to sell, or importing with intent to sell ivory or rhinoceros horn, except as specified. A violation of this Act or any rule, regulation, or order adopted under this Act would have constituted a misdemeanor subject to fines, imprisonment, or both, as specified in this Act. In addition to the specified criminal penalties, this Act would have authorized the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control to impose a civil penalty of up to \$10,000 for a violation of this Act or any rule, regulation, or order adopted under this Act. Additionally, this Act would have authorized the Department to permit the purchase, sale, offer for sale, possession with intent to sell, or importation with intent to sell ivory or rhinoceros horn for educational or scientific purposes by a bona fide educational or scientific institution if not prohibited by federal law.

The original bill which was introduced back in June of 2015 and assigned to the Banking and Business Committee and was heard on January 13th in that committee. The bill passed in the Senate with 11 yes votes and 10 no votes, and then went to the House for consideration and was assigned to the Natural Resources Committee.

NRA and DSSA were successful in keeping this bill off of the committee agenda until the beginning of June where it failed to receive sufficient support to be reported out of committee. Despite incredible and very unorthodox efforts by Rep. Lynn to bring the measure to the floor by extraordinary (some might even say “extra-legal”) means, this measure died with the fall of the gavel at the end of the 148th Delaware General Assembly. After Rep. Lynn moved to suspend the rules to consider the matter which was voted down at 4:45 am on July 1st on a vote of 6 yes and 32 “not voting” and 3 absent, one of whom was the sponsor Rep. Lynn, at 4:54 a.m.

SB 289: Sen. Marshall (d) and Rep. Osienski (D) - DEFEATED

This bill was the result of the objections to the amendment on HB 325. Sen. Marshall introduced the bill on June 22nd and immediately tabled the bill. There was never any announcement that it had been introduced. It was part of the “pre-file” process in the Senate where bills can be pre-filed and are only announced the next session day.

NRA’s Shannon Alford was called as a witness on the floor of the Senate to testify against the clearly unconstitutional aspects of the bill. It was clear there was almost no support for the bill in the Senate and the Bill was tabled by the sponsor never to be revived.

SJR 16: Sen. Marshall (D) and Rep. Osienski (D) - DEFEATED

This Senate Joint Resolution which was introduced after the defeat of SB 289 called on the United States Congress to act in the public interest and approve pending legislation barring persons in the federal government’s classified terrorist database, commonly referred to as “the terrorist watch list” or its no fly list from being able to purchase firearms in Delaware and across the country.

This was the last attempt by Sen. Marshall to get publicity for his run for Mayor of Wilmington. Similar to his introduction as SB 289 (above) which was addressed to the same issue. This Senate Joint Resolution was introduced on June 28th and immediately tabled. Sen. Marshall had the rules suspended to consider the bill on the last day, June 30th. This measure was ultimately defeated on a vote 10 yes, 9 no and 2 not voting when it failed to receive the constitutionally required 11 votes for passage

SB 272: Sen. Ennis (D) and Pettyjohn (R) and Reps. Carson (D), Spiegelman (R) and Yearick (R) - DEFEATED

Subchapter III, Chapter 68, Title 7 of the Delaware Code (“Subchapter III”) was originally enacted in 1982. In 1996, President Clinton signed the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1791 (“Bill Emerson Act”). The Bill Emerson Act preempts Subchapter III to the extent of any conflict, known as “partial preemption”. This Act makes Subchapter III consistent with the Bill Emerson Act, which,

among other things, does all of the following: Makes it clear that a government; governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality; or public corporation that donates food may claim the immunity provided by § 6822 of this Act.

The Sportsman’s Caucus was responsible for this bill. The initial reason for the bill was to protect hunters that donate venison to DNREC. DSSA and NRA supported this bill as did representatives from the Food Bank of Delaware who wanted join us and expand the impact of the bill to help businesses and schools with food donation.

After introduction, OMB, the Div. of Public Health, and most importantly, the trial lawyers crafted an amendment which essentially gutted the bill. The bill passed the Senate before we realized what the amendment did, since it was introduced on the floor when the bill came up for a vote. An amendment was introduced in the House to remove the offending amendment, but on the last day of session, the objections of the trial lawyers, with the help of Rep. Lynn, effectively put a halt to consideration of this corrective amendment. Because of the efforts of the trial lawyers, aided and abetted by anti-gun and anti-hunting zealot Rep. Lynn which would have made Delaware’s current law even worse for hunters, the sponsors decided that the bill should not be brought to the floor for a vote. Thus this effort by the Sportsmen’s Caucus, DSSA and NRA to help DNREC to more effectively and efficiently help Delaware’s less fortunate citizens who suffer from hunger each and every year died with the close of the 148th Delaware General Assembly.

HCR 85 w/ HA 1, Reps. Longhurst (D), Paradee (D) and Sen. Poore (D) - PASSED

This Concurrent Resolution establishes the Firearm Suicide Prevention Task Force of the House of Representatives. This resolution is patterned after similar language from the state of Washington. This is essentially a “study group” designed to look at ways of reducing suicide. The NRA and the DSSA will be represented on this Task Force.

We will report back to you on the work of this Task Force as it becomes available.

ADDITIONAL LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

1. Explored the possibility of legislation to allow the use of rifles using straight-walled pistol ammunition for hunting deer in Delaware – will continue this effort next year.
2. Statutory repeal of Parks regulations pertaining to firearms – this matter was put on hold pending the outcome of current litigation in the Delaware courts pertaining to this issue
3. Due Process Amendments – DSSA & NRA attempted to attach a number of amendments to various bills all of which pertained to increasing due process rights for gun owners

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4. Discrimination – DSSA & NRA attempted to attach a number of amendments to various bills addressing the issue of discrimination against gun owners and hunters.

CONCLUSION

As you can see, the Second Session of the 148th Delaware General Assembly was very busy, indeed, for the folks who have represented us before that body. For the most part, Delaware's hunters, shooters, gun owners and sportsmen and women fared far better here in Delaware than our counterparts did in our neighboring sister states. Thank you to all of the members who responded to our many and various calls for help in our legislative efforts – keep up the good work.

We now turn our attention on the 2016 Delaware Primary and General Elections where the stakes could not be higher.

Your DSSA has been defending the rights of Delaware's hunters, shooters, gun owners and sportsmen and women in Delaware since 1968, and we will continue to do so with your continued help and your support.

2016 Cabela's Mid-Atlantic Long Range Regional & Mid-Atlantic Long Range Team Challenge

The 2016 Cabela's Mid-Atlantic Long Range Regional Championship held during the last weekend in June on the 1,000 yard range at the Bridgeville Rifle & Pistol Club is now "in the books" as the largest and most successful long range rifle event ever held in the state of Delaware. And to add to that historical success, the Bridgeville club added the first-ever Mid-Atlantic Long Range Team Challenge.

It all started on Friday, June 24th with an open practice and the Mid-Atlantic Team Challenge. A total of nine teams, four F-Class teams shooting F-Open and F-T/R rifles and five conventional "sling teams" shooting Palma and Match Rifles participated in this first-ever event. The Team Challenge was originally scheduled to consist of two (2) matches each consisting of a total of 80 record rounds (20 from each team shooter). Unfortunately the "weather guessers" got it wrong and Mother Nature stepped in to bring lightning, thunder and gallon upon gallon of rain on the range during Match #2, thus making it a single match event.

Bridgeville's "Team Gold" won the "sling team" event with an aggregate score of 781-20x, beating out the venerable Southeast Rifle Club by six (6) points, followed by the Quick Pick Team, Remington Arms Roxburgh Team and a team known as the Standard Deviants (whose name surely must come from computing the standard deviation of rifle loads). Team Gold consisted of DSSA's own Jeff Hague who posted a score of 200-5x, Nathan Sanders, Don Phister and Angel Rodriquez.

The F-Class competition was won by an F-T/R Team calling themselves "Da V Bulls" out of North Carolina & Virginia, and coached by the United States F-T/R Vice Team Captain, Jim Crofts.



Crofts coached his team to an impressive three (3) point victory over Bridgeville Grey, followed by Bridgeville Blue in 3rd place and Bridgeville Red in 4th.

Saturday's start of the Cabela's Regional individual events brought with it sunshine, fair temperatures and truly puzzling light and variable winds that made calling the wind a real challenge, indeed – oh those pesky "waterline 9's".....

Saturday was Remington Day, with Remington as the day's Gold Sponsor, donating rifles and shotguns to the four Saturday 3-match aggregate winners: John Kiley won High Match Rifle scoring an impressive 592-15 x; John Field won High Palma Rifle scoring 583-17x; while U.S. Navy Lt. Keith Trapp won High F- Open Rifle, scoring a tough 580-16x; and Jim Crofts won High F-T/R Rifle scoring 581-19x for the day.

The weather on Sunday was even better than on Saturday resulting in some truly impressive shooting. The five-match Regional Aggregate Champions were DSSA's own Jeff Hague who took First Place in Match Rifle with a very impressive 986-41x; John Field won the Regional Championship for Palma Rifle with a score of 980-31x; while Jim Crofts took the honors for F-T/R Rifle with a five-match aggregate of 964-27x and young Rhys Ireland won the F-Open Rifle honors as a Junior with an impressive score of 974-36x.

The Bridgeville Rifle & Pistol Club wishes to thank Cabela's for being the title sponsor for this event, Remington Arms for serving as Saturday's Gold Sponsor and all of the other donors and sponsors who so generously supplied product and certificates as prizes for our Competitor's Prize Table valued well in excess of \$30,000.

Plans are already underway for the 2017 edition of the Cabela's Mid-Atlantic Long Range Regional Championship and for next year's Mid-Atlantic Long Range Team Challenge.

2016 ELECTION YEAR 2ND AMENDMENT FREEDOM BANQUET FEATURING



**NRA 2nd Vice President Richard Childress
NASCAR Legend & CEO of Richard Childress Racing**

The Delaware State Sportsmen's Association is proud to announce that NRA Second Vice President Richard Childress has agreed to serve as our keynote speaker for our 2016 Election Second Amendment Freedom Banquet to be held Friday evening, September 30, 2016 at the Modern Maturity Center in Dover. Doors will open at 5:30 pm with dinner being served at 7 pm. There will be a Live Auction, and a Silent Auction.

This year's Live Auction will feature Delaware plate "NRA 9" as well as other excellent items of interest. Price of admission also includes eligibility for a really great door prize, but you must be present at the time of drawing to win.

Following the tradition of years past, the John J. Thompson Memorial Delaware Defender of Freedom Award will be presented to a Delawarean who has dedicated his or her life to defending the freedoms we all hold so dear and for which DSSA fights to protect and defend every day.

Tickets may be purchased from any member of the DSSA Board of Directors or by calling Carolyn Thompson at 302-697-6769. Persons and organizations (including political campaigns) who purchase and fill a table will have their name or the name of their organization posted on their table for everyone to see.

As you know, DSSA has been defending the rights of Delaware's hunters, shooters, sportsmen and women and gun owners since 1968. As NRA's official state affiliate in Delaware, we ARE the NRA in Delaware.

The Election Year 2016 Second Amendment Freedom Banquet will be our only fundraising event this year. All – I repeat ALL – of the money raised at this event will stay right here in Delaware to fund DSSA's pro-gun, pro-hunting political, legislative and litigation efforts on your behalf – without these funds we simply cannot do the things we need to do to protect, defend and expand the Right to Keep and Bear Arms in Delaware.

Individuals and organizations wishing to support our efforts are encouraged to donate items for the live and/or silent auction and to purchase an ad in our program. The

names of donors will be listed in the program and on the items they donate for the live or silent auctions.

All of our Pro-Gun Candidates will be invited to attend and will be introduced to the crowd during the festivities. This is their chance to meet you – and it's your chance to meet with them and to show them that you support our pro-gun efforts in the Delaware General Assembly.

DSSA's Pro-Gun Agenda in Delaware depends upon your support at this dinner – we hope that you will join us for a great night of friendship and fellowship with friends and neighbors all of whom believe as you do – people who believe and understand that "freedom isn't free – we must earn it each and every day.

It's also your opportunity to meet and speak with a man who will one day be NRA's President – come meet Richard Childress and tell him that Delaware needs the NRA just as the NRA needs Delaware.

For those who do not know NRA's Second Vice President, here's a brief biography:

RICHARD CHILDRESS

NRA 2nd Vice President and current member of the NRA Board of Directors, Richard Childress was first nominated to the NRA Board of Directors by the NRA Nominating Committee. Richard is an avid hunter and outdoorsman and serves as the Chairman of NRA's Hunting and Wildlife Conservation Committee.

The owner of RCR Racing and a member of the NASCAR Hall of Fame, Richard is a fierce advocate and effective promoter of the NRA and gun rights through his extensive car racing network, making many appearances both personally and on television promoting NRA, ethical hunting and the Right to keep and Bear Arms. He has been a powerful advocate in the fight to keep ammunition both legal and affordable.

Not only is Richard a former NASCAR driver, driving in the very first race ever held here at Dover Downs, Richard is also the owner of one of the most successful NASCAR teams, winning 13 NASCAR National Championships.

As you would expect, Richard is a big-game hunter and outdoor conservationist, working with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation in 2000 to reintroduce an elk herd into North Carolina for the first time in 200 years.

He is a Life Member of NRA, Safari Club International, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the Orvis/Grand Slam Club. Richard also serves on the Board of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus Foundation.

If you look closely at the cars Richard puts on the NASCAR circuits you will notice that his cars proudly display the NRA logo.

LOCAL BUSINESS FOCUSES ON NEEDS OF DELAWARE'S HOME DEFENSE FIREARMS OWNERS

Everyone knows the old saying "it takes one to know one". Another version of that old saying might be "It takes one to help one".

We were recently contacted by the owner of Scott's Furniture in Bridgeville about a new line of products he is offering. For those who don't know the folks at Scott's, it is important to know that Ralph Scott is "one of us" – he's a gun owner, a hunter and a strong advocate for the Second Amendment so having him contact us about his new line of "gun friendly" furniture came as no surprise.

No – this is not an advertisement for Scott's Furniture – this column is offered to you as a public service to our members.

We have all wrestled with the question of "How do I keep my home defense firearms safe and secure while also keeping them readily accessible for use on that fateful day when the bad guys come knocking down my door?" And, "How do I keep my home defense firearm away from the prying eyes and hands of children while still being able to get to that home defense firearm in an emergency?"

Ralph Scott and Scott's Furniture may have the answer. Scott's now offers a complete line of high quality furniture designed with the home defense firearm owner in mind. These high quality and well- designed items are perfect in terms of both security and accessibility.

If you are in the market for that special item of furniture that can also serve as the answer to your questions about firearm safety, security and accessibility in the home, you may want to take a ride to Bridgeville and ask to see some of the furniture designed for gun owners, by gun owners.

Yes – you have to ask, because they are NOT offered to just anyone.

Fittingly, Scott's Furniture is located at the intersection of US 13 (NB) and Rifle Range Road in Sussex County.

DSSA Continues to Fight for Rights of Delaware Hunters

As we've been reporting for the past two years, the Delaware Division of Fish & Wildlife (F&W) has been pushing for an increase in hunting-related fees. We recognized that Delaware hunters deserve additional value for fee increases, so our team has continuously advocated for that value. It looks like our efforts are paying off.

According to F&W, revenues from hunting and trapping license fees are insufficient to meet wildlife program operational needs. They've said that 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, which in turn led to hunting-related service reductions.

DSSA leaders recognized that Delaware hunters were suffering as a result of the service reductions, so we offered conditional support for any hunting-related fee increases. We advocated for:

- Hunting and trapping license fee increases that would not exceed 15%;
- Legalization of Sunday hunting for all game species except migratory birds;
- Allowing people with concealed carry permits to carry concealed guns while hunting;
- Cleanup of the current language regarding acceptable handgun calibers;
- Allowing deer hunting with rifles that use straight-wall pistol cartridges;
- Charging fees to non-hunting users of public wildlife areas.

We worked with NRA representatives and legislators to draft language for various Sunday hunting, handgun caliber, and hunting fee bills, and we've succeeded with several initiatives.

House Substitute 1 for House Bill 289 (see [http://legis.delaware.gov/LIS/lis148.nsf/vwLegislation/HS+1+for+HB+289/\\$file/legis.html?open](http://legis.delaware.gov/LIS/lis148.nsf/vwLegislation/HS+1+for+HB+289/$file/legis.html?open) for details) aims to legalize Sunday hunting for deer only on "five individual Sundays that occur between the opening and closing dates of the October muzzleloader deer season, between the opening and closing dates in each of the November, December and January shotgun deer seasons, and the Sunday at the end of the November shotgun deer season." The bill passed the House by a vote of 36-3 and passed the Senate 14-7. Although the bill won't legalize Sunday hunting for all game species, it is absolutely a step in the right direction.

House Bill 401 (see [http://legis.delaware.gov/LIS/lis148.nsf/vwLegislation/HB+401/\\$file/legis.html?open](http://legis.delaware.gov/LIS/lis148.nsf/vwLegislation/HB+401/$file/legis.html?open) for details), which aims to increase hunting-related fees, passed the House 38-2 and the Senate 18-3. The proposed increases won't be effective until July 2017. Although the fee increases are more than the 15% that DSSA fought for, it is important to point out that a new conservation access pass will be created. The annual conservation access pass is required for any registered motor vehicle used to access public lands owned or managed by the Division of Fish and Wildlife for any allowable activity. However, the conservation access pass shall be issued free of charge with resident and nonresident general hunting licenses, resident and nonresident hunting guide licenses, and nonresident 3-day small game hunting licenses.

Indications are that the Governor will sign both HS 1 for HB 289 and HB 401, so with any luck, Sunday hunting could be legal this year.

DSSA is continuing to work on concealed carry while hunting, cleanup of the acceptable handgun calibers, and allowing deer hunting with rifles that use straight-wall pistol cartridges. We hope that these bills will be introduced in the next legislative session.

SOUTH DAKOTA PRAIRIE DOG HUNT

Did you ever want to prairie dog hunt? Well, it wasn't on my bucket list, but it did sound like a lot of fun. Jim Cruson of Holden Dodge, a long time DSSA member, has been asking for several years for Dan Watson and me to go on a hunt with him. I finally said I would go and what did I need to take on the hunt. First, Jim said I needed three or four rifles in numerous rifle calibers. Then I needed two to three thousand cartridges, scopes sighted in for 100, 200, 300 up to 2,000 yards. Our destination was Bad River Bucks and Bird, LLC in Draper, South Dakota. The trip was a two day drive, as it is not easy to fly with all the guns and ammo. At the last minute Dan could not go, so it was Jim Cruson, John Bartsch and myself.

We made our reservations months in advance for a hunt in the middle of May, 2016.

We took turns driving in four hour shifts so no one got too tired and drove straight through to South Dakota. It took 20 hours and our first stop out there was Cabela's in Michaels, S.D. Only to buy more ammo. The Lodge recommends 500 - 600 rounds a day. We arrived at the Lodge, had a great dinner and assigned to our rooms. Out back there was a practice range for 100-200-300 yards. Jim Cruson helped me fine tune my four rifles for the targets.

In the morning we had a big breakfast and loaded up for our first day of hunt. We arrived at a long prairie with a vast area for prairie dogs, 100 yards to infinity. We were dropped off with lunch packed and plenty of water. They have their own range benches which are portable and swivel 360 degrees. On the first day, I shot about 150 times and got about 15 dogs. Jim and John did a lot better. Around 4:00 P.M. we were taken back to the Hermann Ranch for snacks and drinks. Then a large supper was prepared. We sat around and talked and a few drinks before bed.

We all got a good night's sleep and woke to another great breakfast and then taken to another range. They have over twenty ranges to choose from on their properties. This particular one was at the top of a hill looking down into a valley. We were standing on shrubs and weeds. I don't like snakes and certainly did not want to see any. I shot about another 150 times and hit about another 15 dogs. We were picked up around 4:00 P.M. and back to the ranch for snacks, drinks and a delicious dinner. A good night's sleep is always appreciated and the accommodations were excellent.

On the third day we got up to a great breakfast and then off and away to a different and very open range. The dogs were everywhere, 35 yards to 2000 yards. The dog holes were at least 4 yards apart and the dogs were talking all day. The shooting was non-stop until the cattle showed up. John was still shooting between the cattle, so Jim and I decided to chase the cattle away, since hitting one of them would cost \$700.00 to \$1200.00. The day was great and the weather was perfect. I shot about 200 times and got about 20 dogs. My main rifle was a 17 HMR with 3-9 x 40 scope. I had two other AR 15's with 3-12 x 42 scopes in 5.56 caliber and a 22-250 with Leupold 4-32 x 50 scope which was infinite if you had it sighted in and

no wind. Jim Cruson's popular cartridge was a .204 which is especially designed for prairie dogs.

John Bartsch had numerous rifles from which to choose. At one point I was looking out at about 100 to 300 yards and our Guide, Roger, who had come to pick us up, pointed about 30-35 yards in front of me. There were 4 or 5 dogs just standing there. It was a 100% hit rate. It was three great days of hunting.

The price for the hunt was about \$600.00 a day, but includes lodging and great food. It is well worth the cost and I am definitely planning to make another trip. One note, I wanted two of the prairie dogs stuffed and had contacted George Roof before my trip to get some details. But after getting there, I learned that the dogs are diseased and molten and was told not to touch them. So much for fireplace trophies.

Jim Thompson, DSSA Board Member

FAMOUS QUOTES BY FOUNDING FATHERS

"A free people ought to be armed."

George Washington

"To disarm the people is the most effectual way to enslave them."

George Mason

"The Constitution shall never be construed to prevent the people of the United States who are peaceable citizens from keeping their own arms."

Samuel Adams

"Americans have the right and advantage of being armed, unlike the people of other countries, whose leaders are afraid to trust them with arms."

James Madison

"Those who would give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety, deserve neither liberty nor safety."

Benjamin Franklin

PROTECTING OUR SECOND AMENDMENT RIGHTS WILL MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN

Donald J. Trump on the Right to Keep and Bear Arms

The Second Amendment to our Constitution is clear. The right of the people to keep and bear Arms shall not be infringed upon. Period.

The Second Amendment guarantees a fundamental right that belongs to all law-abiding Americans. The Constitution doesn't create that right – it ensures that the government can't take it away. Our Founding Fathers knew, and our Supreme

Court has upheld, that the Second Amendment's purpose is to guarantee our right to defend ourselves and our families. This is about self-defense, plain and simple.

It's been said that the Second Amendment is America's first freedom. That's because the Right to Keep and Bear Arms protects all our other rights. We are the only country in the world that has a Second Amendment. Protecting that freedom is imperative. Here's how we will do that:

Enforce The Laws On The Books

We need to get serious about prosecuting violent criminals. The Obama administration's record on that is abysmal. Violent crime in cities like Baltimore, Chicago and many others is out of control. Drug dealers and gang members are given a slap on the wrist and turned loose on the street. This needs to stop.

Several years ago there was a tremendous program in Richmond, Virginia called Project Exile. It said that if a violent felon uses a gun to commit a crime, you will be prosecuted in federal court and go to prison for five years – no parole or early release. Obama's former Attorney General, Eric Holder, called that a "cookie cutter" program. That's ridiculous. I call that program a success. Murders committed with guns in Richmond decreased by over 60% when Project Exile was in place – in the first two years of the program alone, 350 armed felons were taken off the street.

Why does that matter to law-abiding gun owners? Because they're the ones who anti-gun politicians and the media blame when criminals misuse guns. We need to bring back and expand programs like Project Exile and get gang members and drug dealers off the street. When we do, crime will go down and our cities and communities will be safer places to live.

Here's another important way to fight crime – empower law-abiding gun owners to defend themselves. Law enforcement is great, they do a tremendous job, but they can't be everywhere all of the time. Our personal protection is ultimately up to us. That's why I'm a gun owner, that's why I have a concealed carry permit, and that's why tens of millions of Americans have concealed carry permits as well. It's just common sense. To make America great again, we're going to go after criminals and put the law back on the side of the law-abiding.

Fix Our Broken Mental Health System

Let's be clear about this. Our mental health system is broken. It needs to be fixed. Too many politicians have ignored this problem for too long.

All of the tragic mass murders that occurred in the past several years have something in common – there were red flags that were ignored. We can't allow that to continue. We need to expand treatment programs, because most people with mental health problems aren't violent, they just need help. But for those who are violent, a danger to themselves or

others, we need to get them off the street before they can terrorize our communities. This is just common sense.

And why does this matter to law-abiding gun owners? Once again, because they get blamed by anti-gun politicians, gun control groups and the media for the acts of deranged madmen. When one of these tragedies occurs, we can count on two things: one, that opponents of gun rights will immediately exploit it to push their political agenda; and two, that none of their so-called "solutions" would have prevented the tragedy in the first place. They've even admitted it.

We need real solutions to address real problems. Not grandstanding or political agendas.

Defend The Rights of Law-Abiding Gun Owners

GUN AND MAGAZINE BANS. Gun and magazine bans are a total failure. That's been proven every time it's been tried. Opponents of gun rights try to come up with scary sounding phrases like "assault weapons", "military-style weapons" and "high capacity magazines" to confuse people. What they're really talking about are popular semi-automatic rifles and standard magazines that are owned by tens of millions of Americans. Law-abiding people should be allowed to own the firearm of their choice. The government has no business dictating what types of firearms good, honest people are allowed to own.

BACKGROUND CHECKS. There has been a national background check system in place since 1998. Every time a person buys a gun from a federally licensed gun dealer – which is the overwhelming majority of all gun purchases – they go through a federal background check. Study after study has shown that very few criminals are stupid enough to try and pass a background check – they get their guns from friends/family members or by stealing them. So the overwhelming majority of people who go through background checks are law-abiding gun owners. When the system was created, gun owners were promised that it would be instant, accurate and fair. Unfortunately, that isn't the case today. Too many states are failing to put criminal and mental health records into the system – and it should go without saying that a system's only going to be as effective as the records that are put into it. What we need to do is fix the system we have and make it work as intended. What we don't need to do is expand a broken system.

NATIONAL RIGHT TO CARRY. The right of self-defense doesn't stop at the end of your driveway. That's why I have a concealed carry permit and why tens of millions of Americans do too. That permit should be valid in all 50 states. A driver's license works in every state, so it's common sense that a concealed carry permit should work in every state. If we can do that for driving – which is a privilege, not a right – then surely we can do that for concealed carry, which is a right, not a privilege.

MILITARY BASES AND RECRUITING CENTERS. Banning our military from carrying firearms on bases and at recruiting centers is ridiculous. We train our military how to safely and responsibly use firearms, but our current policies leave them defenseless. To make America great again, we need a strong military. To have a strong military, we need to allow them to defend themselves.

DSSA Law Enforcement Assistance Committee



As the Obama-inspired anti-police drumbeat builds throughout our state and our country, and the "Summer of 2016" begins to look and feel more like "The Summer of '68", the members of DSSA's Law Enforcement Assistance Committee would like to share with you a piece written in 1970 by one of the great personalities of the golden age of radio news and commentary, Mr. Paul Harvey.

If you are old enough to remember the late '60's and early '70's, and if you remember Paul Harvey, you probably know that Mr. Harvey's father was a policeman who died in the line of duty when Mr. Harvey was just a child. Here's what Mr. Harvey had to say when asked "what is a policeman?"

"POLICEMAN" by Paul Harvey

(Transcribed directly from a recording of Mr. Harvey's radio broadcast in 1970)

A policeman is a composite of what all men are, I guess; a mingling of a saint and sinner, dust and deity.

What that really means is that they are exceptional, unusual, not commonplace.

Buried under the frost is fact: Less than one-half of one percent of policemen misfit the uniform. And that's a better average than you'd find among clergymen.

What is a policeman? He, of all men, is at once the most needed and the most unwanted. He's a strangely nameless

creature who is "sir" to his face and "pig" to his back, or worse.

He must be such a diplomat that he can settle differences between individuals so that each will think he's won.

But... If the policeman is neat, he's conceited; if he's careless, he's a bum. If he's pleasant he's a flirt; if not, he's a grouch.

He must make instant decisions which would require months for a lawyer. But, if he hurries, he's careless; if he's deliberate, he's lazy. He must be first to an accident and infallible with his diagnosis. He must be able to start breathing, stop bleeding, tie splints and, above all, be sure the victim goes home without a limp.

The police officer must know every gun, draw on the run and hit where it doesn't hurt. He must be able to whip two men twice his size and half his age without damaging his uniform and without being "brutal". If you hit him, he's a coward; if he hits you, he's a bully.

The policeman, from a single human hair, must be able to describe the crime, the weapon and the criminal, and tell you where the criminal is hiding. But...If he catches the criminal, he's lucky; if he doesn't he's a dunce.

He runs, files and writes reports until his eyes ache to build a case against some felon who will get dealt out by some shameless shamus.

The policeman must be a minister, a social worker, a diplomat, a tough guy and a gentleman.

And, of course, he's have to be a genius... For he will have to feed a family on a policeman's salary.

As "The Summer of 2016" progresses and the Obama-inspired attacks on our law enforcement community intensify, the DSSA's Law Enforcement Assistance Committee hopes that you will remember Paul Harvey's words and that you will give credit where credit is due, and find fault only where fault is deserved.

God Bless all who wear the badge.

**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