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D.S.S.A. NEWS

DELAWARE STATE SPORTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION
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The 149th General Assembly is finally over!!!!

BY Jeff Hague
DSSA President

I began putting this update together as I sat in Legislative Hall waiting for the session to wrap-up. It was early afternoon and I started to reflect on what happened this past six months. In my years watching what transpires in Dover I have never seen a more hectic session. There have never been more anti-gun bills introduced and considered than there were this session. Don't get me wrong, there were also bills that we wrote, help draft, participated in and helped make their way through the legislative process. In many ways it was an historic time. Here is the list of bills and what happened.

I have added a bit of flavor, when appropriate, since in many cases, decisions weren't made in a vacuum.

The bills are pretty much in the order in which they were introduced, and final action on some did not come until later, even at the last minute, before the session ended.

HB 27 Substituted for by HB 317. This bill which was supported by DSSA was designed to help Delaware's food banks and dealt with immunity for donated wild game and other food products to butcher shops and the Foodbank. It made it out of committee but was opposed by the Delaware Trial Lawyers Association who incorrectly said the bill was discriminatory toward the poor, since rich people could afford to eat in restaurants, but the poor had to use the food bank. They believed that simple Negligence was better than the higher federal standard, which is Gross Negligence. This one is all about attorney's fees. **The bill died in committee.**

HB 95, This Act which was opposed by both NRA and DSSA would prohibit 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 and would have had far-reaching economic impact on innocent owners of items adorned with ivory. This bill was introduced in March of 2017 and sat in committee until mid-June 2018. The primary reason, there was a lack of support for the bill. Rep. Lynn was finally able to force a committee hearing, however, he was not pleased with the result. All members of the committee present voted to table the bill.

Result - died in committee.

HB 124, This Bill which was supported by DSSA and NRA and introduced by Rep. Smyk would permit properly licensed importers, manufacturers, and dealers to possess and store destructive weapons in this State and engage in activities

associated with the sale and delivery of such weapons to (or from) qualified law enforcement purchasers. It was introduced in April of 2017 and was finally passed by the House on June 27th. **Never considered in the Senate.**

HB 156, This bill supported by DSSA and NRA updated 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. This bill also allows for pistol caliber rifle hunting for deer. This bill also makes a technical adjustment to clarify that a handgun or a pistol caliber rifle can be used for deer hunting during any shotgun deer season. After languishing in the House for over a year it was passed by House on June 19th and then passed by the Senate on the 28th. Rep. Spiegelman has been working on this bill for several years and was finally able to get it passed. **Waiting for the Governor's signature.**

HB 157, This bill supported by DSSA and NRA would have authorized the use of airbows for hunting deer in place of a shotgun during any shotgun deer season. This bill sponsored by Rep. Spiegelman became tangled up in the technical problems that exist with the current definition of "firearm" in the Delaware Code and was not considered by the House. **Expired at the end of session.**

HB 174, This bill raised the first offense of purchasing or obtaining a firearm for someone not legally qualified to own, possess or purchase one from a Class F to a Class E Felony. This change is to deter such "straw purchases" by making jail time more likely for the offender, and consequently, to reduce the number of people who cannot legally possess firearms but obtain them in this manner. We supported this bill. **The bill was signed by the governor on April of 2018.**

HS 1 for HB 222, The original bill, HB 222, a so-called "Red Flag Bill" was introduced in June of last year and was never considered. The DSSA and the NRA objected strenuously to the bill for a variety of reasons. When the session resumed in January of this year, we began negotiations with Rep. Bentz in an effort to strengthen the due process rights and several other matters. That effort resulted in the substitute bill being introduced. DSSA had a great deal of input in crafting the substitute in such a way as to protect the rights of law-abiding citizens. The result is what we believe to be the strongest and most fair bill of its kind for the protection of rights of any in the United States. **It was signed by the Governor on June 27th.**

HB 232. This bill was an entire revamping of the CCDW permit process that was introduced in June of 2017 and made it out of committee in June of last year. Due to the events that followed in the fall of 2017 and in January of this year and other concerns that DSSA ultimately recognized, we asked that it be stricken in May. You may rest assured that we will improve on its contents, making it stronger and more protective of your rights and then bring it back next year.

HB 300, the so-called "Bump Stock" bill was introduced amid the aftermath of the Las Vegas tragedy and was strenuously opposed by both NRA and DSSA in its original form due to the overbreadth of its impact on innocent citizens and the vagueness of its language. This was one of the most controversial bills to emerge from this session. The DSSA and NRA managed to amend this bill numerous times so as to limit its scope and limit its negative impact on innocent, law-abiding citizens. The bill was introduced in December of 2017 and was supposed to be fast tracked. The first amendment was introduced in January and it wasn't until after four more House amendments and three Senate amendments and five months had passed was the bill signed. DSSA and NRA made sure the bill became as harmless as possible, while protecting our rights to a much greater extent than the original. **Signed by the Governor on June 14th.**

HS 1 for HB 302. This bill was actually one part of three parts of mental health legislation that the DSSA wrote and attempted to get introduced last year which was designed to improve upon due process protections for law-abiding citizens and protect against overreaching by overzealous officials. The Democrats hijacked our ideas and introduced a portion of our legislation as the "Beau Biden Act". As with HB 222 there were issues dealing with due process rights. After lengthy negotiations with Rep. Bentz, the result was the second bill of three dealing with those with mental health issues. Again, our focus was to ensure due process rights were guaranteed and that innocent persons were protected from over-reaching authorities. **The bill was signed by the Governor on April 30th.**

HS 1 for HB 330. Opposed by NRA and DSSA, this bill would have changed the age of a person to whom another person can sell, give, or transfer a firearm or ammunition for a firearm from 18 to 21. As with the Bump Stock bill, this was another bill that was the result of a tragedy, this time in Florida. It was also supposed to be fast tracked. However, the DSSA and NRA managed to get the bill amended in the House to include several exemptions. When the bill went to the Senate we managed to have an amendment placed with the bill to exempt those who had a valid Delaware Hunter Safety card. **The bill was tabled by the Democrats never to be seen again!**

HB 366. Opposed by both NRA and DSSA this bill would have revised the crime of "unlawfully permitting a child access to a firearm". The offense was renamed "unsafe storage of a firearm" to place emphasis on firearm safety and proper storage. It was amended in the House and then went to the Senate where it was assigned to the Judiciary Committee. DSSA had an amendment that would have been

placed with the bill, however, Rep. Lynn did not agree, so Senator Lavelle kept the bill in the Judiciary Committee. **Died at the end of session.**

HB 375. Opposed by both DSSA and NRA this bill would have prohibited the manufacture, sale, purchase, transfer, or delivery of large-capacity magazines, which are defined as ammunition feeding devices with the capacity to accept more than 10 rounds. The bill was amended to allow magazines of 17 rounds and to exempt law enforcement and CCDW permit holders. The bill was voted out of committee but was never considered by the House. **Died on June 30th.**

HB 376. This bill replaced House Bill No. 285 and, in so doing, removes provisions of House Bill No. 285 related to creating an order of relinquishment process for removing firearms or ammunition from an individual subject to a report from a mental health provider under § 5402 of Title 16 as these provisions are now exclusively contained in House Substitute No. 1 for House Bill No. 302. The bill retains provisions of House Bill No. 285 that do the following: (1) Improve the structure and process related to the Relief from Disabilities Board. (2) Require that information regarding individuals who are declared guilty but mentally ill is reported to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Instant Criminal Background Checks System (NICS). (3) Require that an individual who is voluntarily admitted for inpatient treatment at a psychiatric treatment facility be informed of the individual's rights and options as a voluntary patient. (4) Clarify that an individual who is emergently detained must be treated the same as an individual who is subject to a provisional admission and may not be considered involuntarily committed for any legal purpose. This is the third bill that the DSSA negotiated dealing with those with mental health issues. The bill was held hostage by the House Majority Leader in the House Administration committee and was not released. The DSSA feels that the deal we struck with the House Democrats has been broken. It will return in January. **Died in House Administration Committee.**

SB 31. Supported by both NRA and DSSA, this bill allows a hunter to use a handgun in lieu of a shotgun on farms permitted by DNREC through their Deer depredation programs to reduce agricultural crop damage. It took over a year but was finally **signed by the Governor on April 17, 2018.**

SB 198. Supported by both NRA and DSSA, this Bill eliminates the prohibition against hunting for deer on Sundays. Additionally, it maintains the applicable agency regulating public lands authority and discretion to regulate, including prohibition of, deer hunting on Sundays. Lastly, the bill allows for the harvesting of deer on Sundays through DNREC's deer depredation programs. This is a follow up to the 5 Sundays we got several years ago. The DSSA and NRA pushed hard for this bill and it became part of the Governor's deer management package. **Ready for the Governor's signature.**

SB 163. Opposed by both NRA and DSSA, this was the "big" one this session. The Carney/Townsend Gun Ban. This bill prohibited the manufacture, sale, offer to sell, transfer,

purchase, receipt, possession, or transport of “assault weapons” in Delaware, subject to certain exceptions. One exception relevant to individuals is that the Act does not prohibit the possession and transport of firearms that were lawfully possessed or fully applied for before the effective date of this Act; although for these firearms there are certain restrictions relating to their possession and transport after the effective date of this Act. Suffice it to say, the DSSA and NRA pulled out all the stops in getting this bill stopped. A phenomenon that occurred with the introduction of this bill was the formation of a Facebook group called Delaware Gun Rights. In a little over 48 hours this group gained over 22,000 followers. With the assistance of this group, and others, the DSSA and NRA managed to keep the bill in committee, despite the sponsors attempt to force the bill out of committee by use of a parliamentary maneuver that had never been attempted previously. **Bill died in the Senate Judiciary Committee June 30th.**

SB 209 and SB 210. Opposed by both DSSA and NRA, these two bills totaling 301 pages of legislation were a complete rewrite of the Delaware Criminal Code and would have upended over 40 years of criminal law and would have had catastrophic negative effects on your right to keep and bear arms. They were advocated by the Chief Justice and an attempt was made to fast track them out of committee and for a Senate vote. The DSSA and NRA, with the help of all of you managed to derail that effort and force the bills to be left in committee. Neither bill was considered by the committee and **died June 30th.**

Last, but not least, **SB 253**, An act creating and funding a Community Assault Weapon Recovery Program. In other words, a “Gun Buy Back” program. The bill was introduced on June 21st, after the Carney/Townsend gun ban had effectively died. Sen. Marshall is running for re-election and needed campaign material. The bill stayed the Senate agenda for around 4 days. It was never going anywhere, but he had to try. Bottom line, he couldn’t even get the bill out of the Labor Committee, of which he is the Chair. Go figure. **Bill died in committee, June 30th.**

By all accounts we can chalk this session up as a success. The DSSA and NRA were successful in halting almost every attempt to infringe on your right to keep and bear arms here in Delaware. However, the fight is far from over. Rest assured they will be back in January to try again.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those in the DSSA, NRA, DGR and other groups and individuals that took the time and effort to help in seeing that the efforts to curtail our rights were stopped. Many, many hours were spent roaming the halls of the legislature and talking to senators and representative to make sure they knew of our concerns and asking them to make sure our constitutional rights were not infringed.

ARE YOU FED UP YET?

If you’re a gun owner in Delaware, you have been aware of the absurd attempts by the Governor, Senator Townsend and others to pass an assault weapons ban, magazine limit, age limit and other unconstitutional gun grabs this last legislative session. They failed, but they vowed to come back in January 2019 and do it again. So, as I asked, are you fed up yet?

DSSA along with several other gun rights groups have banded together to stop this once and for all in Delaware. How are we going to do that? We are going to change the make-up and attitude of the legislature this November. We need your help.

Please consider getting involved and stop this legislative abuse from Dover. We need to stop the incessant drum beat of gun control in Delaware.

If you want to help, please go to the link at the end of this article and volunteer to help in the political process for the next four months. The link will take you to the Delaware Constitutional Freedom Consortium (DCFC) registration page.

You will not be solicited for any donations to any campaign supported by DCFC. Right now we are developing the infrastructure to have a major impact. When the campaigns get into full swing next month we will determine which candidates/legislators will be helpful to the gun community and which won’t.

Your information will be sorted by Senate and Representative district and your name/email address may be given to a specific campaign in your area for volunteer support. If you don’t like the candidate/legislator in your area, then work for their opponent. The individual campaign will contact you directly in July, August or September.

Support you can give may be:

- Help with literature drops – door to door in district neighborhoods.
- Walk with candidate during door knocking.
- Conduct meet-and-greets at your home or community facility.
- Do mailings for a campaign.
- Do phone calls.
- Voter registration in local communities.
- Get out the vote effort on election day.
- Poll monitoring.
- Work on and support key State, Senate and Representative districts.
- Many other opportunities.

If we can help critical campaigns with just a dozen volunteers each over the next four months, that’s HUGE and can easily swing an election. Volunteers are the ones that make it happen. And every candidate/legislator is very appreciate of their volunteers and never forgets them. The volunteers got them elected.

Please go to the link below and VOLUNTEER. Woody Allen said it best – 80% of life is showing up. Lets make a difference – Lets make a change.

[VOLUNTEER FOR 2018](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfvM5X7F6ZLOWWr7vpC5k-8C92pVS2QU6TlthE3MI4bZKewQQ/viewform?c=0&w=1)

(<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfvM5X7F6ZLOWWr7vpC5k-8C92pVS2QU6TlthE3MI4bZKewQQ/viewform?c=0&w=1>)

CELEBRATING JULY 4TH – INDEPENDENCE DAY

It seems appropriate to use this July-August edition of DSSA News to remind our members of the fundamental aspects of our history, our culture and our heritage by sharing with you excerpts from the “founding documents” most of us have not considered since grade school. We thought that perhaps you might want to celebrate July 4th by returning to our “roots”.

First please consider the first operative paragraph of the Declaration of Independence, the “Founding Document” upon which rest all of the others (actually the second paragraph of the Declaration).

July 4, 1776

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

* * *

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. – That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, - That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness, Prudence will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. – Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States...

Our first “constitution” was in reality not a constitution at all but rather an agreement, a “treaty” if you will, between the 13 original and sovereign States – that “treaty” is known as the Articles of Confederation, and it simply did not work. In many ways it failed to reflect the ideas, ideals and goals set forth in the quoted section of the Declaration of Independence set forth above. This led, of course, to the drafting and eventual adoption of our United States Constitution in 1789.

It would appear that James Madison may have returned to the intent of the words of Thomas Jefferson’s Declaration of Independence when he was drafting the Preamble to the Constitution as a way of setting the tone – the intent, if you will, for the balance of the document. While legal scholars will tell you that the Preamble is exactly that, a preamble, and not actually part of the Constitution to the extent that it carries the force of law, it certainly tells us what was in the minds of the Founders and who we are – or at least who we strive to be – as a People.

PREAMBLE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure the domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the General Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Although this newsletter will probably not reach you in time for the 4th of July celebration you and your family will enjoy, we hope that you will take a moment to reflect on the true meaning of Independence Day and the vision our Founders were attempting to project for the future of America.

IT AIN’T CHEAP!

By John & Ingrid Sigler

OK – the Second Session of the 149th Delaware General Assembly is over. The Carney/Townsend Gun Ban has been defeated. Other anti-gun measures have been stopped, watered down, amended, defeated, diverted, and gutted. And we even passed a few pro-gun, pro-hunting measures. So it’s time to celebrate, right?

Sure it is – CONGRATULATIONS! But did you ever wonder how much it cost?

Last year we went to court against the State to have anti-gun regulations declared unconstitutional – and now we’re right back in court doing it again this year – ever wonder how much it costs?

Well, to be blunt – IT AIN’T CHEAP!

And now we face another election where our Second Amendment Rights will be a huge issue – and after that election we will be right back in Dover for the First Session of the 150th Delaware General Assembly. We already know that anti-gun forces led by Governor Carney and aided and abetted by freedom-hating outsiders like Bloomberg’s “Everytown” radicals and the so-called “Coalition Against Gun Violence” will be bringing another Carney Gun Ban Bill and who knows what else – they’ve already said so – ask them!

WE won this year – but what about next year? And the year after that?

And did you ever stop to ask yourself “who paid for that hall where that rally was held?” “Who pays for the tickets to fundraisers where our lobbyists “grip & grin” with legislators, trying to get their votes?” “Where does that money come from?” “How much does it cost?”

“How much did those lawyers cost who did the research and wrote the papers that proved SB 163 was unconstitutional – they must have been expensive. Who paid for them?”

Hopefully, you can answer “I did – I helped pay – I was part of the team that won”.

And did you ever stop to ask yourself “How much was it worth, and how much do I owe?”

Well, we’ve asked those questions – so tonight we will go together as a family to the DSSA Board meeting and we will bring two checks with us – one made out to DSSA and one made out to our PAC – The Delaware Foundation for Legislative Action (DFLA).

They won’t be big and they won’t be impressive – but they will be needed.

This fight is far from over – and as anyone can tell you the ammunition needed to win this fight at the polls, at Legislative Hall and in the Courts is MONEY!

So we ask you to join us – we ask that you dig deep – as deep as you can – help DSSA defend your rights and protect the freedoms you hold so dear.

So, please? Two (2) checks – just like ours – not big, but big enough – write one to DSSA and write one to The Delaware Foundation for Legislative Action (DFLA) – and then mail those two checks to:

DSSA, P.O. Box 94 Lincoln, DE 19960 -**OR** – simply go to dssa.us and click on **DONATE** – that works too. Thanks!

LITIGATION UPDATE

DSSA V. GARVIN

DE Superior Court Civil Action # K18C-05-047 –JJC

As all eyes were focused on Legislative Hall and the battles being fought by your DSSA, the NRA and others to defend against the cynical and sometimes vicious attacks against your fundamental rights to Keep and Bear Arms

spearheaded by Governor Carney and his far-left anti-gun allies in the Legislature, your DSSA was busy fighting for your rights in Court in a new case to be known simply as **DSSA v. Garvin.**

As you will remember, in a previous case called **Bridgeville v. Small**, your DSSA, the Bridgeville Rifle & Pistol Club and several individual members brought suit against the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) and the Department of Agriculture (DOA) challenging certain regulations that essentially banned firearms from Delaware’s Parks and State Forests. In 2017, the Delaware Supreme Court ruled in our favor holding all of those anti-gun regulations to be unconstitutional, thus striking those regulations in their entirety.

In a move reminiscent of Washington, D.C.’s cynically arrogant response to the first **Heller** decision, DNREC and DOA responded to their Supreme Court loss by issuing so-called “emergency regulations” which in large part ignored the Court’s majority opinion in **Bridgeville**, once again displaying the Carney Administration’s open and complete disdain for and hostility toward Delaware’s community of law-abiding gun owners and the rights protected by both the Delaware and U.S. Constitutions.

Throughout last Fall and Winter, your DSSA and the NRA fully participated in the required Administrative process, representing your rights and your views throughout that which was clearly a “stacked-deck process”. As expected, that “stacked-deck” process eventually resulted in both DNREC and DOA issuing “Final Regulations” that clearly ignore and/or misconstrue the Court’s opinion in **Bridgeville** and which give only lip service to the Delaware Supreme Court’s prior unanimous opinion in **Doe v. Wilmington Housing Authority** (2014), apparently ignoring the U.S. Supreme Court’s decisions in both **Heller** and **McDonald**.

Left with no other viable alternative your DSSA, joined once again by the Bridgeville Rifle & Pistol Club and one of its members, John Sylvester, filed suit on May 22, 2018, in Delaware’s Superior Court seeking Declaratory Judgment to strike down those portions of the “new regulations” that violate a wide range of both federal and state constitutional and statutory provisions, including but not limited to the Second and Fourth Amendments to the United States Constitution as well as Articles 6 and 20 of the Delaware Constitution.

Briefing in this case is underway as of this writing and initial Oral Arguments have been scheduled in the Superior Court for July 20, 2018.

Selected litigation documents including DSSA’s Complaint and the State’s Answer have been posted on the DSSA web site and may be accessed by going to dssa.us.

ATTENTION

Democrats – Republicans – Independents - Everyone

COME JOIN US

BY John C. Sigler
NRA Past President

For years Independents and non-affiliated voters have struggled to find a home in either the Republican Party or the Democratic Party. Now, with so much political anger, angst, name-calling and internal divisiveness spreading across our country and even across our state, otherwise aligned Democrats and Republicans are also beginning to look for a new home – a home where the watchword is “Freedom”, where the concepts are based upon individual responsibility, and where the hope is for a freer America and governments that are truly “Of the People, By the People and for The People.”

WE are that new “HOME” – and the good news, is that you don’t have to abandon your old home to enjoy your new home – a new home where everyone is welcome – come join the freedom-loving members of NRA and the DSSA, your new “home-away-from home” - All you have to do is **VOTE FREEDOM FIRST!**

But wait! You’re already a member of DSSA and the NRA – so what do you mean “join us”? Good question. Please bear with me.

You see, we don’t care how you are registered to vote – we don’t care how you feel about other issues – all we care about is your belief in our Constitution, the Bill of Rights and the fundamental Right to Keep and Bear Arms. And we do care that you are a **Voter**.

In fact, we want you to be whatever is comfortable for you – be a Democrat, be a Republican, be a Libertarian, be an Independent – for that matter be an Unaffiliated voter – but whatever you do, please be a **VOTER** - and please join us in voting for those candidates of any Party who believe as we do that the Founders got it right when it came to the Bill of Rights – all of them.

Years ago NRA coined the phrase “VOTE FREEDOM FIRST”. At that time that message was primarily directed to the classic union voter who was being told by his or her union bosses to vote for whomever the union told them was “their candidate.” Unfortunately, many of those unions were nothing more than shells for the Democratic Party and most of those Democrats were anti-gun “Cintonistas”. So “VOTE FREEDOM FIRST” was designed to remind pro-gun union members to vote for the candidate who would protect their freedoms rather than the jobs of corrupt union bosses who were “in the tank” for the anti-gun Democrats.

Today, both the national and state-level Democratic Party have openly and defiantly - and yes, even arrogantly - abandoned their most loyal, freedom-loving members by advocating for anything and everything that will infringe upon your Right to Keep and Bear Arms (SB 163, the Carney/Townsend Gun Ban being the best example).

As one Democrat legislator recently told me, “I’m a Democrat without a home – my Party has left me – I’m still a Democrat but now I’m homeless.”

I know the feeling – remember Republican Mike Castle? The most anti-gun governor and anti-gun Congressman of any Party until John Carney came along?

Like my friend the Democrat legislator, I remained with my “old home” while enjoying the comfort of my new home-away-from-home by going to the polls and voting **FREEDOM FIRST** for pro-gun, NRA-ILA endorsed candidates without regard for their Party affiliation – Yes! I have voted for pro-gun Democrats and I may even do so again – but only if they believe as I do that “**Freedom Comes First**”.

So, come home to Freedom – come home to the NRA and DSSA where Freedom Comes First – come home to the Constitution and the Bill of Rights – Come home to fundamental American values.

Join us as we volunteer our time, our energy and our love of country for our pro-gun Freedom Candidates. Join us as we knock on doors, distribute literature and recruit others in the fight for Firearm Freedom in Delaware.

And then - Join us at the polls on Election Day as we unite to **VOTE FREEDOM FIRST**.

IDENTIFYING THE OPPOSITION AND THE CHALLENGES THEY POSE

Editor

It’s time for a reality check! The 2018 legislative year began as a huge threat to our Right to Keep and Bear Arms and, by working together and working “smart” we dodged a number of major bullets – pun intended. But 2018 isn’t over, and as surely as that big buck will follow that beautiful doe on a crisp Fall morning, the 2019 legislative year will soon be upon us and the opposition will once again lay claim to our Rights, one more time. So we must be prepared, both for the 2018 elections and the results that will ultimately define the scope of the test during the 150th Delaware General Assembly.

So, just who is the “opposition” and what challenges do they bring to the fight?

Obviously we know that Governor Carney is the titular leader of the opposition here in Delaware. His hostility toward you, your guns, your rights, your beliefs, the Second Amendment and the NRA are well-known and well documented. A formidable foe, no doubt about it. And, of course, there are key members of the Majority Party of both the House and the Senate, the current Attorney General, plus key officers within the Administration who are rabidly opposed to your fundamental Right to Keep and Bear Arms.

But are these the puppet masters, or are these the puppets? Do elected officials really care about the issue, or just political opportunism – probably the latter?

We know that Delaware’s Democratic State Party Chairman is an outspoken opponent of your fundamental

Right to Keep and Bear Arms and we also know that the Democratic National Committee has adopted a National Platform that is decidedly anti-gun and anti-freedom. Is the Democratic Party Leadership structure the puppet master, or simply another, larger puppet?

And why do they care? Guns and the Second Amendment are just one issue for them – yes, a big issue, perhaps, but one of many, some of which are much more important. And none of these opponents are spending money on the issue, only on elections; and history teaches us that if you are looking for the real opponent, look for the “real” money.

Enter the “Puppet Master” - Michael Bloomberg – New York Billionaire. Now there’s money! This guy makes more in one day that some states raise in taxes in one year. And he hates you and your guns; hates the NRA; hates individual freedom for everyone but himself; believes himself to be above the law and will do anything he can to destroy the America we all know and love.

“Everytown for Gun Safety” is a Bloomberg-funded anti-gun organization, and there are others, either wholly or partially funded by Bloomberg. They have one goal and only one goal – disarm America’s civilian population – sounds extreme, but it is true. When “Everytown” was first formed Bloomberg invested \$50 Million to get it off the ground. No one knows how much more he has put into this effort. What we do know is that some of that money – a lot of that money – has come to Delaware.

Now add to “Everytown” even more money - “Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America” and its Delaware affiliate “Delaware Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America.” Like “Everytown”, this is a Bloomberg-funded anti-gun operation working here in Delaware and bringing even more Bloomberg money into play against your fundamental Right to Keep and Bear Arms. It is, in fact, nothing more than an arm of “Everytown” designed to do nothing more than to bring the emotion of “Mom” (and apple pie?) into the equation while making no apology for attempting to pattern its appeal, and its political strategy, after Mothers Against Drunk Driving – cute, huh?

And of course we have The Brady Campaign which is no stranger to Delaware. Once known as the National Council Against Handguns and Handgun Control, Inc., the Brady Campaign has participated at various levels in both legislative and elective matters here in the First State. Isn’t it nice having celebrity anti-gunners like Sarah Brady living in Lewes and raising money to use against your fundamental God-Given Rights here in your own back yard?

And that brings us to “American’s for Responsible Solutions” – (Don’t you just love these names?). This is another anti-gun, anti-freedom, NRA-hating organization founded by former NRA A-Rated Congresswoman Gabby Giffords and her astronaut husband, Mark Kelly, after Giffords was ambushed by a madman in Arizona. Americans for Responsible Solutions has made its presence known here in Delaware.

The “Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence”, also known as the “Legal Community Against Violence”, was originally formed in San Francisco in 1993 as an anti-gun legal research and advocacy organization designed to provide legal assistance to anti-gun elected officials and government attorneys working on anti-gun legislation and law suits. In 2016, it merged with the Giffords organization and became the Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence. Much of the anti-gun legislation touted by the “progressive” left in Delaware comes from this group. The exact financial relationship between Bloomberg and this group may never be known or fully appreciated.

And then there are our “friends” from the Delaware Coalition Against Gun Violence whose Board is comprised of some the most avid anti-gun, anti-freedom, NRA-hating political figures one could possibly find in Delaware, led by former F-Rated Republican Senator Laine Sorensen, among others – many of whom are either current or former F-Rated Democrat legislators. This organization appears to be funded, at least in part, by both the Giffords organization and the Bloomberg organization. It also conducts fundraising within the State relying heavily on left-leaning “progressives” and socialists for both moral and financial support. It also appears that this organization may be playing “point guard” for at least some, if not all, of the other anti-gun entities working to infringe upon your rights here in Delaware.

Now back to Mike Bloomberg, “Everytown”, and those billions of dollars Blomberg appears ready to spend throughout the USA and here in the First State.

According to some reports, Bloomberg has constructed a highly sophisticated organization working out of New York City consisting of at least 160 employees whose sole task in life is to destroy the NRA, advocate for repeal of the Second Amendment, defeat pro-gun candidates, conduct anti-gun/anti-NRA rallies, bully individuals and businesses friendly to the NRA and the Second Amendment, and support in any way possible the complete elimination of the Right to Keep and Bear Arms in America. It is unclear, however, whether “Everytown” is that organization, independent of that organization, or merely one wing of that organization.

One report alleged that during the first 6 weeks immediately following the Parkland tragedy, if a “progressive”, left-wing and anti-gun activist wanted to conduct a “rally” against NRA anywhere in the country all they had to do was call a number in New York City and the Bloomberg organization would make it happen with hired “protestors” who had no idea why they were there, what the issues were or who the target of their “wrath” really was, only that they were told to express their hatred for the NRA. Someone even reported that the going rate for participation in such a “spontaneous rally” was \$300.

Just recently, “Everytown” sent a mailer into Delaware’s legal community asking for money and alleging an impossible 45 million members nationwide. Expect to see that money being used here in Delaware leading into the 2018 Delaware

elections and in next year's legislative fight to bring back SB 163.

So, the opposition has money – lots and lots of money. More money than the NRA, more than DSSA, and certainly more than you and me. But what they don't have is the support of "We the People".

And that's "The Challenge" - beating their "Big Money" with our "Little Money" using the strength of "WE THE PEOPLE" and the beauty and majesty of the freedoms protected by the United States Constitution.

We have each other, we have the NRA and DSSA, we have the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, and we have our history, our culture and our heritage – and that's what the opposition doesn't have, and that's what they are trying to destroy.

So long as we remain united, continue to work together and spend what little money we have wisely, we can and will persevere. We have proven that.

And with your help, your financial support, and your continued dedication to the cause of Firearm Freedom here in The First State, we will prove it once again.

NEW JERSEY HOUSING DEVELOPER BANS GUNS ON RENTAL PROPERTY

by Tom Knighton

While homeownership may be a key part of the American dream, a lot of people rent their homes. Why they do it is irrelevant. What matters is that their money is good and they are (usually) good tenants, right?

It seems that's not enough for one New Jersey outfit. They also want to tell you that you're not allowed to own guns if you want to live in one of their properties.

Another "nobody is trying to take your guns" success story. It has come to our attention that a housing development group called RPM Development Group is prohibiting their tenants from owning firearms. You have two choices: keep your gun(s) or become homeless. A new low for the anti-gun bigots!

While Mom's Demand Action claims that "nobody wants to take your guns away," one common theme keeps happening: our guns are being taken away either by usurpation or now by being barred from having them in our rental apartments. Despite the fact that the Supreme Court's Heller decision states that we have a constitutional right to own and bear firearms in our homes, RPM Development Group believes they are immune.

RPM Notice to All Tenants (Courtesy of Ammoland.com) We were made aware that this sign was posted at RPM's Richardson Lofts at 50 Columbia Street, Newark NJ. A search of RPM's available properties shows they have multiple properties and buildings throughout NJ.

On one hand, I can't help but wonder how this is remotely legal. On the other hand, I remember I'm a big

proponent of property rights and since RPM owns the property, what they say should go.

But what they're saying is ridiculous. It's one thing to not want illegal guns on your rental property. I wouldn't want to be renting a house or apartment to an armed criminal, either. I don't think anyone would really disagree with that.

We're not talking about crooks, though. We're talking about law-abiding citizens who own firearms for recreation and/or personal defense. This is a lawful purpose and no one should get in the way of that right. What's next? Is RPM going to ban people from owning cars, as well? After all, they're responsible for more deaths each and every year than firearms.

This, right here, is what anti-gunners want for all of us. It's not enough to oppose private ownership of firearms. Not for them.

No, they also want to press and push until those with guns are forced to live as exiles. They want to stigmatize us to such a degree that we're not able to function in society. That includes making it harder for us to find places to live. After all, a little less than 65 percent of all American households own their own home. That leaves a lot of people still renting.

If something like this catches on, a lot of those people will be in a tough spot. They either have to lie and pretend they don't have guns, or they have to find new places to live, places that don't put these kinds of restrictions on their tenants.

However, we've also seen that financial institutions and the government aren't above trying to press private industry into adopting anti-gun policies. How long until this spreads?

This is something to keep a wary eye on.

ANTI-GUN GROUPS USE TACTICS NECESSARY TO WIN'—AMERICAN SPECTATOR

May 30, 2018 By [Dave Workman](#)

Gun control activist teen David Hogg is spearheading a voter registration drive to elect anti-gun politicians in the fall.

The [American Spectator](#) on Wednesday published a scathing analysis of recent school shootings and the Left's knee-jerk response that takes the Obama administration's education secretary to task for his "shoot-from-the-hip" reaction to the Santa Fe High School shooting in Texas.

Former education chief Arne Duncan's suggestion that no student attend school "until gun laws change to keep them safe," says the American Spectator piece, authored by Chris Talgo and Justin Haskins, "embodies the 'action for the sake of action' mentality that so often follows in the wake of heartbreaking school violence."

Talgo and Haskins are with the Heartland Institute, described by Wikipedia as "an American conservative and libertarian public policy think tank founded in 1984 and based in Arlington Heights, Illinois."

Some of their observations could have come from [P.J. O'Rourke](#), who is credited with this observation about liberals:

"At the core of liberalism is the spoiled child — miserable, as all spoiled children are, unsatisfied, demanding, ill-disciplined, despotic and useless. Liberalism is a philosophy of sniveling brats."

If simply passing gun-control legislation worked, then those cities and states with the strictest gun laws would be the safest, and the evidence shows they clearly aren't. Don't believe us? Go ask the people of Chicago's South Side whether they think gun control has worked in their community. Or take a few minutes to examine the crime statistics in states such as Idaho or New Hampshire, where guns are readily accessible and gun-related homicides are relatively rare.—Chris Talgo and Justin Haskins, writing in *The American Spectator*

It apparently also is a philosophy of public disarmament. Talgo and Haskins note how anti-gunners leap to exploit such tragedies as school shootings.

"Gone are the days of respecting the grieving process for victims and families," they write. "Now, everything is said and done for political gain, and it happens almost immediately after a tragedy — especially when guns are involved."

The *American Spectator* piece says something that Second Amendment activists better take to heart: "anti-gun groups will use whatever tactics necessary to 'win.'"

Right now, for example, Florida high school student-turned-gun-control-activist David Hogg is spearheading an effort to register teens to vote this fall, according to the [Associated Press](#). The goal is to replace politicians "beholden to the National Rifle Association" with people friendly to gun control; i.e., people "beholden to" the gun prohibition lobby exemplified by Michael Bloomberg's Everytown for Gun Safety and Seattle's Alliance for Gun Responsibility.

But Talgo and Haskins are on to them.

"Student-led" protests and Duncan's call for a nationwide school boycott this fall to spur legislators to pass gun control laws are disingenuous and put the cart before the horse," they write. "The student-led protests are little more than AstroTurf shenanigans perpetuated by the anti-gun lobby, which uses students as pawns to garner attention and sympathy."

Gun control is on the front burner in Washington and Oregon, where proponents think it will be a useful political tool in November.

If rights activists intend to protect what's theirs this fall, they need to get busy now.

DON'T BELIEVE WHAT POLLSTERS SAY ABOUT THE GUN CONTROL VIEWS OF NRA MEMBERS

By [Marion P. Hammer](#)
July 3, 2018

Time and again national pollsters insist on reporting how NRA members and other gun owners feel about gun control. Don't believe a word of it.

None of these pollsters has access to NRA's membership list. NRA strictly protects its membership list and doesn't give it to mainstream media types, pollsters, solicitors or anyone else. It is a private list and always has been. Anyone who claims to have access to NRA's membership list is not telling the truth.

Pollsters simply ask people they survey if they are NRA members or gun owners. However, they have absolutely no way to determine whether the information they get is accurate. So despite their claims, they can't accurately say how NRA members or gun owners feel about gun control.

In gun control polls conducted by national pollsters, it is folly to believe that gun owners tell pollsters the truth about NRA membership, gun ownership, or their views on gun control. NRA members and gun owners aren't inclined to share their personal information with people they don't know.

No one wants to be put on any kind of list of gun owners and that absolutely applies to lists created by pollsters for anti-gun clients.

It is folly to believe gun owners tell pollsters the truth about NRA membership or gun ownership. It is even folly to believe the majority of people, whose privacy is interrupted by a pollster, tell pollsters the truth about anything.

The media love to cite national polls that claim NRA members and gun owners support gun control. That's because they're trying to push a gun control narrative, and the "poll results" fit their political narrative. But that doesn't make it true.

The only legitimate poll of NRA members ever done was a national scientific survey commissioned by NRA. It surveyed 1,000 randomly-selected NRA members across the country and found that NRA members are united on today's issues.

- 92 percent oppose banning the sale of firearms between private citizens.
- 92 percent oppose background checks on the sale of firearms between private citizens.
- 89 percent oppose banning so-called "assault weapons."
- 93 percent oppose gun registration.
- 91 percent SUPPORT laws to keep guns out of the hands of people with mental illnesses.

That is the only legitimate survey of NRA members in existence. It was conducted to expose the bevy of pollsters reporting false survey results.

NRA members and other law-abiding gun owners know better than to believe anything they read, see or hear in the mainstream media about NRA membership views or gun owner views on gun control. You should too.

Marion P. Hammer is past president of the National Rifle Association and executive director of Unified Sportsmen of Florida. She represents both organizations in Florida.



SPORTING CLAYS SHOOT

SUNDAY, JULY 22, 2018

Owens Station, Greenwood DE

Registration @ 8:30, Shooting @ 9:00

Must be on Course by 11:30

Lunch @ 11:00

\$65 Adult Shooter

\$45 Youth (17 and under)

Includes 50 Targets & Lunch

Grizzly 40 Quart Cooler Participation Prize

***Be a Shooting Station Sponsor for a \$100
Donation***

6 Guns to be given away

High Overall, Ladies, Youth, and 3 Lewis

Class 1st

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