



A Publication of
Virginia Citizens
Defense League,
Inc.

THE DEFENDER

DEFENDING YOUR RIGHT
TO DEFEND YOURSELF.

♦ Summer 2016 ♦

WHY DO YOU NEED THAT GUN?

How many of us have ever been asked "Why do you need that gun?" Perhaps it's a spouse, or a family member, or a friend — or an anti-gunner. How do you answer? Here's some food for thought. The item was originally written by an individual who prefers to remain unnamed, partly because the answer is irrelevant, and partly to avoid noting he may have guns in his home. The individual was responding to a friend after announcing he had ordered a gun through his dealer. Your Editor has chosen to respect this request.

Your question... why do I NEED this gun, is the same as that asked by anti-gunners, and for the same reason. Implicit in the question is the statement, "I don't need it; why do you?"

I'm not saying that you or your question is anti-gun, but am pointing out the similarity based on a self-perceived notion of "need."

I don't need that gun, and I wouldn't buy it rather than pay the rent, buy baby formula or have the cancer surgery.

You might ask Jay Leno the same question about his cars and, if he doesn't say "f-off", you'll probably get the same answer. Jay Leno likes his cars, can afford them and they provide him entertainment and challenge for that time of his life which he probably believes, he deserves.

I like to buy guns. I am hoping I'll like this one and get to spend some pleasant time with it. I'm comfortably retired, my family is provided for and certain things hold interest (and certain things don't).

Continued on page 9

VCDL Public Meeting Dates

Thursday, November 17 — Annandale

Thursday, December 8 — Annandale

Monday, January 16, 2017 — LOBBY DAY, Richmond

Additional meetings held throughout the state are announced in VA-ALERT and posted on the calendar at www.vcdl.org/calendar

Annandale meetings are held at the Mason Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003
Fellowship 7:30; Meeting 8:00 PM

VCDL IN NATIONAL NEWS

CLINTON CAMPAIGN CRITICAL OBAMA RESUSCITATE DRUDGE REPORT

REPORT: John Kerry State Dept Funneled MILLIONS To His Daughter's Nonprofit...

Filmmaker Blamed for Benghazi Attack Broke, Living in Shelter...

B-1B nuke bombers fly over SKorea to rattle Kim...

TECH GIANTS URGE USA CEDE CONTROL OF NET...

Last Month of Uncensored Web?

Lagarde Addresses Anti-Globalist Groundswell...

New ISIS video features Tom Cruise as 'US spies' are hung from meat hooks and slaughtered like sheep...

Katie Couric Sued For \$12M For Defamation In Anti-Gun Doc...

The Pot Now Smokes: The First Look At...

LATIMES POLL: TRUMP +3...

Quake Shakes San Fran...

RYAN LOCHTE RUSHED ON STAGE...

Man Tackled and Detained...

Tehran launches new navy ship as tensions rise...

Threatens to shoot down US planes...

Saudi Reclaims Oil Crown From USA...

Jay-Z streaming service TIDAL 'posts huge losses'...

THANKS A BILLION! DRUDGE REPORT ANOTHER RECORD MONTH...

FOX NEWS FOX BUSINESS FOX NEWS 24 FOX NEWS GO FOX NEWS RADIO FOX + NATION FOX NEWS

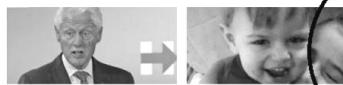
FOX NEWS

Home Video Politics U.S. Opinion Entertainment Tech Science Health Travel

'TREND OF DECEPTION': Republicans move to impeach IRS commissioner



VIDEO: House GOP takes on challenge to impeach IRS commissioner
VIDEO: IRS commissioner a no-show at hearing on his impeachment
VIDEO: Two congressmen testify against IRS commissioner



BIAS ALERT
CBS edits out Bill Clinton slip on Hillary's health

• WALL OF SILENCE: Clinton IT expert dodges subpoena, others plead 5th

• OBAMA STEPS IN: President hits



TRAGIC TODDLER DEATH
Child suffocates hiding under bean bag chair

• RESEARCH BREAKTHROUGH: Video exams may help expand kids' access to asthma care



COURIC GOING TO COURT
Katie faces \$12m suit over 'misleading' gun doc edits

• VIDEO: The problem with Katie Couric's editing

• VIDEO: Second Katie Couric

YOUR COMMENTS NEEDED

If you have not yet done so, please comment on the Virginia Regulatory Town Hall webpage <http://tinyurl.com/havw4pk>.

This is the comment period for final approval of the Governor's Executive Agency ban on carry. Even if the agency overrides the will of the people, we will need your comments to support a State Agency preemption bill in the 2017 General Assembly session.

Suggested comment title: "I OPPOSE this regulation!"

Suggested comment: "I OPPOSE banning lawfully carried firearms in state agency buildings."

VCDL is a non-partisan grassroots organization dedicated to defending the human rights of all Virginians. The membership considers the right to keep and bear arms an essential human right. Members are encouraged to participate actively in developing The Defender. Articles on Second Amendment and the Right to Keep and Bear Arms subjects may be published as space permits.

Articles should be brief and to the point. Materials will not be returned. All claims, facts, and quotes must be verifiable. Photos must be accompanied by names of the subjects, dates, location of events, and photographer's name. Articles must be factual, newsworthy, and of interest to the membership. VCDL will not endorse politicians or political candidates for office. Information submitted by the Political Action Committee (VCDL-PAC) appear inside the back page. Opinions expressed in The Defender are not necessarily those of the Virginia Citizens Defense League.

We also welcome, subject to space limitations, book reviews and firearms/gear reviews.

Submissions are subject to editing for length, style, grammar, and conformity with the goals of VCDL. Authors of articles and letters should be identified, and city/town of residence is preferred. Contact the editor for additional details.

VCDL wants to include clippings from around the state. You can help by monitoring your local newspaper for articles, editorials, and letters to the editor dealing with the right to keep and bear arms. Clip the news pieces along with a masthead from the paper and send them in, or send a link. If you write a letter to the editor, please send us a copy. Check the guidelines of the publication you write to, however; some require you not to publish elsewhere, or not to publish elsewhere until after it runs in their paper.

Send submissions at any time via e-mail to TheDefender@vcdl.org or via snail-mail to: The Editor, c/o VCDL, The Defender, P.O. Box 513, Newington, VA 22122

We are investigating the possibility of electronic access to The Defender. Should that be viable, we will notify our members via The Defender and via the VA-ALERT.

PRESIDENT'S PEN

Who makes up the gun-control community?

After studying the other side for the last 20 or so years, I believe they can be grouped into several broad categories:

* Those with a violent temper, who don't trust themselves. They fear that if they have access to a firearm, they will either murder someone in a fit of anger or commit an impulsive suicide. Because they don't realize they are not normal, they "project" that severe character flaw on everyone else. Therefore, they reason that since they can't be trusted to be a gun owner, no one else can be trusted, either. This category represents the majority of gun-controllers. Because of their visceral self-distrust and associated hatred of guns, they can't really be influenced

* Those who want to control all aspects of everyone else's life. They are mutants who lack the "leave everyone else alone" gene that most of us have. They consider themselves the only ones smart enough to decide what people should or shouldn't be able to do. These are the elitists, the hypocrites, like Rosie O'Donnell, who want armed guards defending themselves and their families, while piously saying no one needs a gun. Since this category cannot be convinced that they are not the brain trust for the universe, they are not really capable of being influenced

* Lazy and extremely insecure people who feel they can only be "safe" if they control everyone and everything around them. They reason that if everyone is disarmed, then they would have no need to take time out of their busy day to think about taking care of their own personal security. Of course, what they want is impossible to achieve. Even if they were somehow successful, the law of the jungle would prevail and they would be at the very bottom of the food chain. This group can be influenced under certain conditions if they are open-minded enough

* Those who have had a horrendous tragedy in their lives involving the misuse of a firearm. These people are trying to cope with unspeakable pain, and are looking for some way to make the death of their loved one into something positive that will prevent other families from suffering as they have suffered. Sadly often those in the above categories will take advantage of such a person's grief to

further their own gun-control agenda. The grieving families become unintentional sock puppets, paraded out at various gun-control events. Some end up enjoying their "celebrity" and make a living by working for gun-control organizations. Except for the celebrities and gun-control employees, their attitudes can often be changed if they can be shown a way to focus their energies in a positive and realistic manner - such as working on improving mental health treatment, intervention to keep young people away from gangs, making firearms training more easily available, etc.

* Those who have been lied to and misled on gun control. This category represents a sizable chunk of the gun-control community and can often be turned around by exposing them to the truth, using logic and reason to repudiate gun control, and teaching them about safely handling firearms and then taking them shooting

Fortunately, gun rights have come a very long way in the last 20 years. That said, things can reverse if gun owners don't stand shoulder-to-shoulder and put up a very strong and relentless fight. That fight is one of the many things VCDL brings to the table. Your membership and activism helps guarantee that VCDL will continue to have a loud and strong voice and I thank all of you for doing your part.

Phil Van Cleave



UPCOMING GUN SHOWS AND EVENTS

Verify all schedules; this list is correct as of press time.

CHANTILLY—Dulles Expo Center

Sep 30-Oct 2 Nov 18-20 Dec 30-Jan 1

DALE CITY — VFW Post 1503

Oct 8-9 Nov 5-6 Dec 3-4

FISHERSVILLE—Augusta Expo

Dec 10-11

FREDERICKSBURG — Fredericksburg Expo & Conference Center

Oct 29-30 Dec 10-11

HAMPTON—Hampton Roads Convention Center

Nov 26-27

HARRISONBURG—Rockingham County Fairgrounds

Oct 8-9 Nov 26-27

MANASSAS — PWC Fairgrounds

Dec 3-4

NORFOLK—Norfolk Scope

Nov 5-6

NORTH RICHMOND — Farm Bureau Center at Meadow Event Park

Oct 22-23 Dec 17-18

RICHMOND—Richmond Raceway Complex

Nov 12-13 Jan 22-23 Mar 25-26 May 20-21

ROANOKE—Roanoke Civic Center

Oct 22-23

SALEM—Salem Civic Center

Oct 29-30 Dec 17-18

VIRGINIA BEACH — Convention Center

Oct 15-16

WINCHESTER — Body Renew Fitness and Family Sports Center

Oct 8-9 Nov 5-6

RIP

Earlier this year, we lost a friend and gun-show promoter, **Terry MacFarlane** of Old Dominion Gun Shows. VCDL will miss him.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP

Are you interested in helping get the VCDL word to fellow gun owners? Consider volunteering as **coordinator for Manassas**, or **Doswell (North Richmond)** shows. You would be responsible for maintaining the booth and materials for a show, recruiting and scheduling volunteers for the show, setting up and tearing down the display, and reporting results to leadership. There are 1-3 shows scheduled each year at Manassas. If this is a way you'd like to help, contact the Board of Directors at leadership@vcdl.org or at a phone number on the back page.

Would you like to help spread the message by **working at a booth**? Any of the coordinators listed above right will be happy to have you volunteer for a shift or for a few hours. If you let the coordinator know you are a newcomer, he will pair you with an experienced volunteer.



GUN SHOW COORDINATORS

Fredericksburg

Tom Cook

gunshows.fredericksburg@vcdl.org

Chantilly

Danny Paulson

gunshows.chantilly@vcdl.org

Dale City

Richard Kroh

gunshows.dalecity@vcdl.org

Southwest Virginia

Al Steed, Jr.

gunshows.swva@vcdl.org

Tidewater/Norfolk

John Ward

gunshows.norfolk@vcdl.org

Tidewater/Peninsula

Ron Lilly

gunshows.hamptonroads@vcdl.org

Tidewater/Virginia Beach

Gary Moeller

gunshows.vb@vcdl.org

Richmond

Mike Wilburt

gunshows.centralva@vcdl.org

Winchester

Mark Lintz

gunshows.winchester@vcdl.org

State Gun Show Coordinator

Milan Sturgis

gunshowcoord@vcdl.org

2016 LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD

VCDL is proud to present the legislative scorecard for the 2016 Virginia legislative session. On this page and the next are the pro-gun and anti-gun scores for each. Legislators in non-italicized type are Republicans; those in *italics* are Democrats. An explanation of the scoring method follows the charts. Please use this information when making your electoral choices. The full document is found on the VCDL web page, www.vcdl.org, under “VA POLITICS” as are responses to VCDL candidate surveys.

Senator	ProGun	Anti	Percent	Delegate	Pro-Gun	Anti	Percent
Charles W. Carrico, Sr.	39	0	100%	C. Todd Gilbert	122	0	100%
Jill Holtzman Vogel	39	0	100%	Michael J. Webert	113	0	100%
Amanda Chase	38	0	100%	Rick L. Morris	57	0	100%
Siobhan Dunnivant	37	0	100%	Nick Rush	55	0	100%
John A. Cosgrove	32	0	100%	Christopher T. Head	51	0	100%
Bill DeSteph	32	0	100%	Robert G. Marshall	51	0	100%
Richard H. Stuart	84	1	99%	Israel D. O'Quinn	49	0	100%
Ryan T. McDougle	86	2	98%	Dave A. LaRock	48	0	100%
A. Benton "Ben" Chafin	81	2	98%	Les R. Adams	47	0	100%
Bryce E. Reeves	81	2	98%	Robert B. Bell	46	0	100%
Thomas A. Garrett	77	2	97%	Chris Collins	46	0	100%
William M. Stanley, Jr.	75	2	97%	James W. Morefield	46	0	100%
Frank W. Wagner	36	1	97%	David B. Albo	45	0	100%
Glen Sturtevant	80	3	96%	Richard P. Bell	42	0	100%
Mark D. Obenshain	84	4	95%	Brenda L. Pogge	42	0	100%
Emmett W. Hanger, Jr.	35	2	95%	Gregory D. Habeeb	41	0	100%
Richard H. Black	34	2	94%	J. Randall Minchew	41	0	100%
David Sutterlein	30	2	94%	James M. LeMunyon	40	0	100%
Stephen D. Newman	34	3	92%	James P. "Jimmie" Massie, III	40	0	100%
Frank M. Ruff, Jr.	34	3	92%	R. Lee Ware	40	0	100%
Thomas K. Norment, Jr.	76	8	90%	James A. "Jay" Leftwich	39	0	100%
<i>Lynwood W. Lewis, Jr.</i>	17	6	74%	T. Scott Garrett	38	0	100%
<i>J. Chapman Petersen</i>	21	12	64%	Ronald A. Villanueva	38	0	100%
<i>Kenneth C. Alexander</i>	23	14	62%	Joseph R. Yost	38	0	100%
<i>John S. Edwards</i>	34	34	50%	Mark Dudenhefer	37	0	100%
<i>Jeremy McPike</i>	16	18	47%	Peter F. Farrell	36	0	100%
<i>Jennifer T. Wexton</i>	14	18	44%	Timothy D. Hugo	36	0	100%
<i>R. Creigh Deeds</i>	36	47	43%	Richard L. Anderson	32	0	100%
<i>Richard L. Saslaw</i>	32	45	42%	Daniel W. Marshall, III	32	0	100%
<i>Rosalyn R. Dance</i>	12	20	38%	C. Matthew Fariss	109	1	99%
<i>John C. Miller</i>	12	20	38%	Thomas C. Wright, Jr.	109	1	99%
<i>George L. Barker</i>	11	28	28%	<i>Hyland F. "Buddy" Fowler, Jr.</i>	52	1	98%
<i>Adam P. Ebbin</i>	8	31	21%	Glenn R. Davis	50	1	98%
<i>Scott Surovell</i>	6	27	18%	James E. Edmunds, II	48	1	98%
<i>Barbara A. Favola</i>	6	30	17%	Tony O. Wilt	48	1	98%
<i>David W. Marsden</i>	6	40	13%	Jeffrey L. Campbell	42	1	98%
<i>L. Louise Lucas</i>	10	72	12%	Jason Miyares	39	1	98%
<i>Mamie E. Locke</i>	4	28	12%	Christopher K. Peace	39	1	98%
<i>Janet D. Howell</i>	8	78	9%	Charles D. Poindexter	39	1	98%
<i>A. Donald McEachin</i>	7	80	8%	L. Scott Lingamfelter	70	2	97%

Cont'd on page 7

Lobby Day 2017 Poster Competition

Send us your ideas!

Designs will be used for posters, billboards, etc.

Winners will receive:

1st Place: 3 year membership to VCDL and a \$30 Gift Certificate for VCDL Gear

2nd Place: 2 year membership to VCDL and a \$20 Gift Certificate for VCDL Gear

3rd Place: 1 year membership to VCDL and a \$10 Gift Certificate for VCDL Gear

Entries should include:

Lobby Day Date/Time/Place ▶ Reasons to Attend ▶ What VCDL is Doing

Contest Rules

- To enter upload your original submissions www.VCDL.org/PosterContest.
- Entries must be received by midnight October 15, 2016.
- Voting will be open from October 16th through November 15th, 2016.
- Winners will be posted on the VCDL website and shared on social media.
- Finalists will be selected from the entries received and the designs will be posted and shared on various social media outlets.
- Members and immediate family of the VCDL Board may not enter.
- Winners will be selected by popular vote from a selection of finalists.
- In the event of a tie, the panel will determine the winners. All decisions are final.
- Membership is not required to enter or to vote.
- By entering the contest, you grant VCDL the non-exclusive worldwide right to use, transcribe, publish, reproduce, distribute, sell, display, or license any written or visual material submitted, in any and all media or form of communication whether now existing or hereafter developed. Full rules are on the contest page.
- No substitutions for prizes and prizes have no cash redemption value.
- All federal state and local laws apply.

ENTER AT www.VCDL.org/PosterContest

YOU'RE THE TITANIC UBC Is The Iceberg



UNIVERSAL BACKGROUND CHECKS ARE JUST THE TIp OF THE ICEBERG

- It's actually gun registration, with confiscation as their goal (ask California gun owners—it's happening there now!)
- 18-20 year olds no longer able to possess a handgun, even if you want to give one to your child
- You cannot loan guns to family or friends without background checks (or even get them back without yet ANOTHER background check on YOU!)
- CANNOT sell a gun to anybody else—must be done through dealers (criminalizes sale of lawfully owned property)
- Their goal is NOT to prevent crime, but to dissuade honest citizens like YOU from having a gun.

Universal Background Checks may sound reasonable, but they
DO NOT AND CANNOT WORK.

Ask Illinois! They have had UBCs for years, but criminals simply IGNORE this legal requirement. 97% of Illinois convicts got their guns off the street or through illegal strawman purchasers. *Law—what law!?* As always, criminals will ignore such laws, but YOU and I will pay the price!

Say NO To Universal Background Checks!

Scott W. Taylor	38	1	97%	Joseph C. Lindsey	3	36	8%
Nicholas Frietas	37	1	97%	Alfonso H. Lopez	4	55	7%
Roxann L. Robinson	37	1	97%	Sam Rasoul	3	47	6%
David E. Yancey	37	1	97%	Jennifer Boysco	2	34	6%
Terry L. Austin	35	1	97%	Marcus B. Simon	3	54	5%
Robert S. Bloxom, Jr.	35	1	97%	Kenneth R. Plum	2	36	5%
Kathy J. Byron	35	1	97%	Patrick A. Hope	2	54	4%
Margaret B. Ransone	35	1	97%	Lionell Spruill, Sr.	1	35	3%
Jackson H. Miller	44	2	96%	Marcia Price	1	37	3%
Mark L. Cole	43	2	96%	Mark Levine	1	39	2%
Todd E. Pillion	27	1	96%	Paul Krizek	1	40	2%
R. Steven Landes	40	2	95%	David J. Toscano	1	40	2%
Terry G. Kilgore	39	2	95%	Jennifer L. McClellan	1	44	2%
G. Manoli Loupassi	39	2	95%	Charniele L. Herring	1	45	2%
M. Kirkland Cox	38	2	95%	Vivian E. Watts	1	45	2%
John M. O'Bannon, III	38	2	95%				
Benjamin L. Cline	57	4	93%				
Riley E. Ingram	37	3	92%				
Barry D. Knight	37	3	92%				
Thomas A. "Tag" Greason	35	3	92%				
M. Keith Hodges	35	3	92%				
Christopher P. Stolle	35	3	92%				
Gordon C. Helsel, Jr.	30	3	91%				
Robert D. Orrock, Sr.	36	4	90%				
S. Chris Jones	37	5	88%				
William J. Howell	36	12	75%				
<i>Steve Heretick</i>	20	16	56%				
<i>Mark L. Keam</i>	11	27	29%				
<i>Betsy B. Carr</i>	10	28	26%				
<i>Mark D. Sickles</i>	9	31	22%				
<i>Roslyn C. Tyler</i>	10	41	20%				
<i>Eileen Filler-Corn</i>	7	35	17%				
<i>Luke E. Torian</i>	7	35	17%				
<i>John J. Bell</i>	17	95	15%				
<i>Laschrecse Aird</i>	6	34	15%				
<i>Jeion A. Ward</i>	5	31	14%				
<i>Lamont Bagby</i>	5	35	12%				
<i>Matthew James</i>	5	35	12%				
<i>Delores L. McQuinn</i>	5	35	12%				
<i>Daun S. Hester</i>	5	37	12%				
<i>T. Montgomery "Monty"</i>							
<i>Mason</i>	5	41	11%				
<i>David L. Bulova</i>	4	34	11%				
<i>Kathleen Murphy</i>	4	38	10%				
<i>Kaye Kory</i>	4	47	8%				
<i>Richard C. "Rip" Sullivan, Jr.</i>	3	35	8%				

How Voting Scores Are Calculated

Voting scores are calculated using this formula:

- Each vote for a bill VCDL "Strongly Supports" adds 2 to the pro-gun score
- Each vote for a bill VCDL "Supports" adds 1 to the pro-gun score
- Each vote for a bill VCDL "Strongly Opposes" adds 2 to the anti-gun score
- Each vote for a bill VCDL "Opposes" adds 1 to the anti-gun score
- Votes on bills where VCDL is neutral are not counted

Each gun bill introduced is scored as a vote for the patron

Each gun bill introduced on behalf of VCDL is scored as another vote for the patron.

Each bill that is "Pocket Vetoed" and *not* assigned to a committee is scored as an anti-gun vote for the Speaker of the House.

Each bill that is "Pocket Vetoed" and *is* assigned to a committee is scored as an anti-gun vote for both the chair of the committee and the Speaker of the House.

A pro-gun bill modified in a negative manner by the Governor, whose modifications are ruled "non-germane" by the Speaker of the House, is scored as a pro-gun vote for the Speaker.

Scoring example: A legislator introduces a "Strongly Support" bill for VCDL, votes for it in subcommittee, full committee, and on the Floor. His score for that bill would be 10: 2 for introducing a pro-gun bill + 2 for introducing a bill on VCDL's behalf + 2 for the subcommittee vote + 2 for the full committee vote + 2 for the Floor vote.

If two legislators have the same pro-gun percentage, the higher pro-gun score determines which legislator has the better voting record.

Note: Legislators are on certain key committees, such as House Militia, Police, and Public Safety, will have many more votes to score than someone who is not on that committee and can only vote on gun bills when they are on the Floor. In fact some legislators may not get to vote on a bill at all if the bill is pocket vetoed or never reaches either a full committee or the Floor.

The New NRA Basic Pistol Course: An Instructor's Perspective

by EM Kenneth R. van Wyk

If you judge it by one simple litmus test — whether it prepares new pistol owners to select and safely handle their firearms — the new (as of 2016) NRA Basic Pistol class is a success.

NRA's Basic Pistol class has been a mainstay for many years, with thousands of students year in and year out. Many NRA instructors, including me, got certified first in this class. The old class was nearly a full day of instructor lead training in the classroom, followed by an hour or so of range time.

The new class, however, changes all of that. Now, the student takes the class in two phases. In Phase I, the student takes much of what was previously taught in the classroom via an NRA training portal on-line. In Phase II, the instructor works with the student through a series of four hands-on, practical exercises to demonstrate comprehension and ability. The first three exercises can be done in a classroom (with appropriate precautions such as no live ammunition allowed in the classroom), while the fourth must be done at a range.

Specifically, Phase I is done at the student's time and pace. The student simply connects to the NRA training site (<https://onlinetraining.nra.org/>) and signs up for Phase I, including paying the \$60 training fee to the NRA. After completing the on-line training, the student then takes a short quiz. A 90% passing grade is required for the student to proceed to Phase II, but the student is given five attempts at passing the exam over a relaxed time period.

Once the student has finished Phase I, she gets a certificate of completion along with a PIN code. She can then go on-line to find a nearby NRA Basic Pistol (Phase II) class and register for it, using the PIN provided at the end of Phase I.

While this might sound unnecessarily complicated, in practice it's really quite simple. NRA says this approach helps ensure students are "pre-qualified" and ready for the demonstrations and exercises with the instructor. Each instructor registers his class on the NRA Instructor portal as normal. Students can then sign up for it as they choose. The result is that only pre-qualified students will sign up for the course.

While some instructors initially complained about the new structure, perhaps under the incorrect assumption that they'd have less quality time with their students, the reverse is actually true. You see, in Phase II, the instructor steps through those exercises with the students. The exercises themselves are highly practical, such as how to load and unload a pistol, align sight picture, and so on.

In other words, the time spent with the instructor is entirely on the practical aspects of shooting. And, of course each instructor is entirely able — encouraged, in fact — to spotlight material taught during Phase I.

To reinforce things even further, the student and instructor fill out and sign off on each exercise step. Take, for example, exercise II, step 1. It says "Student assumed the proper two-handed grip: a) With a semi-automatic, and 2) with a revolver". The student has to actively demonstrate, after the instructor explains,

that she can properly grip a firearm. Only then do the instructor and student sign off on that one step. Each step of each exercise requires a similar sign-off by both instructor and student. A copy of the exercise checklist is retained by both instructor and student as well.

The exercises themselves range from fundamentals such as establishing the student's dominant eye to loading, unloading, de-cocking, and so on. They are all practical and useful skills to be able to perform, and requiring the student to learn and demonstrate each and every one results in students that are highly prepared to safely go out and select a firearm and then use it safely.

The big advantage of this new "blended" approach is that the students study the most fundamental terms and such first, and then the instructor verifies what they've learned and retained through these practical, hands-on exercises. Thus, there's more time to focus on the things that matter most, without having to spend as much time on basic terminology, definitions, and such.

So, at least from this instructor's perspective, the new courseware is more effective at delivering students who have a deeper and more practical understanding of the basic functions of a modern pistol. When they've finished the course, they should have all of the knowledge, skills, and attitude to head out and select the right pistol for their needs, and to be able to operate it safely from day one. And, of course, the students still get an NRA certificate of completion, and their accomplishment is recorded on the NRA training portal.

I call that a victory.

Ed. Note: If other instructors have differing experiences, consider submitting them to TheDefender@vcdl.org

RESOURCES FOR VCDL MEMBERS

While our paper newsletter brings you information that is important but not time-sensitive, VCDL makes time-sensitive information in several ways.

The web page at www.vcdl.org includes information that is regularly updated.

- * A calendar of events, including VCDL presence at gun shows.
- * Legislative trackers, surveys, and voting records for elected representatives
- * Membership meetings in your area
- * A list of discounts available to paid members. That discount site also provides links to coupons for gun show entrance fees.
- * An archive of VA-ALERT issues
- * Virginia carry info—a list of where carry is prohibited. This page links to a printable carry card you can keep with you or give to your friends.

Different VCDL members support Facebook pages for VCDL itself, for SW Virginia, and for the Political Action Committee (PAC). Individuals on these pages do not speak on behalf of VCDL, but provide interesting discussion and food for thought.

Philip Van Cleave comments on Twitter (@vcdl_org) about real-time events and happenings.

VC DL Membership Application

Mail to: VCDL Membership Processing Center, P.O. Box 5752, Fredericksburg, VA 22403

Name _____

NOTE: If you contribute to the PAC, we must ask for your occupation, employer, and City/State of employment.

Address _____

Occupation: _____

City _____

Employer: _____

State _____ ZIP _____

City/State of Employment: _____

Phone (_____) _____

Method of payment

Email _____

Cash (Do not send cash through the mail.)

1 VCDL membership: \$ 25.00

Check (Make checks payable to **VCDL**)

Donation to VCDL: \$ _____

Charge: AmEx MasterCard Visa

Donation to PAC: \$ _____

Credit Card Number: _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Expiration Date: _____

(Note: Membership processing can take 4-6 weeks)

Name as it appears on the card

Signature of Card Holder

Contributions, gifts, or membership dues are not deductible for Federal income tax purposes.

Continued from page 1

For my Dad, it was golf. He was crazy about it. He bought good clubs, balls and other paraphernalia. He loved to travel and play world-class golf courses and had the help of his local PGA pro to get him "privileges." One of his favorites was Pebble Beach, with which I'm sure golfers - or Californians - are familiar. The "greens fees" (price of an 18-hole round) over there is \$495 (plus the cost of getting there). And... I'm sure there's a waiting list to play. How does that differ from playing a weekday round at the local cow-pasture? For me, it doesn't. I'd be equally bored in both places. Pebble Beach Golf Course is gorgeous, but I can enjoy the view of the Big Sur without pushing around a little white pill.

One more point. When my Dad played Pebble Beach, or Augusta or St. Andrews in Scotland, he had nothing to show for it except a memory and the day's enjoyment. That was enough for him and, since it was *his* money, who's to say it was wrong? Jay Leno and I end up with a salable asset (except ammo) which allows me some rationale for my purchase. When I get the gun, I'll (hopefully) enjoy it and when I tire of it (or die), it will fetch a decent price, either at the gun shop or Internet auction. I'm not saying that I'll get all my investment back or make a profit (although Jay Leno will). I just don't look at the purchase as "money lost."

I'm (slowly) trying to make a point. When others challenge what you legally do, there is the implicit comment that they have some right to judge or prohibit. So, we hear, "why should children inherit money that they don't earn" or "why do rich people need those yachts or fancy cars." The honest answer is "none of your business; it's their money."

This then reveals the notion of many people these days, that they do have the right to challenge another person's wealth, expenditures or legal behavior. And... some politician gives legitimacy to that notion by declaring, "you didn't earn/make that." With that statement they, in effect say... your money really belongs to US and we're pissed that you're wasting it on your selfish self.

I know, I've turned a simple gun-question into a political/economic statement or even an existential one. But, that's how I roll.

OPINION

What kind of gun owner are you? Are you the kind who knows everything about your firearm(s) and ammunition, specifications, muzzle velocity, internal mechanisms, and model variations? Are you the kind who spends hours and thousands in training classes, constantly seeking that last marginal increase in skills? Are you the one who carries once or twice a year and keeps the gun at home "just in case" or do you seldom leave home without your trusty sidearm?

With luck, you're a bit of all. More importantly, you're the one who makes the phone calls, sends the emails and letters, encourages others, and supports the 2nd Amendment, knowing that the first three need you. **BE THE VOICE.**

**VIRGINIA CITIZENS
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Please feel free to contact any of the Officers or Directors should you have any questions or would like to volunteer your services in VCDL.

THANK YOU

Nick Lidakis, who owns Darling Coffee, Inc. in New York City (4961 Broadway) sent VCDL a generous \$1500 donation to help with the fight to protect our right to self-defense!



darling coffee

Nick served as a paramedic for 18 years and has seen firsthand both the importance of self-defense and the unnecessary roadblocks that gun control creates for the law-abiding citizen. He is an example of someone who can be socially liberal, while fighting ferociously to protect the Second Amendment. VCDL has many members with that philosophy.



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