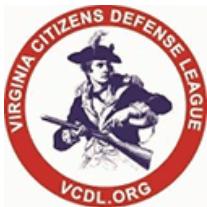


THE DEFENDER



A publication of

Virginia Citizens Defense League

Defending Your Right To Defend Yourself

Fall 2017

It's Time, Virginia

The November elections showed us that we have our work cut out for us for the next two years. The three statewide offices on the ballot all went to anti-gun politicians. Politicians who have gone on record as being opposed to Constitutional Carry; who have advocated Universal Background Checks; who wouldn't know an "assault weapon" if it shook hands with them, but will ban them anyway; banning "high capacity" magazines. All is lost.

Or is it?

You have an opportunity to make your views known. You have several opportunities — most of which are quiet and behind-the-scenes—when you make phone calls, write letters to the editor, email your representatives, make comments on Executive Branch administrative proposals, and communicate closely with your local officials.

You have the opportunity to make a BIG difference on January 15th. VCDL always pushes Lobby Day, but not all understand the tremendous impact that hundreds and hundreds of gun owners can have on legislators. Philip Van Cleave goes to speak to legislators and says he represents thousands of gun owners in the state; that message is enhanced visually (and aurally) when those same legislators see hordes of us in their halls and offices.

On page 7 you will find information on Lobby Day. This year will differ slightly from previous years, as the legislators have vacated the General Assembly Building in preparation for its renovation. Preparations are ongoing for Team Leaders to be fully ready, and the Lobby Day organizers are planning means

to communicate to everyone on the ground. Keep an eye on the emailed VA-ALERT for further updates. The assembly point may be moved closer to the legislators, space permitting.

General Assembly members and staff currently in the GAB have been relocated to the Pocahontas Building, located at 900 East Main Street, and traffic patterns changed. The Pocahontas Building will house the individual offices for the 140 members of the General Assembly as well as committee rooms and offices for legislative staff while the new General Assembly Building is being constructed. In mid-November, room assignments are not yet available.

As important as Lobby Day is, even (or especially!) for those with anti-gun legislators, so, too, is communication with those legislators throughout the session. The VCDL web page will include a legislative tracking tool beginning a day or two before the session opens. You can track legislative status and VCDL's position. Please take the time to contact your legislators to let them know your opinions on individual bills. Let them know you're tracking their votes and stances, too. It can be effective to send separate emails urging them to support other issues on which you agree with them; it can help to show you're not opposed to a stance because it's that legislator, but because that legislator is wrong on this issue.

VCDL Public Meeting Dates

Thursday, Dec 21—Annandale

Thursday, Jan 4 —Central Library, Virginia Beach 7PM

Monday, Jan 15 — LOBBY DAY — Richmond

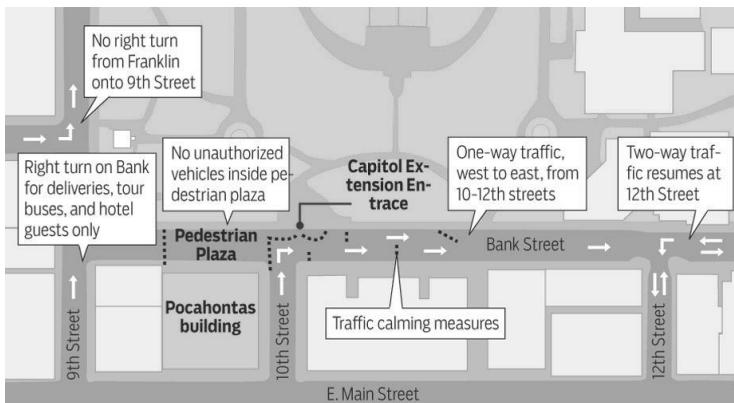
Wednesday, Jan 24—Annandale

Wednesday, Feb 21—Annandale

Thursday, Mar 8 — Central Library, Virginia Beach 7PM

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



EDITOR'S NOTE

This issue of The Defender goes to press right after Thanksgiving. As you might imagine, our members are ruing the success of so many anti-gun politicians, and preparing for a stressful legislative session. Lobby Day will be critical. Last issue, we asked readers to tell us why they go (or don't go) to Lobby Day. Sadly, we received no responses.

Ken Van Wyk did ask for input on his article about traveling with a firearm. We've published one person's different experience, and Ken's response. Please keep dialogs such as this open. You can join our Facebook page for another way to keep in touch with other members between these quarterly issues of The Defender.

In addition to the election results, we've had mass murders hit the news waves. None of us are helped by madmen such as the Vegas or Texas murderers. Many seek information with which to counter arguments. The article on page 9 provides you with a starting point for information and statistics.

Member Shawn Neylon was kind enough to write a review of a tactical training course he took recently. Do you have a favorite class or instructor? We'd love to share your experiences with others. Send inputs to TheDefender@vcdl.org.

EM Leyla Myers made a difficult decision for her family recently. See her story on page 4.

As the year comes to a close, we at VCDL wish you and yours a happy, safe, and joyous holiday season.

Tess Ailshire
Editor



PRESIDENT'S PEN

Unfortunately this election dealt VCDL a difficult hand to play, but play it, we shall.

EXECUTIVE BRANCH - NEW BOSS SAME AS THE OLD BOSS

From the Executive branch, the next four years are going to look like the last four. *Governor:* Bad news - vetoes of pro-gun bills, calls for gun control with every tragedy, keeping the prohibition on carry in state agencies (trespass charge if you don't leave when asked), and requiring the State Police to tell the police in states like Maryland if a person has a Virginia CHP. Good news - the Governor has minimal power to create real gun-control. *Lt. Governor:* Bad news - in the case of 20-20 ties in the Senate, the tie will be broken against gun owners. Good news - the Lt. Governor has no power over gun rights other than rarely breaking tie votes in the Senate.

Attorney General: Bad news - more Amicus briefs and letters to Congress supporting gun-control. Good news - the Attorney General has little power to affect gun rights.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY REMAINS OUR KEY FOCUS

A more important issue right now than who runs the Executive branch is which party controls the House of Delegates. As I write this, Republicans hold a razor-thin 51-49 lead. There are at least four races that will have recounts, and things could go either way, or even end in a 50-50 tie!

We won't know the final outcome until early December.

The party which controls the House will have a strong hand on the fate of gun bills. For gun owners, we have to hope that Republicans control the House as a firewall to keep gun control bills off the desk of the Governor and pro-rights bills moving. Republicans have a razor-thin majority in the Senate (21 to 20), which also might provide another level of gun-control protection and forward movement on pro-rights bills.

WE'VE BEEN BLUE BEFORE

Think Virginia has turned blue for the first time? Hardly. When I first became involved in what was then the Northern Virginia Citizens Defense League, Democrats controlled both the House and the Senate, while Virginia had a Republican governor (George Allen). The Speaker of the House was Democrat Tom Moss who represented Norfolk. Pro-rights bills were killed with regularity in the House Militia & Police committee, while anti-gun bills sailed out. Even in that environment, NVCDL got "Shall Issue" passed into law. NVCDL, and later, VCDL, were able to stop most of the gun-control bills. That said, there were more pro-rights Democrats in the General Assembly in those days.

Sadly, when the Republicans had control of the House, the Senate, and the Governorship, they slow-walked pro-gun bills so as to not pass too many at a time and even quashed good bills deemed "controversial." The Democrats will have no such artificial limitation placed on their gun-control bills, nor will they care if the bills are controversial.

GUN CONTROL WILL BE COMING AT US HARD AND HEAVY

The gun-control dangers are now more pronounced. Things which we will be seeing pushed with renewed vigor include:

- * One-Handgun-a-Month reinstatement
- * An "assault weapon" ban
- * A "high" capacity magazine ban
- * Universal Background Checks
- * Prohibition on carry in state agencies given teeth (right now it is merely a trespass charge if a person refuses to leave)
- * Expand the list of misdemeanors that make someone a "prohibited person" in order to disarm more and more people
- * Firearm Protective Order that will allow for the confiscation of firearms based merely on the word of another, without any due process or even notification prior to confiscation

Newly elected Democrat Delegate Chris Hurst (boyfriend of a murdered TV news reporter) is already saying that the wave of new Democrats in the House increases the opportunities for more gun-control.

THE ROAD FORWARD - MAKING LEMONADE OUT OF LEMONS

FIRST, WE NEED A STRONG VCDL. If you're not a dues-paying member, it's time to get off the fence and help swell our ranks. Work the VCDL table at gun shows and other events. There are 450,000 CHP holders in Virginia, yet we have only 7,000 members. Our

(Continued on page 11)

UPCOMING GUN SHOWS AND EVENTS

To volunteer to help with a VCDL table at a gun show, contact its coordinator listed. For non-gun show events, contact the stated coordinator. **Verify all schedules;** this list is correct as of press time.

CHANTILLY—Dulles Expo Center

Dec 29-31 Feb 9-11 Apr 20-22 Jun 8-10 Jul 27-29

DALE CITY—VFW Post 1503

Jan 6-7 Mar 10-11

DOSWELL—Farm Bureau Center at Meadow Event Park

Feb 24-26 May 5-6

FISHERSVILLE—Augusta Expo

Jan 27-28 Apr 7-8

FREDERICKSBURG—Fredericksburg Expo & Conference Center

Jan 27-28 Mar 24-25

HAMPTON—Hampton Roads Convention Center

Jan 13-14 Mar 17-18 Jul 14-15

HARRISONBURG—Rockingham County Fairgrounds

None scheduled as of press time

MANASSAS—PWC Fairgrounds

Apr 28-29 Jul 7-8

NORFOLK—Norfolk Scope

None scheduled as of press time

RICHMOND—Richmond Raceway Complex

Mar 24-25

RICHMOND—KMart on Midlothian

Jan 20-21

ROANOKE—Roanoke Civic Center

Jan 6-7 Mar 17-18

SALEM—Salem Civic Center

Dec 16-17

VIRGINIA BEACH—Convention Center

Feb 3-4

WARSAW—4298 Richmond Rd (next to Tractor Supply)

Mar 3-4

WINCHESTER—Body Renew Fitness and Family Sports Center

COORDINATORS

Chantilly—**Danny Paulson**—gunshows.chantilly@vcdl.org

Dale City—**Richard Kroh**—gunshows.dalecity@vcdl.org

Fredericksburg and Doswell—**Michael Kolodzinski**—
gunshows.fredericksburg@vcdl.org

Manassas—**Rebekah Koffler**—gunshows.manassas@vcdl.org

Norfolk SCOPE—**John Ward**—gunshows.norfolk@vcdl.org

Richmond—**Mike Wilburt**—gunshows.centralva@vcdl.org

Southwest Virginia—**Al Steed, Jr.**—gunshows.swva@vcdl.org

Tidewater/Peninsula—**Ron Lilly**—
gunshows.hamptonroads@vcdl.org

Tidewater/Virginia Beach—**Brendan Mooney**—
gunshows.vb@vcdl.org

Winchester—**Mark Lintz**—gunshows.winchester@vcdl.org

State Gun Show Coordinator—**Tess Ailshire**—
gunshowcoord@vcdl.org

THANK YOU

A special thanks to those members who used their time to help spread the VCDL word.

Manassas Sept 9-10

Tess Ailshire, Keith Bailey, Jack Carwile, Jerry Coffey, Michael Greelish, Dexter Guptil, Richard Kroh, Danny Paulson, Jon Saxon, Keith Webster

Fredericksburg Sep 16-17

Susan Bush, Mike Clark, Dave Eckart, Tom Fuller, John Lambert, Sharon Lambert, Jay McDaniel, Rowley Molina, Terrell Prude, Stanley Walker, Rosie Zhi

Salem Sep 16-17

Don Beheler, Melanie Charlton, Dave Evan, Connie French, Ed French, Ken Modica, Kathy Smith, Noah Tickle

Chantilly Sep 28-Oct 1

Keith Bailey, Wallid Boonprasit, Gene Brodetski, Robert Eufemia, Thomas Fuller, Jim Graf, Troy Hayes, John Kamin, Rebekah Koffler, François Krodel, Rus Krull, Margaret Marcus, Max Padon, Alek Paulson, Danny Paulson, Roz Paulson, Alexander Rogge

Dale City Oct 7-8

Tess Ailshire, Jack Carwile, Jerry Coffey, Dexter Guptil, Claria Jackson, Ray Kasey, Tom O'Hara, Tom Pietras, Randy Ralston, Jim Roberson, Keith Webster

Roanoke Oct 21-22

Dave Evans, Connie French, Ed French, Stephen Meikle, Ken Modica, Al Steed, Jr,

Virginia Beach Oct 21-22

Carl Bare, Ed Broyles, Edward Conrad, JC Greene, Brent Hodgins, Gary Moeller, Rocky Parkerton, John Weinreich

Doswell Oct 21-22

Lynn Cole, Barbara Cole, Dave Eckart, Bob Charlton, Rowley Molina, Mike Kolodzinski

Superior Pawn & Gun Pop-up Oct

Mark Davis, Gary Moeller, Brendan Mooney

Fredericksburg Oct 28-29

Tess Ailshire, Sue Bivens, Troy Bivens, Dave Eckart, Sam Houchins, Theron Keller, Mike Kolodzinski, Rowley Molina, Stanley Walker

If you'd like to work a show, email the coordinator and ask to be put on the mailing list used for volunteers. Volunteers get free admission to the show, and some vendors offer discounts to other vendors, including our volunteers.

Your Family's Safety – Is Faith Alone Enough?

By Executive Member Leyla Myers

I came to the United States sixteen years ago. So much has happened in my life since then. First, I became a Christian. Then I became a gun owner. Then I became a US Citizen. Then I became a mother. I approached each of these phases with a thought process and a willful decision. Each of these aspects of my life was and is interconnected.

After living in Soviet Union my entire life, being a Christian and a gun owner in the US was a natural combination of the principles and values I discovered. In the Soviet Union, we lived under a totalitarian government that did not respect my right to life. The right of self-defense was only mentioned in the Soviet Constitution, but was never actually acknowledged in real life. In the US, I am able to serve a loving God who gives us life and deems each life precious. I could not imagine being forbidden to protect my children in a situation of imminent danger. Once in a parking lot of a grocery store, two individuals came up to me and asked for money. I was just about to secure my infant son in the car seat, so they approached me with my back turned toward them. I told them very firmly to take a step back right now because they were in my "personal space". Thankfully, it all ended well. But, I was mentally prepared to take the next step, if necessary.

Unfortunately, when it comes to taking care of my family's safety at a school, my chance to fight and defend my children is limited. With the exception of few states, public schools are still on the fence about arming and training their staff and teachers to respond in case of an active killer. And yet we hear about school shootings across the country on a regular basis. When will the people accept the reality and allow the school staff to be trained to become the first responders?

We recently had to make a decision to leave the church we were attending for almost ten years when the leadership decided to post the building as 'no weapons' zone. It was very hard to explain the decision to those who don't see things as we do; many people did not see anything wrong about the recent change. But it was a simple and quick decision for my family.

Churches, being private bodies, have more freedom to make choices about security. Some churches organize and train a security team from people in their congregation. But others chose to leave the safety of their congregation to a chance. They would rather rely on faith and divine protection alone. They put feelings and expectation of safety above being realistic and prepared to face evil wherever it comes. Too many innocent lives are lost during worship in this country for the churches to remain passive in addressing the possibility of an active killer in the houses of worship. Churches turn their houses of worship into soft targets for killers by posting "no weapons allowed" signs on the doors. Whatever is the motive or thought behind this decision doesn't matter. Being a mother, a Christian, and a gun-owner, I cannot be associated with such a church. The Lord gave life to me and my children

and He expects all innocent life to be protected.

I pray for safety for all God's children, everywhere, every day. But prayer alone is not enough. We need to be able to use our self-defense rights at schools and in churches.

Advanced Tactical Firearms Training

By VCDL Member Shawn Neylon

How many of us out there are tired of the "Standard Gun Range"? You know...the standard, boring; run-of-the-mill gun ranges that are a dime a dozen in our area, with 25- or 50-yard firing lanes and that paper target. Then there is the safety bubble they put you in. Don't get me wrong, I'm all about safety, but the very strict safety policies at some of these facilities can discourage or hinder a real-world learning environment. Sometimes these restrictive policies go as far as instilling or reinforcing bad shooting habits that could be counterproductive in a gunfight.

Many of the ranges have policies that don't allow you to draw from the holster, only allow one firearm uncased or out of the rifle bag on the line at one time, or any other number of rules and restrictions. What if I want to practice transitions from my primary rifle to my secondary pistol in the event of a malfunction? If I did that at my range the RSO would have me thrown out.

So....the "Standard Gun Range". You have your 25- and 50-yard ranges (100-yard if you're lucky), but you are still stuck with that hanging paper target that just sits there. Sure you can do the timed "Face/Side shoot" if your range offers it, but it is still that "Standard Gun Range". Then you have Gun Ranges that offer courses—Carbine/AR/AK, Pistol, Shotgun, Concealed Carry, and Armorers courses. They are great for the informational side, and you will leave with a great amount of knowledge. At the end of the classroom portion, though, you end up out on that "Standard Gun Range" — the 25- or 50-yard—looking at that same paper target that does not move.

I'm not writing to single out any particular ranges or bad mouth them and tell you not to go there. There are a lot of Shooting Ranges that offer and only offer the above. If you are looking to escape the norm and want to take your tactical training to another level, there are options. You have to be careful, though. The ranges that offer similar courses still may keep you in that bubble and restrict your movement on the firing line. This is understandable, as there are liability issues and facility capabilities.

I am going to single out one organization and tell you why I chose to take a course/training there. In October I took a course at Commonwealth Criminal Justice Academy in Fredericksburg, VA. Commonwealth Criminal Justice Academy (CCJA) offers a wide variety of training options. They offer courses for Military, Law Enforcement

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and civilians. Some of the courses offered are various levels of Handgun, Rifle/Carbine and Shotgun. Students wanting to advance their training into a higher tactical realm can enroll into Room Clearing, Close Quarters Battle, and many more. Before selecting CCJA, I researched many of the training facilities in the Washington DC/Northern Virginia Area and Richmond Area. CCJA offered the best variety of classes and the pricing was the best by far.

Tom Perroni is the Owner/Training Director and the instructor who provided the training. Tom is a sworn Deputy Sheriff and has a list of impressive credentials. Tom and his staff do routine training, certifications, and pre-deployment training with/for elite military, law enforcement and government agencies. The class I originally enrolled for was Carbine 2. This was the class I wanted to start out in and advance my way into more tactical training. I am a former US Marine with law-enforcement/tactical background, but have been out for 13 years. Tom knew that I was looking to take my training to another level and augmented his class to incorporate more of what I wanted into this training session.

This is what I had researched and why I chose CCJA. I was fortunate enough to have spoken to others who trained there and I received their opinion/reviews on the different classes. I also followed up with different reviews at other facilities in the area and took tours. One tour was at the gun range that I am a member of and that I shoot at every weekend. I opted to not take any of their courses.

The first part CCJA's courses starts in their new facility that contains the instructor's offices/classrooms and has their Simunitions Shoot House for "Force on Force/Room Clearing". We began in a classroom environment, going over the information pertinent to the class I chose. The second part of the class was applying the information that was gained in the classroom to the..."gun range" is not the term.

Tom has access to a large property about 20 minutes away from his facility. He has multiple "ranges/courses" established there that allow the student/shooter to excel in the environment they have chosen. Let me explain this. The class you have chosen will dictate what you are working on and the amount of shooting fundamentals vs. tactical/drills and stress-induced environment you are going to progress through. I chose Carbine 2 which should have been a fundamentals review with more emphasis placed on core training. Once Tom became comfortable with my abilities, safety, muzzle awareness, he began to put me through more stressful drills. The stress inoculation is only increased to a level the student is comfortable with.

During the training day there were also two law-enforcement officers on site who had to qualify with their firearms that day. I ran the course with them. In the five hours of range time I went through 600 rounds of .223 and 350 rounds of 9mm. We did carbine/pistol site drills, weapons transitions (primary to secondary), shooting from

behind cover, shooting on the move, strong hand/weak hand shooting, selective firing (hostage simulation) and other techniques. We set up different courses and practiced movements while laying down suppressive fire while teammates made forward movements while engaging multiple targets. The class quickly moved from the standard Carbine class to a mix of Close-Quarters Battle and four-man Fire Team movements we used to do in the Marines. It was everything I was looking for.

In closing; if you are looking for something that your range does not offer and/or you want to try some type of tactical training, definitely give Tom Perroni a call at Commonwealth Criminal Justice Academy. They will be giving VCDL members a 10% discount on all classes. The course I took and all levels of the Carbine and Handgun courses are currently \$300. These courses would be available for \$270, that is a steal!

I will be trying a few other classes out at CCJA and another training facility in the area this winter. I will happily report my findings out to our members and feel free to contact me with any questions.

EDITOR'S NOTE: To avoid publicly revealing Shawn's email address, send questions to TheDefender@vcdl.org and we will forward them to Shawn immediately.

Our Visit to a Constitutional Carry State

By Executive Member Leyla Myers

Fourteen states currently have Constitutional Carry, and more states are considering adopting it every year. It is time to bring Constitutional Carry to Virginia. To most of you, I would be preaching to a choir trying to advocate the need for Constitutional Carry in Virginia. But to some people, accepting a new policy is hard until they experience it in person, even for a short time.

I try to support businesses which support our core values, like faith and right to carry firearms, wherever I go. Over the past summer our family traveled to North Carolina, Kansas and Arkansas. We travelled exclusively by car, and we had to check the laws in every state and choose our route based on that information. This becomes a task when you must check the gun laws for 7-10 states for a single trip from Virginia to Kansas. As more states adopt Constitutional Carry, more people will be willing to travel, and it might help pass the national reciprocity bill too.

The following is a brief review of our experience in those three states.

We enjoy visiting Kitty Hawk, NC area, and generally feel comfortable with our ability to exercise self-defense right. This year we wanted to spend time at the famous Jennette's Pier and let our kids watch the fishermen at the pier. As we

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approached the establishment, we were greeted with 'no guns allowed' sign on the door that leads to the souvenir shop and the pier itself. Also we would have to pay an entrance fee to access the pier just to watch the fishermen, not to do any fishing. Alas, we chose not to spend our money at this business. We had to explain to the kids that they can spend few minutes on the front landing and then we will be going to do something else. This was the only business we decided not to visit, solely due to their gun policy, during that trip.

Kansas adopted Constitutional Carry in July 2015, which was after our visit to see family that year. During our latest trip in 2017, we experienced a full range of options available to the local businesses in light of the new law. I respect the private property rights, but only to a point of it not infringing on my right to self-defense. I want to know if we spend money at a gun-friendly business, or a business who puts the 'feeling safe' policy over actual safety. And that's what Constitutional Carry allowed us to do during the Kansas trip.

In the two weeks we spent in Kansas, we did not see anyone walking around threatening people with guns just because they wanted to and did not have to get a permit to carry. On our trip to Wichita, we had to find parts to repair a trencher for a family member, hence some of our decisions were controlled by the task at hand. The first store we went to had no signs posted, but they also did not have the parts we needed. They sent us to another store, which was posted with a sign depicting a Beretta handgun with a red line across it. We joked amongst ourselves that since we don't carry a Beretta, we should be ok to enter.

Begrudgingly we entered the store and inquired about the parts. What a relief it was to find out they did not have the parts we needed! No money had to be spent at that business. And they referred us to another store where we should be able to find the parts. That third store indeed had the parts, at a very friendly price and we saw no signs on the door. We left our money there and later successfully repaired the trencher. The point is, the stores that were not posted did not make us feel guilty for being mindful about our safety. And had it been entirely our choice, we would not entered the second business.

After a nice lunch at a local BBQ place, we decided to walk around downtown. We walked up to a local cigar shop that was posted with a friendly announcement that we are welcome to carry in this establishment and our Second Amendment right is supported by the business owner. With a happy heart, my husband replenished his supplies of cigars for the trip.

As we continued our walk, I spotted a large sign of



Coleman Outdoor Company Museum and Outlet. I've been looking forward to introducing our boys to camping, and was hoping we can set up a small camping site in our backyard or woods this fall. As we approached the door, we saw the same 'no Berettas allowed' sign. We agreed that as long as there is no entry fee to see the museum, we will go inside but will not spend any money. The museum occupied the front 10% of the building, with the outlet store taking the remaining space. We browsed the store inventory and walked around the museum, but left without making any purchase. Afterwards, I contacted Coleman via email and received a long boilerplate response about their policy choice. They are simply giving in to some legal advice or an insurance provider who dictates they adopt a policy which creates a fake sense of security. That is exactly what I think when I read their response to my inquiry.

It was refreshing to experience this new aspect in our shopping decisions. We personally were glad to know which local and national business we supported, or not, with our money. I hope you do the same, and talk to your friends about the beauty of having Constitutional Carry as a law of the land.

Polite Society and Guns

Excerpted by VCDL Member JC Guilfoyle

In addition to being enamored of the power of words, some embrace the notion that an armed society is just not civilized or progressive, that massive gun ownership is a blot on our civilization.

It is by no means obvious why it is 'civilized' to permit oneself to fall easy prey to criminal violence, and to permit criminals to continue unobstructed in their evil ways. While it may be that a society in which crime is so rare that no one ever needs to carry a weapon is 'civilized,' a society that stigmatizes the carrying of weapons by the law-abiding — because it distrusts its citizens more than it fears rapists, robbers, and murderers — certainly cannot claim this distinction.

Perhaps the notion that defending oneself with lethal force is not 'civilized' arises from the view that violence is always wrong, or the view that each human being is of such intrinsic worth that it is wrong to kill anyone under any circumstances. The implication of these propositions, however, is that life is not worth defending. Far from being 'civilized,' these beliefs are an invitation to the spread of barbarism. Such beliefs announce loudly and clearly that those who do not respect the lives and property of others will rule over those who do. Further, a state that deprives its law-abiding citizens the means to defend themselves is not civilized but barbarous, becoming an accomplice of murderers, rapists, and thugs and revealing its totalitarian nature by its tacit admission that disorganized, random havoc created by criminals is far less a threat than are men and women who believe themselves free and independent, and act accordingly.

What to Expect From Lobby Day

By Executive Member Pat Webb

I have been a Team Leader at Lobby Day for several years. Each year I get questions on what to expect. Here is an outline of the day.

Arrive early. We start forming groups by 8:00 a.m. The best parking is gone early, so plan to arrive around 7:30 or expect to walk a few blocks.

Groups will form at an assembly point outside—watch the VA-ALERT—and enter together. You will find Team Leaders prepared; each will have a list of representatives to visit. You do not need to be in a group that is seeing your representatives.

Groups will enter the building and visit their assigned offices. They will leave a preprinted packet with each Delegate or Senator outlining firearm related bills, whether VCDL supports or opposes and (most importantly) why they are good or bad bills.

After visiting the assigned offices, consider visiting your representatives. You can make appointments in advance if you like, to assure you get “face time” but either way, please remember to sign their guest book. It lets them know you were there. You can also write “VCDL Member” in the guest book if you like.

There will be a rally at the Bell Tower. The time and speakers will be announced closer to the actual event, but your Team Leader will remind you of the exact time so you can attend.

Wear business casual (or nicer) clothes and be ready for walking. The elevators get crowded, so I always try to start with the assigned offices on the highest floor and take the steps down as we go.

You can carry while visiting legislators **if you have a CHP**. You may carry open or concealed, but you must have a Concealed Handgun Permit to take a firearm into the building. There is usually a special door for people who are carrying. Last year the line at the CHP entrance was much longer than the regular entrance!

Well behaved children are very welcome! In fact, it is a highly educational event for school-aged children. I have almost always had youngsters in my group and have never had an issue with them...other than they tend to “steal the show!”

If you have questions you would like to ask, write them down. I don’t know about you, but I can get distracted and later wish I had remembered to ask about a specific subject. There will be updates on the VCDL web page, the Lobby Day 2018 Facebook page and in the VA-ALERT. If you are not receiving the VA-ALERT, sign up at www.vcdl.org/VA-ALERT.

You do not need to be a VCDL member to receive these alerts...but...BUT...it is only \$25.00 per year to join and it will do a lot to further the preservation of your rights in Virginia. So remind your friends there is strength in numbers and VCDL needs everyone!

LOGISTICS

Parking

Lobby Day falls on a national and state holiday, so **on-street parking** is free.

Additionally, **Public Parking**: There are four free general public spaces (1 hour) on the north side of Bank Street, between 9th and 10th Streets. A limited number of metered public parking spaces (2 hours) are located on the west side of 10th Street, between Main and Bank Streets, on Bank Street, between Governor and 14th Streets, on the south side of Main Street, between 9th and 12th Streets and on 12th Street between Main and Bank Streets. On the holiday, fees are not charged at metered spaces.

According to the GAB web site, **Handicap Parking**: Private vehicles with handicap plates are able to unload passengers on Bank Street near the new public entrance at 10th Street. Four parking spaces zoned for handicapped drivers are located on the north side of Bank Street, between 9th and 10th Streets.”

Pay parking lots and decks are nearby on 8th and Grace Streets and 7th and Marshall Streets.”

Lodging

Virginia is a pretty big state, and especially if you’re coming to Richmond from one of the far corners, you may want to consider staying over night, at least the evening before Lobby Day. The activities get launched pretty early in the morning.

The good news is that, from simple bed-and-breakfast inns through five-star stately hotels, Richmond has much to offer. Among the nearest options to the GAB are the Commonwealth Park Suites (901 Bank St), the Omni Richmond (100 S 12th St.), a Marriott Courtyard (1320 E Cary St), and a Marriott Residence Inn (14 S 14th St). For a five-star experience, check out The Jefferson Hotel (101 W Franklin St). Popular search sites like TripAdvisor and others offer up their lists, as does <http://visitrichmondva.com> and other locally run sites.

Food

The cafeteria formerly on the 6th floor of the General Assembly Building will be in a new location in the SunTrust Building (919 East Main Street, 3rdFloor – across the street from the Pocahontas Building). The Capitol Café in the Capitol Extension will be open each weekday between 8:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. for breakfast and lunch.

Additionally, within a five-block radius of the Capitol are: Cafe Ole, Citizen JoJo's, Famous Pizza, Pop's Market on Grace, Richmond on Broad Café, SunTrust Cafeteria, Cafe Rustica, Mama J's Kitchen, Pasture, Rappahannock, Sam Miller's, Capital Ale House, Penny Lane Pub, Sine Irish Pub, and others. We encourage you to seek out your favorites prior to arriving, but you may just strike up a friendship with someone who already has a favorite, and enjoy some fellowship as well!

CONTINUING THE DISCUSSION

In our last issue, Executive Member Kenneth Van Wyk wrote of his experiences traveling with a firearm, and invited responses. VCDL Member Alan Rice responded:

I appreciated your article about traveling with a firearm in the Summer 2017 issue of The Defender. However, I feel compelled to write due to a few factual errors as well as your invitation to write if I've experienced something different.

First, packing and the gun. My experience on the following airlines: Southwest, United, US Air, Delta has been that the gun declaration tag MUST be in the case with the gun. Even if the gun case is placed in a larger suitcase with your clothing, the gun tag must be placed in the actual gun case. All of the above listed airlines require me to open my gun case so they can verify that the firearm(s) are unloaded. I have found that placing a cable lock through the action speeds this process because that enables them to visually identify that the gun is empty without handling it.

My personal experience has been, over about 20 years of flying with guns, that a separate locked gun case, such as a bright yellow Pelican case, holding only the firearm, magazines and ammunition, smooths the check in process. Doing so, avoids the hassle of having to open a suitcase loaded with clothing (or on the way home with dirty laundry) at the check in counter. I use a Pelican that is large enough to prevent a dishonest airline worker from hiding it under a coat and walking away with it but small enough that I can strap it to the outside of my rolling suitcase for ease of transport.

I print and bring with me the airlines policy and the TSA rules which you referenced in your article.

As for cancelled flights in enemy territory. I just claim my bag, rent a car and drive away. It is my opinion that 18 USC 926A will cover transport in a car to a destination where I may lawfully have the gun. Even in states where you may not be able to carry concealed, you can possess. Most enemy states are surrounded by free states. For example, Newark NJ is about 1 hour east of the Pennsylvania state line and about 40 minutes south of Connecticut. Boston is about 40 minutes from the New Hampshire state line. Baltimore about 1 hour from Virginia and Los Angeles about 2 hours or less from Nevada. In these hostile states, possession and unloaded transport is OK just not loaded. New York being the exception and only for handguns. And even with that, if flying into Albany, it is about 30 minutes to Vermont and from Buffalo about 2 hours from Erie PA and Syracuse NY 90 minutes north of the Pennsylvania state line.

Remember, the gun is declared at check in not pick up.

As for the TSA check. It is different at every airport but in short, I am usually told to wait about 15 minutes and if I am

not paged go through security to the gate.

I understand your experiences are different than mine. However, as an instructor, I generally travel with a few guns and what I have described above has been consistent over 20 years on multiple airlines in several states. Although, for reasons other than firearms I prefer Southwest. And for guns, Southwest is the best. Especially in Manchester, NH where Sig Arms, Ruger and numerous small custom gunsmiths are located. They are accustomed to having flyers check in guns. On my last flight out of Manchester, almost every other passenger was checking in at least 1 firearm.

Ken responds:

With regard to opening a gun case, I believe we're both right, but our answers are different. I was addressing the circumstance of a traveler with a single handgun in a case that is packed inside of a larger suitcase. (I lock mine to my suitcase.) For those, at least on United (where I have 2 million miles flown) and on American, the airline clerks are not allowed to open the case, and the declaration card goes outside the case.

I have confirmed this to be the case with United, in writing.

In a recent experience, a TSA security officer asked me where my declaration card was. I told him the United agent insisted it be inside the handgun case, and he said, "They're NOT supposed to do that!". The United station manager at Washington Dulles (IAD) confirmed this to me in their written standard operating procedures.

Now, I accept that you were addressing the situation of a larger firearm case that is not inside another suitcase. In those circumstances, they do look inside the case and they do put the declaration card inside. I chose to NOT cover that possibility in my article, however, as I was addressing the situation I describe above.

As to taking possession of your checked firearm case in 2A-hostile country, that is your choice, but it is something I would never counsel anyone to do, and certainly not in writing in my Defender article. In the situation I cited, I was in Newark, NJ (EWR) and had to still get to Jacksonville, FL (JAX). United accommodated me the next morning out of New York (JFK). Had I taken possession of a case containing a firearm, I would have been utterly lost, as I had to check back in, and at a different airport in yet another hostile state (NY). I would have been arrested and charged on the spot. And still, I needed to be in JAX the next day before noon for a business commitment. Fortunately, I made it, but had I decided to bring a firearm, I would have been in tough circumstances — and your recommended procedure would have landed me in jail, or at least a prolonged and expensive court battle.

So, the decision of whether to take possession and hope that 18 USC 926A will protect you is a very personal one that should be made on a case-by-case basis with full knowledge. Me, I would never take possession of my firearm in NJ, NY, HI, etc.

That said, again thank you for your comments. I'm happy to address the checked case issue in a follow-up to my article. For those traveling with a larger case, your comments are spot on. But, for those of us who put a single pistol inside our extant suitcases, the SOPs are quite different. That difference is worth noting, although the latter is more common for basic citizens traveling with self-defense tools.

Reference Materials for Gun Rights Activists

By Executive Member Tess Ailshire

I recently became involved in an online discussion with an "I'm not anti-gun but ..." individual decrying the decision not to spend taxpayer dollars for the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to perform research on "gun violence". His point was that to have an intelligent argument, we must "do the science". With a little digging on my part, I was able to convince this individual that the amount of information on the subject is staggering; the argument against having the CDC perform it is specious, at best.

Likewise, many internet gun-rights forums see the same question over and over – where can I get factual information to bolster my arguments?

This list does not pretend to be all-inclusive, and includes some that are truly slanted toward the anti-gunners' arguments. After all, you cannot effectively counter an argument if you don't know what it is or where it comes from. I've also included a couple of sources that attempt to spell out the arguments on both sides. One of the best researched, with almost 100 sources, though simplistic, list of arguments on both sides is ProCon.org, which lays out 15 arguments on each side at <https://gun-control.procon.org>. ProCon.org also lists 15 arguments on each side of "Should Adults Have the Right to Carry a Concealed Handgun" at <https://concealedguns.procon.org>. As I read these, I found myself rebutting each of the points individually; they must be taken together to form a complete argument.

Many of the "pure facts" sites are cherry-picked by both sides.

Gun Facts (<http://www.gunfacts.info>) is unapologetically biased toward pro-gun arguments, but is well-sourced for what it is. This 128-page document presents "myths" presented in anti-gun arguments, with facts selected to counteract those myths. It is available online or, for under \$10, at amazon.com in a nice, printed format.

The Gun Violence Archive (<http://www.gunviolencearchive.org/>) pretends to be unbiased, though its Facebook page includes the quote "Due to gun rights advocate harassment, no phone" and most of its

source material comes from anti-gun sources. Its value, however, is in the ability to drill down and see the source of the report, number injured or killed, and details when available. This site claims not to be an advocacy group, but it's hard to tell because their site also includes the statement "Thank you for your interest in our statistics. Unfortunately, we must limit result sets for the [sic] general queries."

Government sources include the National Institutes of Justice, the Bureau of Justice Statistics, and the FBI – all affiliated with the Department of Justice. Some enlightening statistics about gun use and gangs is available at <https://www.nij.gov/topics/crime/gun-violence/pages/welcome.aspx>. This site also shows firearms crimes as a percentage of all violent crime has remained well below 10 percent for 1993-2001 (latest published). Pure statistics are at <https://www.bjs.gov/content/guns.cfm>. Firearms information on this page is seriously dated, with little available after 2001.

Do not be surprised if arming yourself with facts and figures does little to convince a gun-control supporter. It seems most who support gun control argue from an emotional paradigm, while most who argue for gun rights do so from a logical perspective. Sometimes it takes a significant emotional event for an anti to be able to see from a rights perspective. Sometimes, though, one will comb through data and change one's mind, if only a bit. Leah Libresco's Oct 3 column in the Washington Post (<https://tinyurl.com/y79x8l4m>) highlights that — someone who looks at the data and realizes, though she doesn't become an advocate, that the simplistic and self-serving "solutions" often proposed are, in fact, not consistent with the true source of problems in the US.

To argue emotionally, try telling the story of Suzanna Hupp, author of From Luby's to the Legislature: One Woman's Fight Against Gun Control, available from Amazon. "A Daughter's Regret: How A Gun Could Have Saved My Parents' Lives" is hosted at <https://www.gunowners.org/sk0401.htm>.

One can appeal to emotion by appealing to curiosity. The internet is full of stories of people who weren't really against guns, but never found them high on the priority list, and thus skimmed headlines and let news media and stories of "the Wild West" (which really wasn't) color their thinking. Invite them to the range. Or ask if they've ever had to call police for a suspicious or threatening person. How long did the response take? Curiosity is a surprisingly strong emotion.

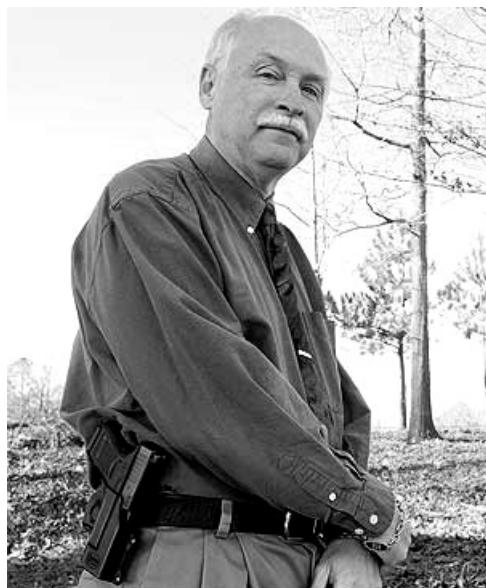
In a future piece, I'll attempt to present some more of the emotional arguments, with rebuttal emotional arguments. The intent of this piece is simply to provide you with as much data as I can for your logical arguments.

Good luck!

⌘



Senator Jill Vogel met with VCDL volunteers at the Norfolk Gun Show during her campaign for Lieutenant Governor.



VCDL PRESIDENT IS "ACTIVIST OF THE YEAR"

At the 2017 Gun Rights Policy Conference held in Dallas this fall, VCDL President Philip Van Cleave was named "2017 Grassroots Activist of the Year".

The Katie Couric lawsuit was part of the reason for Philip's selection.

Philip says "Of course I would never have been given that award, and VCDL wouldn't be the effective organization it is, if it weren't for the hard work of the VCDL Board of Directors, our Executive Members, and all of our regular members. Thanks to all of you who made this possible! It is as much the organization's award as it is mine."

VCDL Membership Application

New Renewal (Member # _____)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

Phone (_____) _____

Email _____

1 VCDL membership: \$ 25.00

Donation to VCDL: \$ _____

Donation to PAC: \$ _____

VCDL-PAC donations of \$100 or more per year require additional information needed by the State Board of Elections. If you are in this category, VCDL's PayPal system is better for donations; it compiles the required information.

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

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

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

Method of payment

Cash (Do not send cash through the mail.)

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

Charge: American Express

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Credit Card Number: _____

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Name as it appears on the card

Signature of Card Holder

Mail to:

VCDL Membership Processing Center

P.O. Box 5752
Fredericksburg VA 22403

Or save postage and use credit card or PayPal at vcdl.org/join

(Continued from page 2)

membership number should be well into six digits. With that kind of membership and a corresponding increase in VA-ALERT subscribers, our power will increase dramatically. VCDL is working on an aggressive legislative-agenda for 2018!

SECOND, WE NEED A STRONG LOBBY DAY (Monday, January 15, 2018 at 8:00 am at the temporary General Assembly Building in Richmond). That will remind legislators that gun owners expect their rights to be protected and restrictions on our gun rights lifted.

THIRD, REACH OUT TO NON-GUN OWNERS THAT YOU KNOW OR MEET, which is especially important in the blue parts of Virginia. Invite them to the range. Show them the fun of shooting and the empowerment of being able to defend themselves in an emergency. Having more gun owners in the bluer parts of the Commonwealth will increase gun-control's toxicity in the long run.

FOURTH, GUN RIGHTS HAVE CHANGED DRAMATICALLY OVER THE LAST 22 YEARS - there are now 450,000 CHP holders, up from just a few thousand in 1995. Also, DC vs Heller and Chicago vs McDonald have clarified that the Second Amendment protects an INDIVIDUAL'S right to own guns and that protection restricts state laws, too. Hopefully we will have more pro-rights US Supreme Court rulings in the future.

And, finally, there will be another election for the Virginia House (and Senate) in two years. We need to be prepared to be more active than ever!

 Vicki Van Cleave

PAC CORNER

The final results of the November election will not be known for some time, perhaps not even by the time this hits your mailbox. Rather than make projections that may or may not prevail, let's just review what we know to be lost.

We lost several key allies, including Bob Marshall, Scott Lingamfelter, and Richard Anderson. Delegate Bob Marshall was a champion of school carry, and no one will take up that slack at this point. Scott ran the House gun bill committee, and was a vital ally. Rich was a constant, faithful friend, and could always be counted on. We also lost a friend in Eddie Whitlock, who was denied a chance to replace the retiring Jimmie Massie.

The news is NOT all bad, though. We also lost Randall Minchew and Jim LeMunyon, the two most unreliable Republicans in the House. Their disposal is no loss. Combined with the retirements of Bill Howell and David Albo, **all** the worst of the former majority are gone.

Now we look ahead to 2019. It is vital that we prevent the party of gun control from making any further gains, and that we make certain that the Republicans field strong candidates, and not squishes. The future begins now.

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

CHP RENEWALS

Virginia law provides that you can get the full five years of your Concealed Handgun Permit if you apply for renewal at least 90, but no more than 180, days prior to expiration of your current permit. (Section 18.2-308.010)

| EXPIRES | RENEW IN |
|----------------|--------------------|
| January | August-October |
| February | September-November |
| March | October-December |
| April | November-January |
| May | December-February |
| June | January-March |
| July | February-April |
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