



A Publication of
Virginia Citizens
Defense League,
Inc.

THE DEFENDER

DEFENDING YOUR RIGHT
TO DEFEND YOURSELF.

♦ Winter 2017 ♦

YOUR RIGHTS NEED THEIR EXERCISE

by EM Kenneth R. van Wyk

It's a new year, Lobby Day 2017 is behind us, and we have a new President of the United States. How are your rights doing? If you're thinking your rights are pretty safe, don't be so quick to judge.

Sure, the Virginia legislature continues to be dominated by Republicans, most of whom favor our 2nd Amendment rights of self defense. Similarly at a National level: both houses of Congress are dominated by Republicans, our new President has repeatedly claimed to support the 2nd Amendment, and the Supreme Court is quite likely to get at least one more 2nd Amendment-supporting Justice.

At first glance, that sounds pretty good for us who believe in our innate right of self defense, as codified in the 2nd Amendment as well as the Virginia Constitution. But, I'm writing this to say the worst mistake we can all make right now is to become overly confident. We absolutely need to keep "banging the drum" to make sure our opinions are heard by our policy makers, enforcers, and judges. And that needs to be at a State and National level.

Rights that don't receive due exercise tend to erode. Just like our bodies need regular exercise to remain in shape, so do our rights.

Below are a few tips to help us all keep our rights in good shape for 2017 and beyond. Now, I realize not all of these

will appeal to all of us, or even be feasible for all of us, but it's in all of our interests to do our level best.

Let's start with a couple of relatively easy ones.

Range time — Get out to the range as often as you can to practice. Push your skill sets to their limits. Try longer distances. If your range supports it, look for opportunities to try moving targets. Try some competitive shooting at sanctioned events. All of these things directly and indirectly support our rights. You're providing revenue to ammunition manufacturers, ranges, sporting organizations, etc. Plus, you're keeping your skills honed. Shooting well is a perishable skill set that needs exercise.

If you're short on cash, try downloading and printing a few "Dot Torture" targets (<http://pistol-training.com/wp-content/uploads/2008/04/dot-torture-target.pdf>). Also consider working through the NRA Marksmanship Qualification Program (<https://mqp.nra.org>). Both of these are free (except printing and ammunition supplies) and provide useful challenges to shooters of all skill levels.

Training — Seek training that teaches you new skills or furthers your existing skills. Do this as often as you reasonably can. Seek classes that challenge you, like defensive pistol and carbine classes with substantial range time. Of course, be sure to find a reputable instructor(s) as well.

Those should be the fun ones. Of course, we each have our own time and financial constraints, so work within what you're able to do, but do your best to push things.

Now, let's consider a few things that might not be quite as easy, but are still massively important to us all.

Publish — I can't stress this enough. We need to have our opinions heard. Here are some suggestions. When you see news reports that are factually incorrect, consider writing a letter to the editor to point out the flaws. Even using social media to state our case can be helpful if done well, although I strongly urge us all to remain polite and avoid the vitriolic fighting that is so prevalent on social media. Ad hominem attacks (e.g., "you're an idiot") do nothing to support your argument and they erode our message in the long run. Instead, take the high road and state your case politely and firmly, emphasizing facts and such whenever possible.

VCDL Public Meeting Dates

Tuesday, Mar 21—Annandale
Thursday, Apr 27 — Annandale
Thursday, May 18 — Annandale
Thursday, Jun 22—Annandale
Thursday, Jul 20—Annandale

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

Continued on Page 4

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 with 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

The U.S. 4th Circuit Court of Appeals has just stripped CHP holders, and gun owners in general, of part of their 4th Amendment rights!

In an unbelievable ruling in late January, 2017, the U.S. 4th Circuit Court of Appeals gutted protections found in previous U.S. Supreme Court rulings.

Under the new ruling, a police officer no longer needs to have either reasonable, articulable suspicion or probable cause that you will use a gun in your possession against him before he can frisk you, search the surroundings within your "wingspan," and disarm you. Now all that he has to know or believe is that you are armed!

Even if you have a concealed handgun permit, that does not protect you from any of this. The Court said that whether a person is in possession of a firearm legally or illegally, it makes no difference.

The old standard was basically "armed AND dangerous." The new standard is "armed OR dangerous." That's a huge difference.

The 4th Circuit ruling only applies to Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, and West Virginia.

The main danger for Virginia CHP holders is Maryland, where the police have been known to harass gun owners from Virginia and other states that have a concealed handgun permit. The bad issue for those of us in Virginia is that the Virginia State Police share your status as a permit holder anytime the police in another state run you for warrants, which is standard procedure during a traffic stop!

The Maryland police could frisk you merely based on the fact that you have a Virginia CHP, even if you left your gun back in Virginia!

Hopefully this bad ruling will be appealed and get overturned by the

U.S. Supreme Court.

There is a bill working through the General Assembly that will help with the Maryland issue. It is Senator Stuart's SB 1023, which would prohibit the Virginia State Police from sharing CHP holder status with any state that does not honor Virginia CHPs!

We are pushing hard to get SB 1023 passed into law this year. We are also looking at a change to the law next year to keep law enforcement in Virginia from using this new ruling as an excuse to frisk gun owners who don't warrant such a thing.

Philip Van Cleave



Congressman Dave Brat showed his support with an appearance at Lobby Day 2017. Shown here with VCDL President Philip Van Cleave (left). Photo from VCDL.org.

UPCOMING GUN SHOWS AND EVENTS

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

CHANTILLY—Dulles Expo Center

Apr 21-23 Jun 9-11 Jul 28-30 Sep 29-Oct 1

DALE CITY — VFW Post 1503

Mar 11-12 Jun 3-4 Jul 22-23 Oct 7-8

DOSWELL—Farm Bureau Center at Meadow Event Park

May 6-7 Oct 21-22

FISHERSVILLE—Augusta Expo

Apr 8-9 Sep 9-10 Dec 9-10

FREDERICKSBURG — Fredericksburg Expo & Conference Center

Mar 11-12 Sep 16-17 Oct 28-29

HAMPTON—Hampton Roads Convention Center

Mar 18-19 Jul 15-16 Sep 23-24

HARRISONBRUG—Rockingham County Fairgrounds

Ocy 7-8 Nov 25-26

MANASSAS — PWC Fairgrounds

Mar 25-26 Apr 29-30 Sep 9-10

NORFOLK—Norfolk Scope

Apr 1-2 Sep 9-10 Nov 4-5

RICHMOND—6807 Midlothian Road (Kmart at Midlothian)

Mar 25-26 ***New Location***

ROANOKE—Roanoke Civic Center

Mar 18-19 Aug 19-20 Oct 21-22

SALEM—Salem Civic Center

Apr 30-May 1 Jul 15-16 Oct 28-29

VIRGINIA BEACH — Convention Center

Apr 1-2 Oct 14-15

WINCHESTER — Body Renew Fitness and Family Sports Center

April 8-9 Nov 4-5



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

VCDL appreciates the volunteers who make it possible to have a presence at gun shows and other locales. Since January and through February 12, the following individuals have been involved.

Chantilly

Vaughn Allex, Kieth Bailey, Mike Belefski, Paul Bolon, Wallop Boonprasit, Gene Brodetski, Tim Burke, Twin Craig, Skip Dobrin, Robert Eufemia, Karen Field, Jim Graf, Michael Greelish, Andrew Hirsch, Steve Hunt, Donna Hurlock, John Kamin, Rebekah Koffler, Margaret Marcus, Michael Oakes, Aled Paulson, Danny Paulson, Roz Paulson, Alex Rogge, Randy Royston, Mark Shinn, Gary VanDeMortel, Keith Webster, Bill Wood, Ralph Wright

Dale City

Tess Ailshire, Jack Carwile, Michael Greelish, Dexter Guptill, Tom Pietras, Terrell Prude, Jim Roberson, Randy Roystan, Ken van Wyk

Hampton

Doug Peterson, Linda Peterson, Mark Spruill, Frank Stanisiz

Salem

Don Beheler, Melanie Charton, Jim Ludington, Stephen Meikle, Ken Modica, Ed Noell, Karen Relyea, Sherrill Smith, Al Steed, Jr, Bruce Wittmeir

Fredericksburg

Sue Blevins, Troy Blevins, John Ditamo, John Dolan, Bruce Jackson, Rowly Molina, Terrell Prude, Dr Rosie Zhi, Donela Spencer, Paul Spencer

Norfolk

Dana Larkin, John Miller, Brendan Mooney, George Reynolds, David Schroen Jr, Tim Waters

GUN SHOW COORDINATORS

Fredericksburg and Doswell—**Michael Kolodzinski**—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

Norfolk SCOPE—**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

State Gun Show Coordinator—**Dr Milan Sturgis**—gunshowcoord@vcdl.org

Lobby — Be active in communicating with your legislators at a state level and a national level. The VCDL legislative tracking tool and the VA-ALERT mailing list can be invaluable tools for keeping informed and being alerted to opportunities to engage with your lawmakers. Again, be polite and firm, and cite facts as much as possible. Write to them. Phone them. Meet with them. If your legislators know you by name, you're probably doing a good job.

Travel — This one is really meaningful for me personally, as I travel extensively for business. Whenever I'm traveling, if it's lawful, I always bring a defensive firearm, and I carry it everywhere I lawfully can. This requires a bit of advance preparation and planning, but it's quite feasible. If you travel by air, you'll need to know your airline's policies and procedures. Likewise if you travel by rail. Even if you're out in your car passing through other states, it's often feasible to bring a firearm along. The most important warning here is to know and follow the law everywhere you're traveling. For my travels, I went through the process of getting a few state permits and I'm slowly adding to that list. Whatever your needs, if it's feasible, I encourage you to actively exercise your right to keep and bear arms.

Attend — Chances are, there is a monthly or nearly monthly VCDL meeting in your county or a relatively short drive away. I encourage everyone to attend those whenever possible. Listen to what's going on in our world. Engage and communicate with others with similar interests and backgrounds. Get out and get involved. VCDL is a volunteer-run organization. I've been active in several volunteer organizations for 30 years or so, spanning many different topics. The one common denominator across all of them is you get out of them what you're willing to put into them. Don't expect VCDL or any volunteer organization to simply provide you with services. Get involved directly and help make the organization better for all of us.

Yeah, our gun rights seem to have a better immediate future than we've been accustomed to for the past several years. That's all good. But if we simply sit back and relax now, all of that opportunity will be squandered away and we'll have no one to blame but ourselves. Let's work together make this world a better place for us all!



*VCDL members Marco Handy and James Evans exercise their rights. During Lobby Day, they visited legislators and signed in to ensure a record of their visit.
Photo ©CandidsbyErin.com. Used by permission.*



A typical VCDL meeting. This was in a Henrico library. Photo by Pat Webb; used by permission.



*Member Walid Boonprasit met with his Senator, Scott Surovell (D-36, VCDL Pro-gun score 18%) on Lobby Day 2017.
Photo ©W. Boonprasit. Used by permission.*

By Board of Directors Member Pat Webb

As a gun store owner, a VCDL member, and a person who carries a gun, I consider myself to be an ambassador for gun owners. I have been an instructor and range safety officer for many years and I have seen some very careful, respectful gun handling. However, I have also seen some examples of what NOT to do.

In my gun store I get many questions about how to carry, what to do in certain situations, and what is legal in Virginia. While I am not a lawyer, nor do I play one on TV, I do know where to point people for current gun regulations and I do know a thing or two about safe handling practices.

This article will be divided into sections. The first will cover good manners. This included the basic safety rules, as do the other sections...safety is always our first priority after all. The second section will cover where to find current laws regarding carry and other nuances of firearm law. The third will cover purchasing, background checks, and making the best choice of gun and holster. Finally, we will cover maintaining our rights and how you can help every single day, without much effort at all.

Because this is a multi-faceted subject, we will present the issues in installments. Some of the subjects will overlap and all will include basic safety, since this is the single, most important issue we face and determines our actions with the other topics.

When it comes to manners, it is easy to assume that they are optional formalities without true purpose. Nothing could be further from the truth. We will examine the function behind the accepted practices.

First, let's review the basic safety rules:

- Always keep your firearm pointed in a safe direction
- Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot
- Always keep your gun unloaded until ready to use it (if holstered and being carried for self-defense, then the gun can and should be loaded)

If you follow these three very basic fundamental rules you will never have a negligent discharge, and the people around you will be much more comfortable.

Now, practical application. As I said, I have a gun store. Every day people come in, many of whom are carrying guns. While we welcome and encourage lawful carry, there are a few basic practices to remember.

- Do not handle a loaded firearm in a public place
- Ask before picking up a gun that is not yours
- When handing a gun to someone, lock the action open
- Be conscious of muzzle direction
- Keep that finger high and clear of the trigger

These things may seem trivial to many, but they are all based on the essential safety practices of firearm safety. We can explore them in more detail.

Hey, Is That Thing Loaded?

The first rule is so basic, yet people violate it all the time. I can't tell you how many people come into my store to buy a holster and pull their loaded gun out of the holster. In a crowded store, there is often no muzzle-safe direction and just drawing your gun will

sweep many other customers or the clerk. I don't care if your chamber is empty, if you have a loaded magazine in the gun it should be considered loaded. In fact, even if you have no magazine in the gun or no cartridges in the cylinder of your revolver, you should still consider it loaded...this is the forth rule of safe gun handling, "Treat every gun as if it were loaded."

So if you plan to go holster shopping, wear a different carry gun or unload your gun before you go to the store. Ideally, carry the pistol you are shopping for in a case with the slide locked back or a chamber flag inserted. Then you should ask if it is okay to retrieve your gun. This announces your intentions and sets those around you at ease. As you test the holster, be aware of who is around you, where they are, and where your muzzle is pointing. And keep that finger OFF the trigger! I can't stress that enough, as it is the single most dangerous practice and the one that is most frequently ignored.

Keep Your Hands Off My Piece!

When you are shopping for guns, whether it is at a store, a gun show, or a private sale, it is good manners to ask if it is okay to handle the gun. You should ask before handling something that belongs to someone else...especially something as personal as a firearm. In addition, many people are funny about working the actions on guns. Even though MOST guns are not damaged in any way by dry-firing, there are some owners who believe that the practice is harmful. There are also some collector guns that are diminished in value by doing anything that would damage the finish or show any signs of wear, even slightly. And there are people who just don't want your mitts on their stuff unless you are actually seriously considering purchase...or they may just be trying to assess your level of safety and respect.

Of course, once permission is granted, you will then follow up with the basic safety rules of muzzle direction, finger off the trigger, and obvious lack of ammo.

While you will want to function check a gun you are considering purchasing, there are some things to remember. With revolvers things like spinning the cylinder, snapping the cylinder closed by flicking your wrist, and dry firing can leave score marks on the cylinder, so treat it as if it is a fragile, expensive Faberge egg. The owner will appreciate your respect and courtesy. Remember, always ask first. That gun isn't yours yet.

When handling semi-automatics, let the slide down easy. You are not loading the gun, you are simply testing it. Check if the safeties work, but again, ask before manipulating the action.

Lock It Open

Any time you hand a knife to someone you present it handle first. Similarly, for firearms we want to present them in a manner that assures the safety of everyone in the vicinity. So to this end we open the action and keep the muzzle pointed in as safe a direction as possible. Now there are exceptions, as with that Commemorative Edition Colt 1911 where the seller has never even racked the slide, but then again you won't be handling that one unless you have the money to purchase it in your pocket, right? And the owner will let you know things like this.

Continued on Page 6

But in most cases you will lock the slide back on a semi-automatic or open the cylinder on a revolver. If it is a single action revolver, open the loading gate, inspect all the chambers, and hand the gun to the other person grip first with the muzzle pointed in a safe direction. The recipient can then also inspect the chambers.

Conspicuously Safe

Safety is our objective and we want to be extremely obvious about enforcing it. This will not only set others at ease, but can help to educate those around us. Not only do people learn by watching, but as gun owners we are ambassadors for our sport. People will judge all gun owners by the actions of each individual, so setting that good example goes a long way in defending our rights.

I can't stress enough that the fundamental safety rules are not guidelines, they are essential practices. In my pilot's training my flight instructor stressed that there are no accidents, there are a series of bad decisions. At any point in the chain, if a good decision is made the chain will be broken and the negative outcome may be prevented. Firearm safety is similar in that respect. We make conscious decisions when we handle firearms. If we make the commitment to follow the safety rules we will not have a negligent discharge. Guns are inanimate objects. They cannot fire on their own. Someone must load them, someone must handle them to make them go off.

So as a responsible gun owner, make a conscious decision to spread good will by always demonstrating proper firearm etiquette and sharing your knowledge with others. We can do much to prevent injury by educating those around us and we can help people feel more comfortable around guns by being conspicuously safe.

HAVING FED THE IRON PIPELINE: WHAT TO DO AND EXPECT AFTER A FIREARM IS STOLEN

By Keith Finch

This is a Public Service Announcement

You're on a trip, a beautiful drive through middle America, and you see a shining sign.

Cabela's!

You stop, naturally, to go in and do the tour. Ten minutes later you return to your vehicle, a box of ammo in a bag and drink from the cooler in hand to see that your car doors were forced open in broad daylight.

It's Sunday; the game is on in an hour, and you're getting off the range. You drive to your friend's house, you've been there plenty of times, so you pull in and park, lock up, and head inside. The game finishes a few hours later and you prep to leave. You get in your car to go but notice that the rifle bag you had is now missing.

Your gun is gone. What do you do now?

Firearms theft is an all too real reality that has to be dealt with. Theft of personal property always stings, but firearms have a special burn when they're taken. The Iron Pipeline of illegal and stolen firearms that end up at crime scenes is fed off these snatch and grabs from homes and vehicles.

These crimes happen so what do you do?

Step One. Call the Police.

Duh.

Yes but it needs to be mentioned. Roll the police immediately and start gathering the information they'll need.

Your name and address, ID

Phone number

Location

Serial Number/'s of the stolen guns and the make and model. The police may ask for special features or defining characteristics, but the serial numbers are essential.

The police will probably process the scene, catalog what is gone, and submit the report. This could take several hours, and you'll receive an incident report number associated with the report.

Keep it.

Step Two. Call your Insurance. Vehicle and Home Owners/Renters insurance will have coverage for the theft. Submit the report number and most of the details you gave the police to insurance and start the process to recover what you can.

Step Three. ...wait what? Insurance? What does my Insurance cover?

CHECK!

Check now what is specifically covered, especially related to firearms and associated gear. You may need to increase coverage. You may need to add names to policies. You might find it is time to switch insurance companies. Check prior, because afterward you are SOL.

Step Four. Call Local Gun Shops and Pawn Shops.

Any and all local shops near the theft should be contacted by you and given

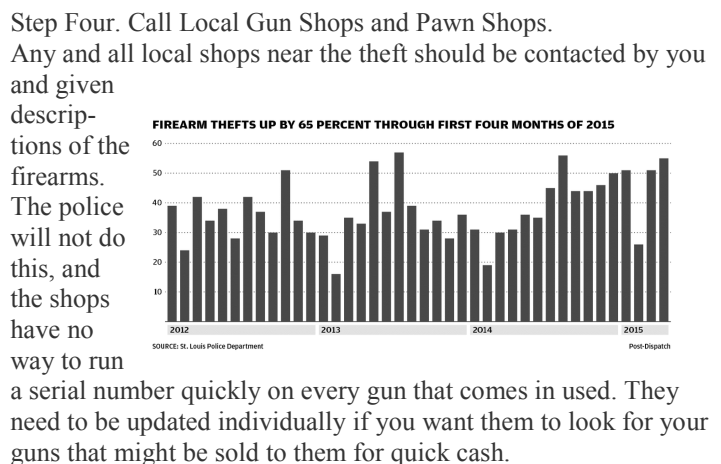
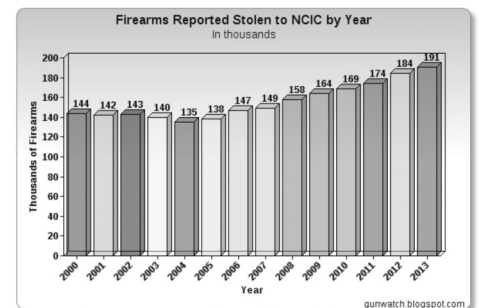
descriptions of the firearms.

The police will not do this, and the shops have no way to run

a serial number quickly on every gun that comes in used. They need to be updated individually if you want them to look for your guns that might be sold to them for quick cash.

Step Five... Well, that's it, to be honest...

Sad but true



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VCDL Membership Application

<div style="margin-bottom: 10px;"><input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal (Member # _____)</div> <div>Name _____</div> <div>Address _____</div> <div>City _____</div> <div>State _____ ZIP _____</div> <div>Phone (_____) _____</div> <div>Email _____</div> <div style="margin-top: 20px;"><div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"><div>_____ 1 VCDL membership:</div><div>\$ 25.00</div></div><div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"><div>_____ Donation to VCDL:</div><div>\$ _____</div></div><div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"><div>_____ Donation to PAC:</div><div>\$ _____</div></div><div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"><div>Total Enclosed:</div><div>\$ _____</div></div><div style="margin-top: 10px;"><i>(Note: Membership processing can take 4-6 weeks)</i></div></div> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top; padding: 5px;"><div>Method of payment</div><div style="margin-top: 10px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Cash (Do not send cash through the mail.)</div><div style="margin-top: 5px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Check (Make checks payable to VCDL)</div><div style="margin-top: 5px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Charge: <input type="checkbox"/> American Express <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> Visa</div><div style="margin-top: 10px;">Credit Card Number: _____</div><div style="margin-top: 5px;">Expiration Date: _____</div><div style="margin-top: 10px;">_____ Name as it appears on the card</div><div style="margin-top: 10px;">_____ Signature of Card Holder</div><div style="margin-top: 20px;">Mail to: <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 5px;">VCDL Membership Processing Center P.O. Box 254 Garrisonville, VA 22463-0254</div></div></td>	<div>Method of payment</div> <div style="margin-top: 10px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Cash (Do not send cash through the mail.)</div> <div style="margin-top: 5px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Check (Make checks payable to VCDL)</div> <div style="margin-top: 5px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Charge: <input type="checkbox"/> American Express <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> Visa</div> <div style="margin-top: 10px;">Credit Card Number: _____</div> <div style="margin-top: 5px;">Expiration Date: _____</div> <div style="margin-top: 10px;">_____ Name as it appears on the card</div> <div style="margin-top: 10px;">_____ Signature of Card Holder</div> <div style="margin-top: 20px;">Mail to: <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 5px;">VCDL Membership Processing Center P.O. Box 254 Garrisonville, VA 22463-0254</div></div>
<small>Contributions, gifts, or membership dues are not deductible for Federal income tax purposes.</small>	

PAC CORNER

As The Who famously said, "Meet the new boss, same as the old boss." The VCDL Board of Directors has chosen to replace my replacement with, well, me. I want to thank Ted Deeds for stepping in to replace me when the Board felt it necessary.

VCDL-PAC has a busy season coming up. Not much is likely to change in the heavily gerrymandered House of Delegates. I doubt that most will even face challengers, but VCDL-PAC will be watching, just in case.

The big contest will be the race for Governor. Prince William County Chairman Corey Stewart is aggressively campaigning in favor of the Second Amendment. I spoke personally with Denver Riggleman at the Republican Advance. He takes a strong pro-gun stance, and we look forward to his survey. State Senator Frank Wagner has a generally good voting record, but has never reached out to VCDL, either answering the survey, or carrying legislation. Ed Gillespie is desperate to avoid us, as usual.

Democrat Ralph Northam is being challenged by one-and-out Congressman Tom Perriello. Perriello had an NRA endorsement in the House, but now calls them, "nut bags." One can only guess what he thinks of VCDL.

The race for Lieutenant Governor is much more even. State Senators Jill Vogel and Bryce Reeves have very pro-gun

histories. Delegate Glenn Davis has made no effort to reach out to VCDL.

The departure of Delegate Rob Bell from the Attorney General race has left us without a clear front-runner. Richmond area attorney John Adams will face off against Tidewater attorney Chuck Smith. Both are unknown to us at the moment.

All Democrat candidates and AG Herring have records of indifference or open hostility toward the Second Amendment. Stay tuned to VA-Alert for updates!

Bob Sadtler
Chairman, VCDL-PAC

If gun laws in fact worked, the sponsors of this type of legislation should have no difficulty drawing upon long lists of examples of crime rates reduced by such legislation. That they cannot do so after a century and a half of trying -- that they must sweep under the rug the southern attempts at gun control in the 1870-1910 period, the northeastern attempts in the 1920-1939 period, the attempts at both Federal and State levels in 1965-1976 -- establishes the repeated, complete and inevitable failure of gun laws to control serious crime."

- Senator Orrin Hatch

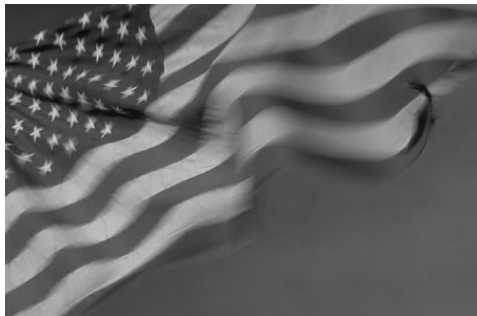
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All Directors and Officers: leadership@vcdl.org

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.

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Unfortunately, the cold reality is that firearm theft is still a property crime. No one is going to be scouring dark alleys or shaking down shady contacts in any dramatic fashion, no more than if a TV or a pair of shoes were stolen.

You'll see your guns again if they turn up, usually meaning if they were used in some sort of crime or taken into evidence as part of or associated with a crime. Perhaps sometime, perhaps never.

An officer on the force of the jurisdiction where mine were stolen said bluntly several weeks later. "We're never going to see those guns."

In all reality they're right, the Iron Pipeline of stolen guns might never return them back to my ownership.

So keep them secret.

Keep them safe.

And get them covered.

This concludes your PSA

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TO DEFEND YOURSELF.**

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