

THE DEFENDER



A publication of

Virginia Citizens Defense League

Defending Your Right To Defend Yourself

Summer 2018

A look at “red flags” laws (that a non-gun owner might understand)

By Jim Irvine

Everyone agrees that certain people are a danger to society, and that bad people sometimes use guns to commit crimes and to injure or kill others. Most even agree that people who are “crazy” are not entitled to their Second Amendment rights to keep and bear arms. And no one likes an angry man with a gun. We all wish something could be done to stop that person before they harm themselves or others.

So why are gun rights advocates opposed to “red flag” laws being proposed by many legislators, which would allow police to take firearms from people in the above conditions without court action?

First, because there are already plenty of ways that police can and often do seize firearms from people. When we're told that all these ways to legally seize firearms don't work, it begs the question - why would anyone think *this* way

would work to solve any real problems?

Second, while some argue that

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VCDL Public Meeting Dates

Tuesday, Oct 30 — Annandale
Thursday, Nov 29 — Annandale
Thursday, Dec 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, Annandale
Fellowship 7:30 PM; Meeting 8:00 PM

Renewal Season is Here



The VCDL membership year runs 1 Oct –30 Sep each year. You should have seen the renewal notice in your mailbox if you didn't renew online. Renewing online saves VCDL the cost of postage and saves the Membership Director having to decipher handwriting.

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS. We do not currently offer lifetime memberships. The question is being debated. If you choose to join for two or more years at one time, enclose your payment for the number of years you choose and let the Membership Director know—either in the “NOTES TO SELLER” or on your application. The application is on page 7 of this newsletter.

THE DEFENDER. Since more and more people are asking to opt out of the paper newsletter, we now offer that option. If paying online, enter your request in the “NOTES TO SELLER” section of the PayPal web site. If renewing by mail, annotate your membership application or attach a note. If you have already renewed, send a note to membership@vcdl.org and ask to be flagged. You will no longer receive this paper newsletter, but will continue to receive the VA-ALERT if you are subscribed.

Renewal time is the perfect time—while it is on your mind—to encourage another freedom lover to join, or to provide a gift membership to someone. Remember to put your member number on the new application so you get credit in the membership recruitment drive.

EDITOR'S NOTE

This issue is later than normal. The next issue should put us back on schedule. That issue will include planning information for Lobby Day, January 21, 2019 in Richmond.

I'm excited to share that we're expecting to start in the next issue a regular column on practice. That's right—firearms practice. I doubt there's a reader out there who doesn't see the benefit of regular and rigorous practice. The upcoming column, as yet untitled, will cover types of practice, and drills that help the shooter to work on specifics. It may be presentation, it may be accuracy, it may be timing, or any of a hundred other factors that go in to making practice worth the time. Vince Lombardi wisely said "Practice does not make perfect. Only perfect practice makes perfect." We all have weaknesses; the goal with this column will be to provide you methods to lessen those weaknesses.

In his President's Pen, Philip notes the importance of your vote. Heed him!

The Defender is your newsletter. In it, we strive to present a variety of topics, with the sole commonality that they relate to firearms and firearms rights in Virginia. So what do you want to hear? Better yet, what do you want to say?

Submissions to The Defender on topics of interest to our members are always welcomed. Submissions can be copies of Letters to the Editor you've written, they can be essays on gun rights, they can be reviews or suggestions on training — in short, if it interests you, it will probably interest other members. Original submissions are welcomed also because we attempt to provide different information from that found on social media or with simple internet searches. It's your publication. You can even start with the "Food for Thought" on page 7.

Tess Ailshire
Editor

PRESIDENT'S PEN

The loss of some of our gun rights in Virginia was saved by two things this year: the hard work of VCDL and its membership and the luck of the draw that kept the Republicans in power in the House BY ONE VOTE. Winning that tie-breaking drawing in a Tidewater House race meant that the Republicans got to pick the Speaker of the House, and they picked a Speaker who supports our right to keep and bear arms. Had the Democrats picked a Speaker, it would have been someone who would have thwarted gun owners every step of the way.

A 50-50 drawing, little different from a coin toss, made all the difference in the world!

If nothing else, remember this: any gun-control bill that ends up on Governor Northam's desk WILL be signed! VCDL must stop every single gun-control bill in the General Assembly and we did this year. ALL 75 OF THEM! That feat would have been significantly harder had the Democrats won that drawing.

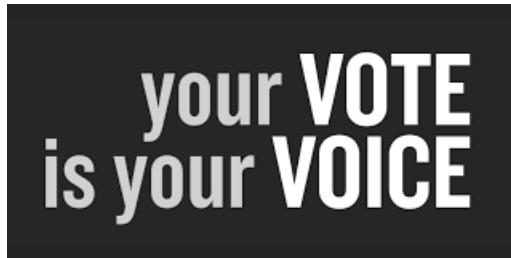
This year the gun controllers tried to get everything on their wish list: magazine bans, semi-automatic rifle bans, "red flag" laws, repeal of state pre-emption laws, universal background checks, and much, much more.

Elections have become razor thin in many districts. It's no longer sufficient for gun owner just to vote; every gun owner needs to get like-minded friends and family members to the polls as well, or we could start moving backwards.

I'm dead serious about this. I am not one to cry wolf and hopefully you know that by now. If I'm saying there is a wolf waiting for us to slip up, I mean it.

Get involved in electing good candidates and start doing so NOW. Send candidates money (anti-gun candidates are frequently heavily funded from out-of-state sources), offer to do phone banking or knock on doors, write letters to the editor supporting pro-gun candidates, arrange car pools for those who may have difficulty getting there, spread the word at your gun ranges, gun clubs, and gun matches.

Pure luck may not save us the next time. We need to make sure there is no next time where our rights are determined by a 50-50 drawing.



your VOTE
is your VOICE

UPCOMING GUN SHOWS AND EVENTS

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.

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

CHANTILLY—Dulles Expo Center

Nov 16-18 Dec 28-30

DALE CITY—VFW Post 1503

Dec 1-2

DOSWELL—Farm Bureau Center at Meadow Event Park

Dec 15-16

FISHERSVILLE—Augusta Expo

Dec 8-9

FREDERICKSBURG—Fredericksburg Expo & Conference Center

Oct 27-28 Dec 8-9

HAMPTON—Hampton Roads Convention Center

Nov 24-25

HARRISONBURG—Rockingham County Fairgrounds

Nov 3-4 NO VCDL PRESENCE; NEED COORDINATOR

MANASSAS — PWC Fairgrounds

Dec 1-2

NORFOLK—Norfolk Scope

RICHMOND—Richmond Raceway Complex

Nov 10-11

RICHMOND — Old Kmart on Midlothian

ROANOKE—Roanoke Civic Center

Oct 20-21

SALEM—Salem Civic Center

Dec 22-23

VIRGINIA BEACH — Convention Center

Oct 20-21

WINCHESTER — Body Renew Fitness and Family Sports Center

Nov 3-4

COORDINATORS

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

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

Doswell — **Rowley Molina** — gunshows.doswell@vcdl.org

Fishersville—**Ed Martin** — gunshows.fishersville@vcdl.org

Fredericksburg —**Mike Clark**—gunshows.fredericksburg@vcdl.org

Harrisonburg —**VACANT** — gunshows.shenandoah@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.

Doswell May 5-6

Susan Bush, Bob Charlton, Dave Eckart, Rowley Molina, Alan Penn, Stanley Walker, Janine Woods

Trader Jerry's, Salem, Jun 1-2

Brien Dyer, Danny Holdren, Sam Hollingsworth, John Kirby, Ken Modica, Sherrill Smith, Al Steed, Jr Chantilly, Jun 8-10

Paul Boland, Gene Brodetski, Debra Casey, Dwin Craig, Jim Ellett, Robert Eufemia, Donna Elizabeth Hurlock, Margaret Marcus, Michael Oakes, Alek Paulson, Danny Paulson, Roz Paulson, Alex Rogge, Russell Slater, Mike Stinette, Keith Webster, Bill Wood

Greene County Outdoor Show, Jun 22-23

Fred Bayless, Brenda Carsley, Gary Duden, Alicia Fletcher, Dan Helm, Richard Kroh, Donna Kroh, Ed Martin, Robert Mortensen, Albert Shank, Brian Weidman and wife, Robert Welch, Charles Winkler

Hampton, Jul 14-15

Lee Affholter, Clyde Taylor, Bryan Dunn, Dennis Endres, Janet Goldbach, Mike Hallaway, Ron Lilly, Gary Moeller, Clem Morse-Tuttle, Roberta Morse-Tuttle, Monte Oakes, Bill Slifer, Mark Spruill

Manassas, Jul 21-22

Tess Ailshire, Thomas Bunnell, Rick Dumfries, Lee Ann Duxon, Bruce Jackson, Caleb Johnston, Rebekah Koffler, Richard Kroh, Jaime Martinez, Jim Roberson, Rich McDonald, Wayne Robinson, Jon Saxton, Brian Sullivan

Chantilly, Jul 27-29

Keith Bailey, Walid Boonprasit, Gene Brodetski, Thomas Bunnell, Debra Casey, John Glass, Dwin Craig, Robert Eufemia, Paul Gwyther, Troy Hayes, Chris Karanski, Robert Lewis, Phillip Rodokanakis, Alexander Rogge, Craig Shelton, Keith Webster, Robert Wilson

Roanoke, Aug 18-18

Don Beheler, Dave Black, Brien Dyer, Dave Evans, Charlie Fergerson, Ed French, Ken Hatten, Danny Holdren, Sam Hollingsworth, Ken Modica, Neil Motter, Dave Ninaltowski, Ed Noell, Al Steed, Jr., Noah Tickle

Fishersville, Sep 8-9

Brenda Carsley, Ed Martin, Don Sites

Special thanks to the folks who slogged through this mud at the Greene County Outdoor Show in June



What is a 2A-lover Supposed to do Online?

by Executive Member Kenneth R. van Wyk

It was the best of times. It was the worst of times. Somewhat paradoxically, that overused quote from *A Tale of Two Cities* aptly describes today's on-line world with regards to our second amendment rights.

On one hand, we have YouTube stars like Hickok45, IraqVeteran8888, Sootch00, and Paul Harrell. Many of these folks have YouTube followings in the millions. And these audiences have been earned through providing superb content and firearms-related entertainment. Speaking only for myself, I know when a new video is released by one of these favorites of mine, I'm thrilled. And it's not just for current content. Perhaps you just bought a new firearm and you want to learn how to properly field strip it, clean it, etc. A quick YouTube search and you're more than likely to find some superb instructional material in HD quality. There's hardly a topic you can't find.



...unless it's been censored. And there's the rub. The big social media sites like Facebook, Twitter, Google (including of course Google+), and YouTube are pretty much all owned by anti-gun folks who hold "us" in contempt. Entire channels on

YouTube and elsewhere have been removed with little warning. Videos have been yanked for containing "dangerous" (but otherwise lawful) information.

It would seem Silicon Valley is colluding to strip us of our Second Amendment rights. If not our rights in their entirety, certainly our ability to partake in social media on topics related to our firearms.

Some claim they're violating our First Amendment right of free speech, but let's not forget these are mostly private corporations. They are free to set and enforce policies as they see fit. We might not like it, but they have every right to do so. I, for one, think we collectively send the most powerful message by taking our business elsewhere.

With that in mind, as someone who has been on the Internet since the mid 1980s, I'm here to say not all is lost. Quite the contrary. If you walk away from those social media giants, at least with regard to firearms content, there's a world of alternatives available. In some cases, you may need to join me in being perhaps just a tad "old school," but the rewards are there, and they're genuine. Let's explore a bit, starting with video content. Oh, and I should point out the list here isn't in any way intended to be comprehensive. Please share with us your favorites that I've missed.

Video

Of course, YouTube is the the monster, and they've made it amply clear they don't support our right to keep and bear

arms. That said, they're far from being the only game in town. Two alternatives I've tried are Full30 (www.full30.com) and UgeTube (www.ugetube.com). Many of the top YouTube stars have alternative channels over on Full30, although the selection certainly isn't as vast. Also, the monetization model on Full30 is much different than it is on YouTube, so many of the channels have turned to running sites over on Patreon (www.patreon.com). There, you can support your favorite channels with cash donations, if you choose to. Some channels incentivize their loyal paying fans by offering them "members only" content or advance viewing of content before the nonpaying masses see it.



Forums

There are still large communities of firearms fans to be found on Facebook, Google+, etc., but there too, the proprietors have made it clear we're not welcome. I, for one, am happy to take my business elsewhere. So, where do we go instead? Here are a few.

MeWe (www.mewe.com) launched a couple years ago as a free speech forum site that embraces topics including

firearms. They've built a site that has a pretty rich set of features, similar in some ways (but very different as well) to Facebook and Google+. MeWe has tons of special interest groups for discussing firearms, selling and trading firearms, building firearms, etc. To be fair, there's a lot more groups on MeWe than "just" firearms, but what they have in common is their strong support of our First Amendment rights.

Now, if you're willing to go a bit "old school" with me, there are a myriad of forum sites that offer excellent platforms for carrying on firearms discussions. One of my favorites is the VaGunTrader site (www.vaguntrader.com). As you might guess from the name, it's a site that supports lawful sales and trades of firearms, primarily here in Virginia. Many of these forum sites resemble the old dial-in bulletin board systems (BBSs) dating back to the 1980s. They may not be as flashy as Facebook, but if you're looking for an online place to discuss firearms, spend some time and explore. Another wildly popular forum site is AR15.com (www.ar15.com). Aficionados of open carry might be interested in OpenCarry.org, owned by VCDL members, or The High Road forum (www.thehighroad.org)



And then there's one of my personal favorites, TapaTalk. By

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itself, TapaTalk isn't a single forum *per se*. Instead, it represents a loose confederation of member forums, brought together with some common, but somewhat old-school, technology. Wow, that sounds confusing. Let me explain. For starters, there's a TapaTalk smart phone/tablet app for iPhones, Androids, etc. The app free, but the app is not where the real content is. You can also point your web browser to the TapaTalk site (www.tapatalk.com) if you prefer. To get started, go to TapaTalk and set up your own profile.

On TapaTalk, there are hundreds if not thousands of independently run forum sites, including the ones I'll list below, that work in cooperation with TapaTalk. As near as I can tell — I don't run any of the sites, and am merely a customer — forum owners can run compatible software and register themselves via TapaTalk. If appearances are accurate, the individual forums are similar to franchise holders. They are independent, but are accessible under a single brand. (They're also accessible independently, if you'd rather do it that way.)

Here are a few examples, but there are thousands from which to choose:

Va Gun Owners Forum

GlockTalk

Sig Arms Talk

Firearms Talk

DefensiveCarry.com

1911 Addicts

Most of these names should be fairly self explanatory... Connect with any of them via TapaTalk and you'll find entire worlds to explore and participate in.

Why are these forum sites safe from the censorship we've seen on Facebook *et al*? Because they're all independently owned and operated. You may well lose a single forum site from time to time, but together, they make up a community that connects together through one mechanism, TapaTalk.

I've only scratched the surface here. No doubt, I've missed many important and valuable forums and sites. The point is this: Facebook, YouTube, *et al*, are relative late-comers to social networking. On-line communities existed for decades before these guys came along, and many of them embrace our shared passion for the Second Amendment. Spend some time and explore, and you'll find sites filled with like-minded people who couldn't care less what Mark Zuckerberg had for lunch.

Review: National Safety Council course

'Surviving an Active Shooter Event'

By Executive Member Tess Ailshire

As I mentioned in the Editor's column last issue, my daughter and I, a few other VCDL members I recognized, and about 40 others attended the 'Surviving an Active Shooter Event' course put on by the Fairfax County CERT and the National Safety Council back in May. The course was held on Fort Belvoir, so those of us who attended were unarmed. A second session was held in June in Fairfax, but I can't speak to that session.



The course is designed for unarmed individuals. While appropriate, given the location, there was no mention of how reactions could or should change in the presence of a good guy with a gun.



Course materials provided by the National Safety Council were relatively neutral, and appropriate for unarmed individuals. Our instructor, however, provided a supplementary handout that was provocative, listing several "school shootings" that weren't, and making the active-shooter event seem more common than it is. He also made several comments about where it is illegal to carry a firearm in Virginia, and was seriously uninformed about the law. At the end of the session, I stood up and offered VCDL carry cards to anyone interested, stating they had gotten some misinformation and I'd happily provide the correct information. Only a couple of people took me up on it, but fortunately one was the instructor, a "former law enforcement officer".

The course stressed preparation – things like making note of entrances and exits, noting areas for concealment and cover, remaining aware of who is nearby, choosing seats (if applicable) with good views – that to many VCDL members are second nature. Some of us would be astonished by the number of people in this world who never give preparation a thought.

The course also presented some "what if" scenarios that were vague enough to generate some really interesting discussion. "What if" you see an individual carrying a firearm across a parking lot? Is that a threat? Class members wisely asked what kind of firearm, how it is being carried, what kind of parking lot (church? school? Cabela's?), what other indicators one might look for, and

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while "red flag laws may not help, but if it doesn't hurt either, then what is the harm in trying?" the facts disagree with the "if it doesn't hurt" assertion.

Let's examine these laws with an analogy to illustrate why gun owners have concerns:

Most people agree that road rage is a serious issue. We know it costs people their lives. Similarly, texting and driving are proven to be a bad combination. We all wish people didn't get distracted or angry while driving, because it can wreck others' property and kill innocent people. Cyber bullying is yet another societal ill we would be better without.

Applying the same "what's the harm in trying" logic to phones and cars, consider the following scenario:

You are having a bad day at work. You got passed up for a promotion, and a co-worker is taking credit for your good idea, leading to conflict in the office. Meanwhile, there has been a small emergency at home, and your spouse and kids keep calling and texting you. You are distraught with worry.

Finally, your work day is done and you are ready to head home. But unbeknownst to you, your idea-stealing co-worker has decided that the stress of your day has made you unsafe to drive, especially while in possession of a cell phone as a potential distraction. Maybe they are concerned about your safety, or maybe they are just vindictive, but either way, they call the police and report that you could be a danger driving home.

When you get to the parking spot, you find the police impounding your car. You are a good person without a criminal record. You haven't done anything wrong at work. How can this happen to you!?

Don't worry, the officer tells you - you can go to court to prove you were safe to drive in a few days or weeks. You can walk home today, or take the bus. You might have called a taxi, but since it's a potential distraction, and could also be used to lash out at your co-worker later, your cell phone has been confiscated too.

Yes, the officer agrees, it's a little inconvenient to not have a car or phone, but your friends can help you, and you don't really "need" those things. They are just a convenience, one you can surely do without for a couple weeks in the interest of safety of so many others you might have harmed.

You'll need to pay for an attorney to explain that having a bad day does not mean you were going to engage in road rage or cyber bullying. But you have a good case and should prevail. A couple thousand dollars is a small price to pay to ensure the safety of others on your bad day, right? Certainly you should be OK with that.

Weeks later, you prevail and the judge agrees you were not a risk. You can have your car and phone back. Unfortunately, when you go to pick it up, you discover that your car been left out in the rain with the windows down. It now has electrical problems and mold growing in the carpet and upholstery. It might cost more to fix than your car is worth, but hey, it's a small price to pay for safer streets and Facebook pages. Doesn't everyone agree?

If you think the above example is ridiculous because there is no reason to suggest gun owners would have their property taken without reason, have to pay thousands to get their own property back from the government, and had their guns destroyed because the government didn't properly store and care for them, you are wrong. All of the above already happens to gun owners far more often than most people are aware. And any good person aware of such abuses would oppose a new way for government to do such damage to its people.

Ahh – I can hear the gun ban extremists' cries: "There is a big difference between a gun and a car or phone." And on this point I fully agree. The phone and car are convenience items and privileges. Bearing arms is a constitutionally-protected civil right. Clearly such rights are more important and should be legally harder for our government to deny to its citizens. Despite these facts, and despite this potential for abuse and overreach, "red flag" laws are still compelling to some. So I'd like to make a suggestion: How about we test these laws out on cars or phones and see how society likes them?

As long as you never give a co-worker or an ex a reason to be mad at you, you have nothing to fear. After we've proved the concepts works good with items of convenience, then you can come talk to us about taking the guns many use to protect our own lives.

Jim Irvine is President of the Buckeye Firearms Association. He is also recipient of the NRA-ILA's 2011 "Jay M. Littlefield Volunteer of the Year Award," the CCRKBA's 2012 "Gun Rights Defender of the Year Award," and the SAF's 2015 "Defender of Freedom Award." This piece was originally published at <https://www.buckeyefirearms.org/look-%E2%80%9Cred-flags%E2%80%9D-laws-non-gun-owner-might-understand.> Reprinted by permission.

"Foolish liberals who are trying to read the Second Amendment out of the Constitution by claiming it's not an individual right or that it's too much of a public safety hazard, don't see the danger in the big picture. They're courting disaster by encouraging others to use the same means to eliminate portions of the Constitution *they* don't like."

— Alan Dershowitz

VCDL Membership Application

RECRUITER MEMBER # _____

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 over \$100 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)

Method of payment

Cash (Do not send cash through the mail.)

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

Charge: American Express

MasterCard Visa

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

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

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

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what other indicators might be present.

We then moved on to how to deal with the active shooter. Run, hide, cover, conceal, etc. Beyond those came teamwork. If you're trapped in an office or other type of room, what can the group do to prepare? From blocking doors to moving furniture to determining who wields the fire extinguisher or erasers, even a hastily concocted plan is better than none. The six-minute "Run. Hide. Fight." video (which you can see at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5VcSwejU2D0>) is not all that bad. Most VCDL members are trained beyond this, but it could be a good resource for those of your family members who are not willing or able to consider carrying a firearm, especially for students or employees who are prohibited by age or policy from carrying.

The course was a bit simplistic, and in my mind, sadly lacking in options for the armed citizen, but significantly better than no training at all.

As of this writing, there are no iterations being offered in Virginia. You can keep an eye on <https://www.nsc.org/home-safety/get-involved/community-training/find-training> for upcoming locations.

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***The Premier Firearms-Rights
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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
August	March-May
September	April-June
October	May-July
November	June-August
December	July-September

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TO DEFEND YOURSELF.**

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