

THE DEFENDER



A publication of
Virginia Citizens Defense League
Defending Your Right To Defend Yourself

SPECIAL ISSUE 2—January 2020

WHAT A DAY!



Early Crowd as captured from Delegate William Wampler III Office

[Link to video of 11AM Rally](#)

INSIDE

[PHOTOS](#)

[QUOTES](#)

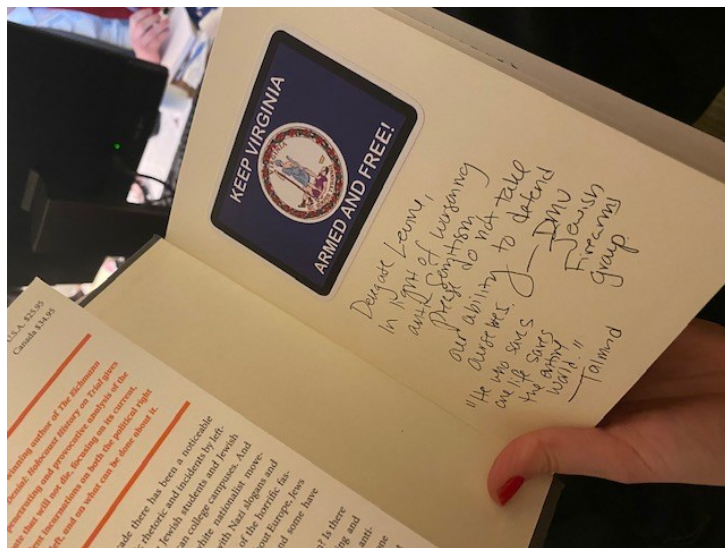
[THANKS](#)



These ladies are ready to GO!



**Teams Line Up to Enter the
Pocahontas Building**



**Presenting Anti-Gun Delegate Mark Levine an Inscribed
Copy of "Anti-Semitism Here and Now"**

Photo by Veronica Sloatsky



**Meeting with Senator Siobhan S. Dunnivant —
not a reliable pro-rights vote**

Photo by Lobby Team 1



**Bill Qualls Recruits Team
Members for Anti-Gun
Legislators**

Photo by Team 1



**Meeting with Senator Jennifer
Boysko—reliable anti-gun vote**

Photo by Lobby Team 1



Early view of crowd inside fenced area
Photo by Virginia visitor Paul Lazzaretti. Used by permission.



We are not alone
Photo by Scott Mallonee. Used by permission.



Happy to be here
Photo by Scott Mallonee. Used by permission.



Gun Rights are Women's Rights
Members of the Richmond Chapter A Girl and a Gun
Photo by Scott Mallonee. Used by permission.



Thank you Richmond Police Department
Photo by Scott Mallonee. Used by permission.



A very early start on the bus from Leesburg
Photo by Scott Mallonee. Used by permission.



Photo copyright Scott Mallonee. Used by permission.



Photo posted to Facebook by Kelly Cobean.



Civic Duty on Many Levels

Photo posted to Facebook by Brendan Mooney.



Some Chose to Enter "The Cage"

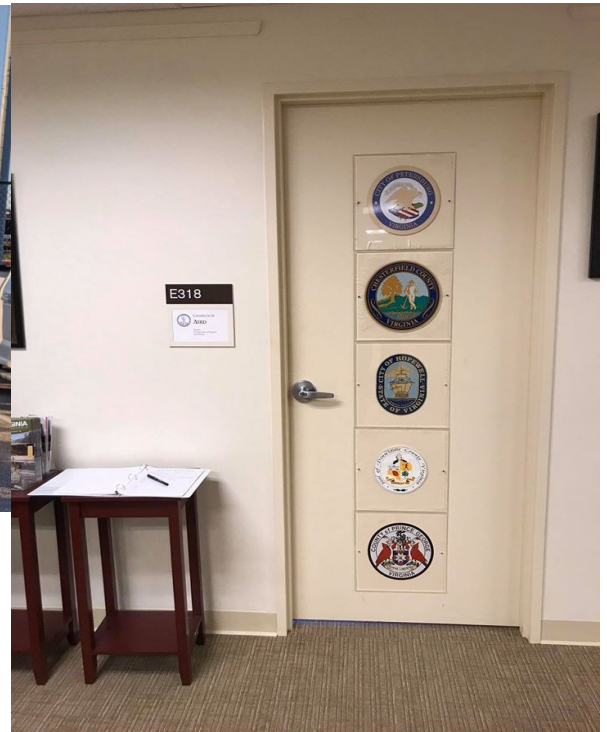
Photo by Scott Mallonee. Used by permission.



Faces of the Crowd



Parking and Sales Team Setup at The Diamond
Photo by Bryan Dunn. Used by permission.



I Waited to See My Delegate Aird and Got This
Photo Roger Hoover on Facebook.



Shout Out to 1775
Photo by Leyla Myers. Used by permission



Delegate John McGuire supports man now a widower after Virginia Beach
Photo by John Wilburn. Used by permission.



Faces of the Crowd
Posted to Facebook by Mehar Arsai Challa.

FEEDBACK FROM ATTENDEES AND NON-ATTENDEES

Julie Becker: My husband, Carl White, and I will not be going as we deem that the risk of facing danger because of violent outside groups has been significantly increased by the actions of the Governor and others to whom they are financially obligated.

A VCDL Member who was given a donated bus ticket: Sunday evening I made peace with my LORD Jesus. I tried calling my five children to say goodbye. From all the hype from the governor I was prepared and expecting a false flag incident causing a massive street battle. I was prepared to do my duty to GOD and country. Thank GOD that wiser and cooler heads prevailed and there was no blood shed. I want to thank [VCDL] for giving me a ticket. If something had happened and I was setting back watching it on TV, I don't think I could ever look at my grandchildren knowing I could have done something to keep them from fighting the same thing down the road in their life times.

From a UK Donor who donated a seat on a bus: I am the person who paid for your bus ticket to travel to Lobby Day. I wish I could be with you as I greatly support you in your endeavour to protect your 2nd Amendment rights in the state of Virginia. I would like to briefly explain who I am and why I support you. I am a British National. I am not, nor do I have any real desire to be, a US citizen. I am a veteran of the British Army (and the irony of a British Soldier defending the rights of Virginians to bear arms is not lost on me from a long term historical perspective). I have nothing whatsoever to gain on a financial level from these abominable bills being passed or not passed. So why don't I mind my own business?

My country recently had its own vote for Independence – the Brexit Vote. And whilst we gained our Independence without firearms, it was done in the teeth of a political class that for the best part of 3 years and numerous democratic votes has failed to respect our choice. I firmly believe that if the nation I love and served had gun ownership then our political class would not have dared to filibuster our vote for independence in such a costly, high handed and disgusting way. Had the Conservative party in the UK not been gifted an opposition leader who supported Irish; Islamic Terrorism, had a truly insipid personality and catastrophically moronic economic and social policies our elitist “Deep State” would still be trying to destroy our democratically chosen path through the agencies of this useful idiot. The political class in most of the world have an overwhelming monopoly of violence (through the Police and

Military) which means that they regularly fail their own people through their arrogance and avarice for power and prestige. The United States is almost uniquely gifted in that its own citizens retain the power through their gun ownership to challenge the otherwise overwhelming power of the state; and the Firearm reminds them the state is your servant, not your master.

If Governor Northam had any courage whatsoever, to control gun deaths he would be going house to house in areas controlled by criminals to remove the firearms from those that prey on the weak. But he lacks the courage for that, so he is taking the firearms of the law abiding believing it an easier path; all the while safe in the knowledge that he will never walk down a dark alley without the protection he would deny others. The money he plans to spend on the National Guard invading homes and penalising democratically elected Law Enforcement officials should be spent on mental health provision instead, so that the mentally ill (who genuinely do pose a threat with a gun in their hand) would be identified and treated. He should stick to his racist fancy dress parties and leave actual solutions to grownups. I love my country, it has many remarkable qualities and I feel proud to be a British citizen and to have served it. But there is another country I hold in equally high regard, a country that stood shoulder to shoulder with me when I served, just as it stood shoulder to shoulder with my father when he served during the cold war, did the same for my Grandfathers in World War 2, My Great Grandfathers in World War 1 and all the other times Liberty needs to be defended. That country is your country, the United States. I believe the removal of such a unique treasure as the state trusting its citizens with the power of the gun would diminish it as a beacon of Liberty for the temporary illusion of “safety”. As Benjamin Franklin said “Those who would give up essential Liberty, to purchase a little temporary Safety, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety”

I wish you all the best. I hope one day that we can meet, and that it is sharing the joy of sending a few rounds downrange in Virginia knowing that the rifle we hold is in your possession because you stood your ground for your rights and won. Until that happens truly give them a lesson in the power of a free people on the 20th.

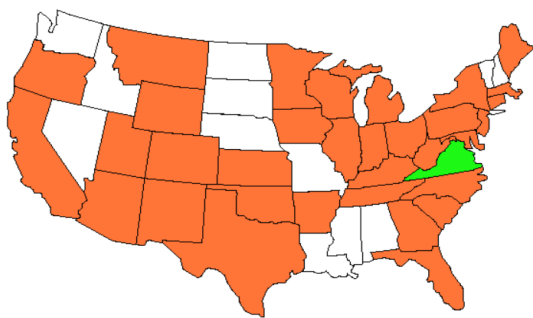
Kindest Regards

Chris G.

From a non-2A Group on Facebook: We blew our budget to come up to Virginia for the 2A Rally oh, and it was worth every penny! Still stayed under [\$]200 traveling from South Carolina and getting a hotel room as well.

(Continued on page 7)

From a bus passenger from Pennsylvania: “The last leg of my journey from Pennsylvania was a three-hour ride from Fairfax, Virginia, to Richmond on a tour bus chartered by the VCDL. My fellow passengers were predominantly white, middle-class men and women. They were an amiable bunch who were in a happy mood and plainly looking forward to the rally. They expressed no concerns about possible violence or reports that Antifa or some similar group of thugs might wear MAGA hats and stage false flag outrages for media consumption. These people wanted to get to Richmond and voice their displeasure.”



Self-Reported Attendance from Other States

From **EM Leyla Myers:** I want to give personal thanks to all attendees in general, for their amazing attitude and good friendly interaction with each of us. I want to specifically thank those who took the time to pick up all the trash from the streets! As I was giving out GSL stickers, a lot of you said the stickers did not stay on your clothes - most likely because of the cold weather. You took the long strands of backing paper from me and promised to take care of it. Some told me they will put the trash in their own backpacks - they were willing to do anything to keep the streets clean. And after the event, you took care of all the trash. I walked the streets at 5:30 p.m. - I saw one or two extra bags of trash sitting next to almost every city trash can. If you live under a rock and did not know about the gathering that took place early that day, you would not know about it anyway - the city center was cleaner than ever. [Even the news reported about you, the volunteer trash pickers!!](#)

On Facebook: I met folks from Georgia, New York, West Virginia, Texas, and several from North Carolina, even a gentleman who told me he was 67 years old, a legal immigrant from the Philippines who came here in the 1980s to live now in New York and said that this was a particularly important issue to him because he lived under an oppressive government for 15 years and knows a thing or two about tyranny. It was an enjoyable conversation we had as we walked around Richmond looking for our cars at the end of the day.

From Facebook: I just want to say thank you for having the bus trip I was on bus number 2 [from Fredericksburg]. I met

some really great people today I'm so proud to have been a part of this! Some of my friends who are far left wing nuts can't believe that we had such a peaceful rally today! I got them thinking real hard about the party that they support now... I think they're about to take a walk on that red side lol!

From Facebook: I am Latin American but have been a citizen for 40 years. It makes me proud to scream to the world that the United States of America's is THE ONLY country in the WORLD that the right to bear arms is part of its constitution. I enjoy targeting, I own several and various types of rifles and will fight for my rights and the rights of the people who welcomed me in this wonderful USA and Virginia, which is my home. When I pledge alliance to the country, I MEANT IT with all my heart.

From a reporter/producer embedded with a Lobbying Team: “Well, this is all very unexpected. Everyone has been really nice, articulate, and peaceful. My superiors told me that they all were hoping for “something” to happen, which I am sad to say. And you have really opened my eyes about what this is about, and why you and your group is so passionate about this. I don't have a gun, never shot one, so I don't know anything about them. I must admit that everyone here is doing something to protect our freedoms. It's interesting because there are so many different cultures in this country and how you live here in Virginia is very different than how we live in NYC. This entire rally has been enlightening.”



Photo by Scott Mallonee. Used by permission.

OUR THANKS

Lobby Day 2020 could not have happened without the incredible efforts of many, many teams of people.

Speaker lineup—VCDL President Philip Van Cleave

Rally logistics—Board of Directors Member Patricia Webb
PA, Richmond PD coordination, Department of General Services Coordination, Porta-potties, Airport transportation, Radio and camera coordination, while lobbying, running a successful gun store, and serving VCDL as both Secretary and Treasurer

VCDL Legislation Tracking —VCDL President Philip Van Cleave and Board of Directors Member John Pierce

Security Coordination—VCDL EM Bob Marcellus

Radio Coordination—VCDL Board of Directors Member Gary Moeller

Lobbying Teams—Organized/led by VCDL EM Kenneth Van Wyk Deputy: Clayton Vieg

Team Leaders

Hunter Allen
Todd Banks
William Barratt
Malcolm J Blundell
Sean Callahan
Mike Castellano
Mark Eggeman
Corey Fauconier
Mike Ferris
John Flynn
Brandon Howard
Chris Karanski
Paul Kershaw
Chris Lee
Benjamin McLeod
Louie Pate
Baxter Stegall
Jay Templin
Randy Weidman
John Wilburn

Assistants

Steven Adams
Rich Barlow
Bart Bennett
Philip Boggs
Justin Craig
Brien Dyer
Paul Fraser
Gabe Gonzales
Jon-Paul Grizzle
Sherri Hughes
Grant Kendall
Jack Kershaw
Jon Lareau
Scott LaRochelle
Denise Loring

Morgan Messori
Johnny Miller
Joshua Neuse
Martha Norton
Chris Popp
William Qualls
Donna Queen
Cristin Sandu
Veronica Slootsky
Cathy Smith
Greg Thomas
Janet Woody-McKinney
Eric Wright

Bus Teams—Organized/Led by EMs Tess Ailshire and Leyla Myers

Bus Captains

Paul Blumstein
Charles Buchanan
Mike Carney
Lara Chan
Ray Deskins*
Steve Dowdy
Mak Eggeman*
Dave Evans
Bryan Fadely
Kathy Ferguson*
Chris Hamlin*
Mike Hankins*
Corey Holsinger*
Paula Howerton
Mark Jordan*
William (Bill) Kayser*
Theron Keller
John Kirby
Damian Ljungquist
Geoff Mannix
Bob Marcus
Steve Mergy*
Louise Mussiensko
Arnoldo Pachtman
Sue Sadler*
Mark Shinn*
Jamison Silinsky
Todd Spreeman
Paula Sumrall
Joe Swanenburg
John Tabor
Erik Tompkins
Steve Toth
Dave VanAllen Sr*
Nelson Velez*
Rich Verjinski*
Tim West*
James Williams
Valerie Wohlleben
* Lead for the location

DOA Arms and **The Armory**, with **Jason's Deli** at 4512 Virginia Beach Boulevard, provided breakfast for all passengers riding buses from Virginia Beach.



Nearly six hundred donors provided seats on buses to those who could not afford them, and for seats from satellite parking locations. Additionally, donors from Canada, UK, Japan, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, and Germany donated through PayPal.



Summary For December 12, 2019 - January 20, 2020

Donate a Seat — Geographical Representation

BUS SPONSORS

APX Industries
Showmasters Gun Shows
US Law Shield
Ambler Law Firm
John Gosney, in honor of the **Multiple Sclerosis Alliance of Virginia**

GREEN TOP HUNT FISH

Green Top sporting goods gladly provided an entire parking lot for individuals to park and take a bus rather than driving in to Richmond.



Parking Team

Led by **Chris Williams**
Laura Brown
Bryan Dunn*
Jason Gnatowsky
Ron Lilly
Pat Lilly
Rowley Molina*
Michael Smielecki
Mark Spruill

*Rowley and Bryan are gun-show coordinators who brought inventory for sale

Sanctuary Cities signs

Designed by **Jonathan McMillan**
Created by **Rick Sandlin**

Graphics

Designed by **VCDL EM Matt Gottshalk**

Audio-Visual

Created and edited by **VCDL EM Matt Gottshalk**
With **AA Rentals** and their employee **Antwaun**

PODIUM and LOUDSPEAKERS

Department of General Services

"For permitted events, DGS will provide a microphone, podium and speaker for use during the scheduled event time upon request. All powered amplification or other audio/visual equipment, including but not limited to microphones, speakers, megaphones, and projectors, is prohibited."

Fulfillment Center—providing stickers, hats, buttons, shirts, to all who order **VCDL Board of Directors Member Bruce Jackson**

PORTA-POTTIES

The Virginia Department of General Services recommended 15 porta-potties for the event. As the event neared, **Mike Hannin** and **Lindsay Trittippoe** saw a greater need, arranged for additional equipment, contributed significantly to the cost of the porta-potties, and hung signs encouraging users to donate to VCDL to defray the remaining cost.

PALMETTO STATE ARMORY

\$10 from the sale of each of **PSA's "Virginia15" receivers** will be donated to the non-profit Virginia Citizens Defense League to support their efforts to defend the Second Amendment and constitutional rights.

MISSION FIRST TACTICAL offers extreme-duty magazines embossed with the VCDL minuteman logo, and other gear, with a portion of the proceeds to VCDL.

GO FUND ME

VCDL Executive Member Ed Levine initiated the GoFundMe account that has nearly reached its goal.

SOCIAL MEDIA

VCDL Executive Members Ed Levine and **Joanna Colasurdo Smith** monitored the VCDL Facebook Page and Event Page. **Board of Directors Members Bruce Jackson** and **Pat Webb** moderated the Facebook Event page. **VCDL Executive Member Brendan Mooney** monitored the VCDL Official Reddit page.

LOBBYING TEAMS

Teams of people who voluntarily acceded to the wishes of the slight majority who aren't willing to listen to citizens but only wish to hear from helpless victims.

INSIDE THE FENCE

Thanks to those who consented to be treated like common criminals for their desire to hear their compatriots speak their wishes.

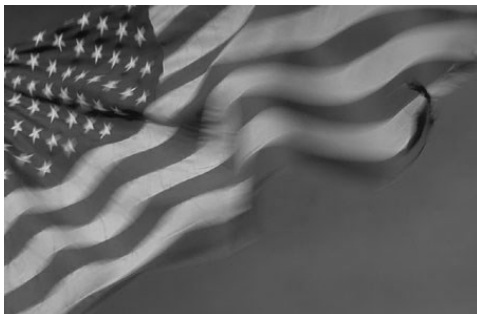
COMMONWEALTH PARK SUITES HOTEL

Graciously allowed WRVA to broadcast from their lobby, and hosted several organizers, with all their associated equipment and needs.

**VIRGINIA CITIZENS
DEFENSE LEAGUE, INC.**
P.O. Box 513
Newington, VA 22122

**(804) 639-0600 (703) 372-3285
(757) 271-3705 (540) 446-5783**

***The Premier Firearms-Rights
and
Pro-Liberty Organization
in
Virginia***



VIRGINIA CITIZENS DEFENSE LEAGUE
PO BOX 513
NEWINGTON VA 22122

**DEFENDING YOUR RIGHT
TO DEFEND YOURSELF**

***Virginia Citizens Defense League
Officers***

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Jim Snyder
Vice President vp@vcdl.org
Pat Webb
Secretary secretary@vcdl.org
Pat Webb
Treasurer treasurer@vcdl.org

***Virginia Citizens Defense League
Board of Directors***

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Gary Moeller Gary.Moeller@vcdl.org
John Pierce John.Pierce@vcdl.org
Jim Snyder jsnyder@vcdl.org
Al Steed, Jr al@vcdl.org
Philip Van Cleave philip@vcdl.org
Patricia Webb Pat.Webb@vcdl.org

All Directors and Officers leadership@vcdl.org

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 per-
mit. (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

We will happily accept essays, commentary, photographs, and articles for future print issues of *The Defender*. Deadlines are the fifth (5th) of February, May, August, and November. *The Defender* is currently mailed to all paid members of VCDL. Past issues are posted to the ["Media" section of www.vcdl.org](http://www.vcdl.org).