

# THE DEFENDER



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

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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**

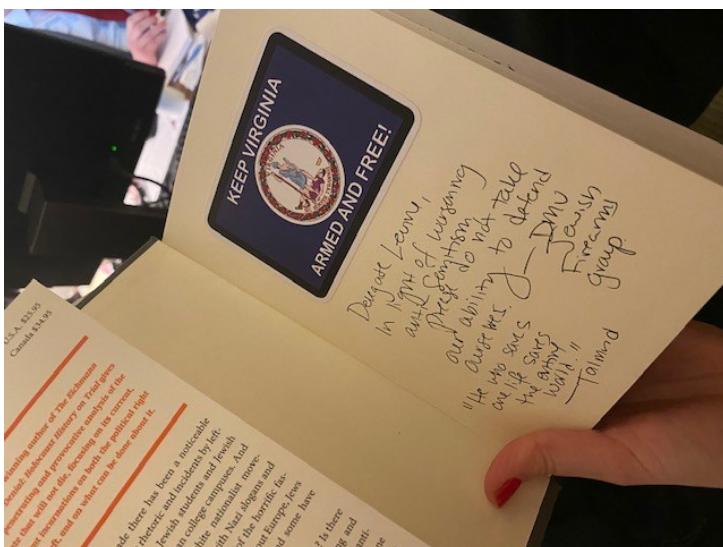
**THANKS**



These ladies are ready to GO!



Teams Line Up to Enter the Pocahontas Building



Presenting Anti-Gun Delegate Mark Levine an Inscribed Copy of "AntiSemitism Here and Now"  
Photo by Veronica Slootsky



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



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

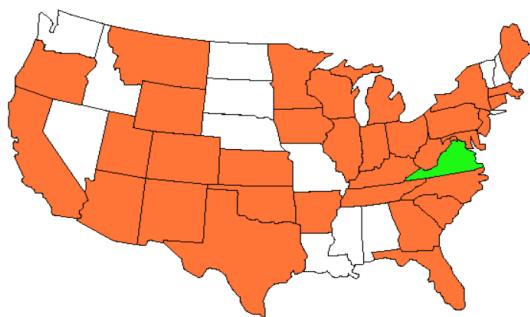
Kindest Regards

**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!!](#)

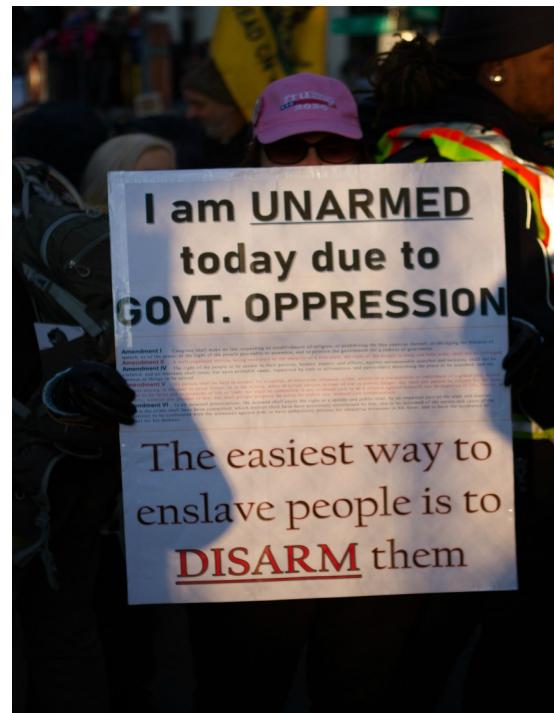
**On Facebook:** I met folks from Georgia, New York, West Virginia, Texas, and several from North Carolina, even a gentleman who told me he was 67 years old, a legal immigrant from the Philippines who came here in the 1980s to live now in New York and said that this was a particularly important issue 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**

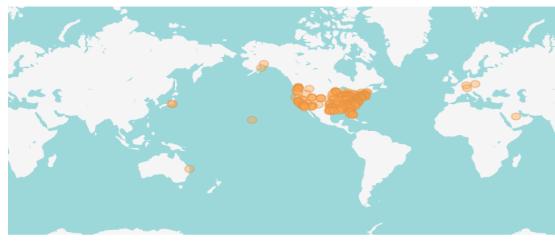
Paul Blumstein  
Charles Buchanan  
Mike Carney  
Lara Chan  
Ray Deskins\*  
Steve Dowdy  
Mak Eggeman\*  
Dave Evans  
Bryan Fadely  
Kathy Ferguson\*  
Chris Hamlin\*  
Mike Hankins\*  
Corey Holsinger\*  
Paula Howerton  
Mark Jordan\*  
William (Bill) Kayser\*  
Theron Keller  
John Kirby  
Damian 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.**



#### 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 Trittipoe** 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***

President	<b>Philip Van Cleave</b> president@vcdl.org
Vice President	<b>Jim Snyder</b> vp@vcdl.org
Secretary	<b>Pat Webb</b> secretary@vcdl.org
Treasurer	<b>Pat Webb</b> treasurer@vcdl.org

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

Bruce Jackson	jackson@vcdl.org
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 permit. (Section 18.2-308.010)

<b>EXPIRES</b>	<b>RENEW IN</b>
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](#).