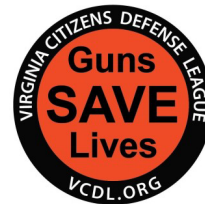




THE DEFENDER



A publication of

Virginia Citizens Defense League

Defending Your Right To Defend Yourself

VCDL.ORG

FALL 2021

Lobby Day 2022: What to Expect

What Is Lobby Day? How does it work? What do we do?

by Patricia Webb, Secretary/Treasurer



If you've never attended a VCDL Lobby Day, consider coming in 2022. This year will be slightly different, but we will still be lobbying. And we will be holding a better rally than ever before!

THE BRASS TACKS

- Lobby Day is always held on the third Monday in January, MLK day. (Yes, it is a holiday, and yes, the General Assembly is in session!)
- We will be assembling just outside of Richmond, where we will have speakers for most of the day. Details will be coming in the VA-ALERT. ([VCDL.org/VA-ALERT](https://vcdl.org/VA-ALERT)—it's free to subscribe!)

VCDL Public Meeting Dates Planned

VCDL holds **live virtual monthly meetings on the third Thursday of each month**. These meetings are broadcast on YouTube.com/c/VirginiaCitizensDefenseLeague at 8:00 PM Eastern Time.

In person meetings have also resumed, and we are working on a permanent location in Northern Virginia to hold monthly meetings. Watch the Events at vcdl.org/events/event_list.asp and the VA-ALERT for meeting notices.

If you want to schedule a meeting in your area, simply find a location that doesn't prohibit guns and can accommodate at least 50 people, select three potential dates, and email president@vcdl.org to coordinate.

- We will have shuttle buses that take teams of lobbyists into Richmond. Each team will have an experienced Team Leader. They will have assigned offices, so we make sure we visit every single Senator and Delegate.

- We will supply our Lobby Teams with Legislative Analysis packets. These outline all the currently introduced bills that affect your right to keep and bear arms. The packets also detail our position on the bills and why we support or oppose them, giving our allies talking points.

- Because we won't be rallying in Richmond, you won't have to disarm to attend! Those traveling in to lobby will only have to disarm temporarily. But it is important that we show up and show up in droves! Let's get those useless and dangerous gun bans repealed **this year!**

- Because we are having this event on **our terms** we will be able to have food vendors at the gathering site!

The bottom line is, we can **never** back down from lobbying. We **must** continue to send a very clear message to the General Assembly that we **won't stop** until we have all our rights restored.

GOALS FOR THIS SESSION

- Repeal the Gun Bans!
- Restore Preemption
- Repeal One Handgun A Month
- Repeal Universal Background Checks
- Repeal Red Flag Laws
- Pass Constitutional Carry
- Make *voluntary* Concealed Handgun Permits (CHPs) free or no more than \$15
- Set time limits on the Virginia State Police for processing out of state CHPs

We will add more goals, so watch the VA-ALERT for updates! ([VCDL.org/VA-ALERT](https://vcdl.org/VA-ALERT))

I've heard all the excuses: *The deal is sealed. They don't listen to us. We can't make a difference.* Think about this. If we didn't make

(Continued on page 4)



From the Editor

As we go to press, the media, the expert class, and the political parties are still analyzing what happened in the Virginia elections. How did Democrats lose a state that hasn't elected a Republican to statewide office since 2009? Was it the pandemic? Schools? Gun rights?

Even if voters did not consciously think it, my opinion (and I don't claim to be an "expert") is that Virginians cast votes for liberty. What do COVID shutdowns, secretive school boards, and severe gun restrictions have in common? They are all impingements on a free society. Some will argue these things are needed to keep us safe, that there is a line between freedom and security.

As we saw this November 2, Virginia voters decided that line had veered too far into safety-ism. Personal responsibility is still a civic virtue, it seems. But we need to remember liberty won by an uncomfortably slim margin. We still have work to do evangelizing the benefits of the Second Amendment.

We chose leaders who promise to trust We The People with our health, our schools, and our guns. Now we need to hold them to this promise.

Mark Ching
Editor

The President's Pen

Pro-Gun Electoral Sweep in Virginia!



Gun owners went to the polls on November 2 and it paid off in a huge way! Gun-controllers were swept out of power in all but the Senate, which isn't up for reelection until 2023.

VCDL congratulates Governor-elect Glenn Youngkin, Lt. Governor-elect Winsome Sears, Attorney General-elect Jason Miyares, and the new Republican majority in the House of Delegates!

The balance of power in the General Assembly has now shifted.

In the House, pro-rights Republicans are now in the majority, so we should be able to pass pro-gun bills there again.

In the Senate, of which the Democrats have a bare one-vote majority, all we need is one Democrat to vote with us to pass pro-gun bills. It used to be two Democrats, but since we will have a solidly pro-gun Lt. Governor to break any ties, we only need one Democrat if the Republicans hold the line.

Of course, we need the Governor to sign the bill into law, or if he is opposed, to not sign it and let it become law without his signature. (This option allows a governor who disagrees with a bill but knows it has wide popular support to let the bill become law without his blessing). Youngkin's veto pen should be reserved for the unlikely occurrence of a gun-control bill landing on his desk.

The new Speaker of the House (replacing Democrat Eileen Filler-Corn who had a 0% pro-gun voting record) is probably going to be either Delegate Todd Gilbert or Delegate Terry Kilgore. Both have pretty much 100% pro-gun voting records, so gun owners can't go wrong with either one.

As an added bonus, we will now have an Attorney General who we expect to support the Virginia Constitution, including Article 1, Section 13 – Virginia's enhanced version of the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

With all these important parts in place, it is time to start passing pro-gun bills to not only restore what we've lost since the previous election, but work to aggressively strip away other lingering infringements on our right to keep and bear arms. On the top of VCDL's list is to repeal the 2020 changes to Virginia's firearms preemption code (15.2-915). That will nullify all the local gun-control that sixteen localities have passed, including Fairfax, Arlington, and Albemarle counties! We also want to repeal the law banning guns in state buildings so we can carry again in the General Assembly, Capitol Square, rest stops, DMV, and other places. That is not the total wish list by any means.

Your vote made all this possible – thank you!

Philip An Cleave

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 October 25, 2021.

CHANTILLY, Dulles Expo Center

Nov 19-21 | Dec 31-Jan 2 | Feb 4-6 | Apr 22-24

CHESAPEAKE, Chesapeake Conference Center

Nov 13-14

DALE CITY, VFW Post 1503

None scheduled at this time

DOSWELL, Farm Bureau Center at Meadow Event Park

Dec 18-19 | Feb 19-20

FISHERSVILLE, Augusta Expo

Dec 4-5 | Jan 29-30 | Apr 9-10

FREDERICKSBURG, Fredericksburg Expo & Conference Ctr.

Dec 11-12 | Jan 29-30 | Mar 12-13 | Apr 30-May 1

HAMPTON, Hampton Roads Convention Center

Nov 27-28 | Jan 15-16 | Mar 19-20

HARRISONBURG, Rockingham County Fairgrounds

Feb 19-20

LYNCHBURG, Macy's at the River Ridge Mall

None scheduled at this time

RICHMOND, Richmond Raceway Complex

Nov 13-14 | Jan 8-9 | Mar 26-27

ROANOKE, Berglund Center

None scheduled at this time

SALEM, Salem Civic Center

Dec 18-19 | Jan 22-23 | May 21-22

VIRGINIA BEACH, Convention Center

Apr 9-10

WEYERS CAVE, Weyers Cave Community Center

None scheduled at this time

WINCHESTER, Winchester Sportsplex

None scheduled at this time

WOODSTOCK, Woodstock Moose Lodge

None scheduled at this time

COORDINATORS

Chantilly—Danny Paulsson, Debra Casey—

gunshows.chantilly@vcdl.org

Chesapeake—Frank Stanisz—gunshows.chesapeake@vcdl.org

Dale City—Damian Ljungquist, Gene Brodetski—

gunshows.dalecity@vcdl.org

Doswell—Rowley Molina, Richard Davis, Twyman Andes,

Rick Walker—gunshows.doswell@vcdl.org

Fishersville/Weyers Cave/Harrisonburg—Jim Kiser—

gunshows.vawest@vcdl.org

Fredericksburg—Jamie Brannan—

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Hampton—Bryan Dunn, Randy Braddock, Michael Mumford,

Lee Affholter—gunshows.hampton@vcdl.org

Richmond—John Gosney, Dave Eckart, Dave Troxel,

Patrick Schrek—gunshows.richmond@vcdl.org

Roanoke/Salem—Al Steed, Jr.—gunshows.swva@vcdl.org

Virginia Beach—Mark Ashley, Andrea Porter—

gunshows.vb@vcdl.org

Winchester/Woodstock—Mark Lintz—

gunshows.winchester@vcdl.org

State Gun Show Coordinators

Mike Wilburt, Andrea Porter—gunshowcoord@vcdl.org

PROMOTERS

C&E Gun Shows www.cegunshows.com

SGK Gun Shows www.sgkshows.com

Showmasters www.showmastersgunshows.com

VOLUNTEERS

Harrisonburg Jul 17-18

Kurt Darr, Jeff Gilbert, Jim Kiser, Bob Mortensen, Bob Schmidt, Thom Verga, Lewis Wenger, Charles Winkler

Virginia Outdoor Sportsman Show Aug 6-8

Twyman Andes, Susan Brush, Bob Charlton, Stephen Chock, David Cooper*, Eric Davenport*, Richard Davis, Selden Denton, Rob Hofrichter, Vincent Ikley, Tim Miller, Rowley Molina, Dave Morgerson, Patrick O'Connor, Trevor Recupero*, Kyle Remppies, Richard Roberts, Ken Ross, John Schuler, Steven Tindall, Michael Tomillon, Rick Walker, Mike Young

Hampton Aug 14-15

Angel Arruda, Jerry Blanchard, Randall Braddock, Paul Burgener, Dennis Endres, Bob Gass, Daniel Huber, Monty Oakes, Frank Stanisz, Billy Taylor, Steve Toth, Scott Traner, Clem Tuttle, Roberta Tuttle

Bikers for Babies, Basett, VA, Aug 28

Ken Modica, Al Steed, Jr. (These legislators showed up to thank the VCDL volunteers: Congressman Bob Good, Amanda Chase, William (Bill) Stanley, Wren Williams)

(Continued on page 5)

Lobby Day 2022 (continued from page 1)

a HUGE impact, why would the opposition be working so hard to shut us down? Why didn't they introduce tons of anti-gun bills last session?

The truth is, we—YOU—can and **do** make a difference! So lets continue to be the thorn in the heel of those who would stomp on our rights. We've been in tougher spots before, and even been told that what we were trying to do was impossible. But we **NEVER. GIVE. UP.** And we are not going to start now!

Lobby Day is our prom. Our Superbowl. Our chance for quality face time with the Virginia Legislature. It is the ultimate don't miss event. Will you do your part? I know I'll be there, helping to smash the attendance record for the biggest gun rally ever held anywhere. Lets make history people! See you there!

Common Lobby Day Questions and Myths

Q: Isn't that Martin Luther King Day?

A: Yes! So many people will be off of work, and if you drive into Richmond you don't have to feed the meters.

Q: If it's a holiday, no one will be there to hear us!

A: We assure you, the General Assembly is in session that day! We've been doing this for over 20 years.

Q: Won't it be too late?

A: No! In fact, barring emergency legislation, all bills must wait until crossover day before being heard by the alternate body.

Q: What if I'm not a VCDL Member?

A: We welcome all supporters and encourage you to bring your family and friends! Membership is not required, but appreciated!

Q: Is there a minimum age?

A: No, there is no minimum age to attend. In fact, it is extremely educational for school aged family members!

Q: Can I carry?

A: You will be able to carry at the rally. However, when you go to the GA to lobby, no guns are allowed in the GA building or in Capitol Square. Keep an eye on the VA-ALERT for full details.

Q: What should I wear?

A: Some people dress as you would for a business meeting (that's what it is!); some wear business casual. The important thing is to dress for the weather. While the lobbying will be inside, the majority of the event is outside. Also, you may have to stand in line to get into the GA building. Please check the weather prior to the event and dress appropriately.

Q: I've never been to VCDL Lobby Day. What do I do?

A: Show up at the rally site around 8:00 a.m. The exact location will be announced in a future VA-ALERT. Look for the TEAM LEADS sign and sign up for a team. Get your bus assignment and

departure time. Then enjoy the speakers and camaraderie. Once your team reaches the GA building you will visit your assigned offices and leave the prepared Legislative Agenda packets. You can voice your concerns and desires to the Senators and Delegate you meet. You may also visit YOUR Senator and Delegate. Don't forget to sign their guest book and mention that you're with VCDL! We'll team you up with experienced people, so it will be super easy! Once you're done, head back to the spot where the bus dropped you off and get on the next bus back to the rally site.

Q: How do I know who my Senator and Delegate are?

A: Just visit this website: whosmy.virginiageneralassembly.gov and follow the instructions.

Q: How do I know which Team Lead is assigned to my Representatives' offices?

A: We will try to have our Team Leads post their assignments ahead of time, but the truth is, it won't matter. Why? Because we've got ALL the Senators and Delegates covered, and because you are welcome—*encouraged*—to go visit yours whether your team is assigned to that office or not. This way we ensure that ALL the Representatives get at least one visit from VCDL, and frequently more! Once the Team Leads have been designated they will be listed at <http://tiny.cc/lobbydayteams>

Q: I would like to be a Team Leader this year. Who do I contact?

A: Contact Pat Webb at treasurer@vcdl.org.

Q: Where is the General Assembly Building?

A: The Pocahontas Building is the temporary home of the General Assembly: 900 East Main Street, Richmond, VA 23219.

Q: What legislation are we looking at?

A: Take a look at the [VCDL Legislation Tracker \(https://vcdl.org/page/2021-legislative-tracking-tool\)](https://vcdl.org/page/2021-legislative-tracking-tool) to see what we support, what we are neutral on and what we oppose. It will be on our website shortly if it's not already up.

Q: When will any new laws take effect?

A: Generally, the new laws take effect on July 1st.

Q: Will there be food?

A: There will be food vendors at our rally site. And if you head into Richmond on your own there are a number of delis and restaurants within a short walk of the Capitol.

Q: Will there be buses from around the state:

A: Yes! We will have buses coming from all around the state. Executive Member (EM) Tess Ailshire is working on this as we print this publication. Details will follow in the VA-ALERT and on social media, so make sure you are subscribed! We'll also have shuttle buses from the rally site to the GA for easy commuting.

Q: Will there be carpools?

A: Yes! Check out <http://tiny.cc/vcdlride> to connect with others.

Q: If I drive in myself, where do I park?

A: There are many parking garages close by where you can pay to park, or you can park on the street without having to feed the meters since it is a holiday.

Q: I can't come to VCDL Lobby Day. How else can I help?

A: Here are several ways you can help, whether you come to Lobby Day or not!

- Subscribe to the free VA-ALERT for Action Items.
- Contribute financially to help support our efforts to defend your rights.
- Schedule the day off NOW for Lobby Day 2023! It's ALWAYS on MLK Day.
- Make sure you vote in ALL elections.
- Keep an eye on your local government and watch for laws that would restrict our rights.
- Share this publication with your friends and neighbors, and encourage them to join VCDL.

From the Secretary's Desk

2021 was a wild year! We saw the General Assembly back down from its war on gun owners. We saw massive ammo shortages and panic buying of guns. We saw some local governments passing the newly allowed gun control. And we saw a historic election where gun owners showed up in droves to say **NO GUN CONTROL!**

Now it's time to put that effort to work for us. We've got friends in the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General offices, and we've got a friendly majority in the House of Delegates. **We can't rest on our laurels.** We must pressure the General Assembly to repeal all the nonsense (I'm being polite!) that was passed in the 2020 and 2021 sessions!

One of the biggest mistakes we can make is thinking the fight is over. The fight is never over. Those who would disarm us are **always** waiting for us to get complacent. We cannot do that.

So, I'm asking you to make a commitment. Show up for Lobby Day. Bring your family. Bring your friends. Show support for our allies and put our adversaries on notice. The future of our state—and our nation—depends on YOU.

Lobby Day this year will be different from prior years. We have the gun bans to deal with, but that will not deter us. In fact, we will likely see the best and most enjoyable Lobby Day ever!

We **MUST** make 2020 look like a small event. Let's show the Virginia Legislature that we will not rest until all of our rights are restored and protected by law! Let's Go Virginia!

I'll see you at Lobby Day. I know you'll **MAKE** the time to come. And I know you'll share this with 100 of your closest friends! It's **THAT** important.

Patricia Webb
Secretary/Treasurer

Thank You *(continued from page 3)*

Virginia Hunting Dog Alliance, Powhatan Rescue Squad Grounds, Aug 28

Sue Brush, Dave Morgerson, Rowley Molina

Richmond International Raceway Aug 28-29

Angel Arruda, Kiefer Clay, Penny Kelley Cosby, Steve D'Antonio, Eric Davenport, Richard Davis, Selden Denton, Angela Olinick, Jack Olinick, Samuel Penn, Kristine Schrek, Patrick Schrek, Tom Simpson, Michael Tomillon, Dave Troxel, Rick Walker, Bob Welch, Bob Williams, Michael Young

Hampton Sep 11-12

Lee Affholter Angel Arruda, Jerry Blanchard, Tom Brunton*, Joseph Hemphill*, Daniel Huber, Levita Jones*, Douglas Kelsey, Raquel Linger*, Henry McElroy, Dave McCain, Michael Mumford, David Reinhart, Steve Toth, Clem Tuttle, Roberta Tuttle

Fishersville Sept 11-12

Twyman Andes, Charles Fisher, Jeff Gilbert, Jim Kiser, Linda Layser, Rick Layser, Brian Meyer, Bob Mortensen, Jim Patrick, Gaert Sime, Thom Verga

Beaverdam BrewJam Sept 11

Twyman Andes, Dave Eckert, Samuel Penn, Kristine Schrek, Patrick Schrek, Bob Williams

Restore the Republic Freedom Rally, Boones Mill, Sep 25

John Cahill, David Esmond, Philip Honaker, Ken Modica, David Ninaltowski, Al Steed, Jr., Krisha Stevenson, Philip Van Cleave

Chantilly Oct 1-3

Twyman Andes, Debra Casey, Dwin Craig, Mitch Darling, Robert Eufemia, Ken Deis Gary, Mickey Feeley, Glen Foster, Kelly Foster, Tyler Gregory, Rebekah Koffler, Francois Krodel, Dave Morgerson, Gary O'Brian, Max Padon, Danny Paulson, Rosalie Paulson, Rick Richardson, Bob Ryan, Jon Saxon, Warner Workman, Brian Wrenn

Green Top Outdoor Expo Oct 2-3

Jamie Brannan, Sue Brush, Stephen Chock, Richard Davis, Selden Denton, Tom Gee, John Gosney, Vincent Ikley, Penny Kelley, Tim Miller, Rowley Molina, Dave Morgerson, Kyle Remppies, Steve Rockkind, Patrick Schrek, Billy Shahinian*, Ryan Storetveit*, Dave Troxel, Bob Welch, Bob Williams, Michael Young

Beaverdam Heritage Days Oct 9

Russell Easter, Dave Eckert, Dave Morgerson, Dave Troxel, Kristine Schrek, Patrick Schrek

Salem Oct 9-10

Herbie Blackwood, John Cahill, Walter Drew, Sam Hollingsworth, Dave Knight, Neil Motter, Steve Rosenthal, Dave Smith, Al Steed, Jr., Krista Stevenson, Bev Stover

Virginia Beach Oct 9-10

Mark Ashley, Emerson Conrad, Lois Conrad, Jeromie Dalziel, Mike Durig, John Miller, Andrea Porter, Frank Stanisz, Phil Terrazas, Steve Toth

*first-time volunteers

RANGE TIME By Executive Member Kenneth van Wyk

This series began in the Fall 2018 issue. Back issues are found at VCDL.org/page/defender-newsletter

PART X

Welcome back to our series on getting the most out of our range time. In this edition, we're going to discuss holster (and carry equipment) choices.

I should start with two caveats once again. This article is neither a product review, nor do I claim it is comprehensive.

Also, the purpose of this article series is to prepare concealed carriers for carrying their firearms safely and with a high degree of proficiency. It isn't my intention to discuss competition gear or other equipment people aren't likely to want or need while out and about carrying out the business of their days. I should also emphasize I'm only covering on-body options here.



Attire and Environment Considerations

As I'm writing this, the temperatures in Virginia are just beginning to get colder. As such, most of us are no longer in our summer shorts and t-shirts. It is only natural to expect our choices in carry gear and configurations to change along with our daily clothes. That said, I've heard many experts say you should choose your carry equipment irrespective of what clothes you're wearing—in other words, dress to accommodate your carry choices. I'm more of a practical guy in that regard.

Indeed, many of us who carry firearms on a daily basis welcome the seasonal changes in attire, as they present options we might not have had during the summer. For example, when I go outside in the cold, I usually wear a fairly loose fitting jacket, which happens to be a nearly ideal concealment garment. That allows me to use an outside the waistband holster and carry a larger firearm than I do in the summer. I, for one, think that's all good.

The important take-away here is that you plan and practice accordingly. What works best for you may well not work for me, and vice versa. That being said, let's dive in.

Belts

For many of the carry options I discuss below, a high quality belt makes a world of difference. Attaching a holster to a flimsy belt is not advisable. Among other things, the holster and firearm will droop, could fall off, and may be troublesome to draw from.

If you opt for one of the belt-based systems below, I suggest you get an actual "gun belt." They don't have to look like you're a special forces operator (but they can). There are plenty of discreet leather gun belts that would not look out of place with your best business suit.

So, what makes a gun belt different than any other belt? In most cases, the answer is rigidity. Most gun belts provide a solid and rigid platform on which to attach your holster, ammunition supply, and other gear. Leather gun belts are often thicker and wider than everyday belts, usually with layers stitched together.

If want a thinner leather belt, look for one that is reinforced internally with either steel or rigid kydex plastic. (There are other materials, as well.) If you're using a nylon gun belt that looks more like a car's seat belt, look for multiple layers and internal reinforcement.

A good gun belt should be flexible on the belt's flat axis (like a diving board), but should be resistant to things pulling it up or down. You should be able to adjust your holster for a high degree of retention force and still draw your firearm with just one hand, without the belt pulling up to your armpit.

I've tried several gun belts, and my best advice is this: do not skimp. You usually get what you pay for.



Holster Attributes

Likewise, do not skimp on a holster. Get a high quality holster from a reputable maker. The best holsters are custom-made for a specific model of gun and will fit that model tightly and securely. Some of the features you should look for include the ability to adjust the retention of the firearm. That usually comes down to an adjustment screw near the firearm's trigger guard. Tighten the screw, and the holster "clamps down" harder on the firearm, thereby providing more retention. Adjust it for a good solid hold,

but still not so much you can't draw your firearm. The right tension takes time and practice, and you may have to re-adjust things from time to time.

Another important holster attribute is trigger protection. When you are carrying as we've discussed throughout this article series, you're likely to have a round in your firearm's chamber, with the firearm ready to use if need be. As such, your holster, along with your mind and trigger finger, serve as the firearm's "safety" in many cases with modern defensive firearms.

Finally, if your pistol has a thumb safety, make sure the holster doesn't knock the safety off when you are holstering. You do not want to draw your gun in an emergency and find the firearm is on "safe" when you need it to be ready to fire.

Outside the Waistband

If you've been reading these articles and practicing the exercises we covered while you're at your range, it's pretty likely you already have an outside the waistband (OWB) holster. These generally attach to your gun belt on your strong side to provide quick and ready access to your firearm. If you've timed your draw, it's pretty likely you get your best times with an outside the waistband holster. These are all good things.

On the other hand, concealing an OWB rig can be a problem in the warm months. You'll want some form of concealment garment that obscures the firearm and holster from view. When it's cold out, a jacket does this well—be sure to practice with that on, as we've discussed. But what about when you go to a restaurant, a friend's house, the dentist, etc.? Plan accordingly and you'll avoid one of those awkward "HE'S GOT A GUN!" moments.



I should also point out that some OWB holsters can be comfortably worn on your strong side as well as in the small of your back. Some are angled specifically for small-of-back carry. Those are even easier to conceal, but can be uncomfortable when sitting down. Also, there are many horror stories about people who have fallen onto their backs while wearing such a holster.

Some OWB holsters attach to your gun belt by passing the belt through the holster's "belt hooks", while others offer a "paddle" that goes inside your belt or even your pants. I personally like the paddle systems, so long as they attach firmly to my belt and still allow me to draw my firearm with significant retention adjusted.

Given the choice, I'll go OWB on my strong side every time.

Inside the Waistband

Another belt-borne option is the inside the waistband (IWB) family of holsters. These too can be worn on the strong side, small of back, or even "appendix carry" up front. The main advantage of IWB is they are even easier to conceal than OWB, while

providing nearly as good accessibility. Some IWBs even allow for a shirt to be worn over them and still tucked into your pants. (You have to untuck your shirt quickly to access your firearm, but IWBs with tucked in shirts can go a long way to being highly concealed. I have several friends who IWB in their workplaces without a problem.)



As for appendix carry, the product ads can be highly convincing. Take note that the models in those ads are almost always of a very slender build. Suffice to say my body geometry doesn't easily accommodate appendix carry, so it's not something I've ever tried, but those slender people that like appendix carry swear by it. If you're able to appendix carry, even while sitting down, driving a car, etc., without suffering bodily harm, hats off to you.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the main concern about appendix carry—that there are times when the gun is muzzling your thigh and femoral artery. YOUR LOADED GUN SHOULD NEVER POINT AT YOUR BODY PARTS. This is true for all modes of carry! Negligent discharges, including those caused by debris or holster components, are rare, but they do happen.

I understand appendix carry devotees swear by it, and the vast majority of them have never had an incident. Bottom line here is to try things and see what works well for you.

Pocket Holster

Even though I said above my preference is strong side OWB, through much of the warmer part of the year, OWB isn't a viable option for me. In the summer, for example, my preferred attire is t-shirt and shorts. My shirt has to be quite long and loose fitting to cover my holster. Of course, if you're open carrying, that may not matter. I generally prefer concealed carry, and OWB is often not my best option.

For the summer months, I instead prefer to pocket carry with a high quality pocket holster. I emphasize the holster here and want to explicitly say I am in no way advocating pocket carrying without a holster. If you go there, you go alone.

Instead, I use a high quality kydex plastic pocket holster. After I've loaded and charged my firearm, I carefully holster it outside my pocket, then I carefully slide my holstered firearm into my pocket.

The kydex protects the trigger, and this configuration is highly concealable. I should note I still wear a strong belt so my pants do not sag. That one to two pounds or so in my pocket is noticeable.

There are also many flexible and "sticky" pocket holsters on the market. They're small, lightweight, and very comfortable. My objection to many of them is they don't all protect my trigger

(Continued on page 8)

Range Time (continued from page 7)

adequately. If you go with a lightweight pocket holster, make sure there is significant rigidity around your trigger.



Ammunition Holster

Many people choose to carry with them an additional magazine or two (or speed loader for you revolver folks). That's a personal choice, but there are many ammunition magazine options on the market. You'll find OWB, IWB, and other options.

In practical terms, I encourage everyone to ask yourself what problems might you be able to solve with 20 rounds that you couldn't solve with ten rounds? If you have a malfunction, you may be very grateful for that extra mag—especially if the malfunction is a weak spring in your magazine.

Shoulder Holster

If you're a fellow fan of detective shows, you're no doubt already familiar with shoulder holsters. If you're wearing a jacket or other garment over them, they're highly concealable, and they may well offer you the ability to carry a larger firearm (and magazines) than you may otherwise be able to with an OWB.

One major thing to be aware of with shoulder holsters is safety. When you draw your firearm, you are no doubt rotating that firearm at least 180 degrees from your weak side to your strong side. That covers a lot of territory, to include your other arm.

As such, you're not likely to find a range that allows you to do live fire practice with a shoulder holster, for one thing.

Still, if you're appropriately attired, a shoulder holster can be very comfortable and can carry a large firearm easily.

Ankle Holster

Also popular on television shows are ankle holsters. These generally sit on your weak side leg, just above your shoes. Clearly, these are not popular options for those of us who wear shorts often, but if you have long pants on, they can provide good concealment for a small firearm. As such, some people like ankle holsters for a second, or backup gun (BUG).

The big problem with ankle holsters is the practicality of drawing your firearm. But, for situations where a firearm on your waist isn't an option, an ankle BUG can be an option to consider.

Thigh Holster

If you wear a dress, skirt, or kilt, a thigh holster may be worth considering, but these are pretty much fringe products I won't spend much time on here. Suffice to say really need to select your product carefully and you really should spend considerable time practicing before carrying in this configuration.

Bra Holster

In the past several years, bra holsters have come on the market. These can work reasonably well for small firearms, but I have significant safety concerns. Among other things, as with appendix carry, bra holsters do not work well with all body types. That said, the concept is the firearm is held in place at the wearer's sternum. If you need to draw your firearm, you reach inside your shirt/blouse and pull the firearm down while you draw. Suffice to say that great care must be taken to keep your finger safely out of the trigger guard while drawing.

Firearm

I've saved the most important choice for last, but alas I've run out of space. We'll have to pick up here in the next Defender edition. As always, I love hearing from people who're reading this series. If you disagree with me, please tell me more. If you agree, that's fine too. If you have questions, I'll do my best to address them in the next article. Bring it!



If you missed any of our earlier articles in this series, you can get them from VCDL by visiting vcdl.org/page/defender-newsletter.

Lastly, I'd like to call out to those of you who have followed this series. I invite your feedback and would like to hear from you about topics we still have not covered and would like to see us cover. Please contact me by email and let me know. My email address is ken.vanwyk@vcdl.org.

From The Bronx to the Backwoods

VCDL member Julian Kemp recounts his journey from Big Apple to big bores

by Executive Member Mark Ching

You meet all kinds of people at VCDL events. At the “Top Gun” fundraiser, I had the pleasure of meeting Julian Kemp. When Julian told me he was from The Bronx, I had to know more. How does a New York City resident end up in Virginia with a gun strapped to his hip?

Mark Ching: So you’re from The Bronx? Seriously?

Julian Kemp: I grew up there with my family. It was a pretty rough neighborhood. My brother was a victim of random gun violence. He was just sitting outside and a stray bullet paralyzed him. It was a drive-by shooting in a place where there are no guns allowed.

MC: What brought you to Virginia?

JK: I wanted a change of pace. I came down here to work as hospital purchasing coordinator for Johnston Willis hospital.

MC: Was it a culture shock moving from the big city?

JK: Definitely! It was way too quiet at first. People move slower. On the other hand, traffic is lighter and the cost of living—your money goes farther.

MC: How did you learn about guns? You mentioned you served in the Coast Guard.

JK: I did serve in the Coast Guard, but my training was more focused on rescue. Back in New York, I was always taught guns were bad—only criminals and police used them. On the street, of course there are guns. In fact, them being forbidden made them more popular. You see them in the movies and it made you want them more. I didn’t even know a person could legally own a gun until I moved to Virginia.

Then when I moved to the South Side of Richmond, the neighborhood people were walking around with guns, openly carrying them. These are Black people like me, and they’re not criminals, just regular people. I figure if they’re doing it for protection, maybe I should, too.

MC: Did you buy your first gun out of fear, then?

JK: I wouldn’t say it’s being fearful. It’s about being proactive. I’ve lived in Virginia for eight years, and I know tons of people who carry guns. I don’t know anyone who’s gotten killed or shot. In New York, it’s the reverse. It sounds backwards—if you’re not allowed to own a gun, what’s with all the shootings?

MC: Was there a pivotal moment for you as a new gun owner?

JK: I was pulled over by the police after I bought a gun. I had my firearm on the seat because that’s what I heard you needed



to do. The magazine was in the glove compartment. The officer looked down at the empty gun and said, “Why aren’t you ready to protect yourself?” Rather than getting busted for being armed, I’m getting lectured for not having ammo in the gun! I was just going off word of mouth from people who didn’t know what they were talking about. The officer told me to get my concealed handgun permit and get educated.

MC: So that’s what you did?

JK: I went right out and did it. I joined the VCDL at a gun show in May, just this year. I learned to hunt by finding a mentor at the Virginia Game Department. I’ve been hunting for deer, black bear, rabbits, and squirrels.

MC: You went from zero to sixty pretty fast!

JK: It’s not even funny! The first time I went hunting, I had to borrow a gun. Someone lent me an old single shot rifle he had.

MC: What about voting and political action? Have you attended Lobby Day?

JK: Top Gun was my first event, but it won’t be my last. It was a great first experience.

MC: What would you say to people like yourself—city-raised, racial minority, young—who are curious about the Second Amendment? How can we make the fight for gun rights relatable to “Gun Owners 2.0”?

JK: First, I want them to understand that the Second Amendment is for all law-abiding Americans no matter where you live—New York, California, wherever. Everyone should be able to go to a gun range and practice. The more people know, the safer we are. A lot of accidents happen because someone didn’t learn gun safety.

The older gun owners—I would like them to be more welcoming and understanding that we’re a novice group, still learning. This past year, COVID and the riots brought a lot of new gun owners to the table, including a lot more African Americans.

The man who signed me up for the VCDL—he was very friendly, a model of Southern hospitality. He wanted more people like me to know my rights. A lot of people are misinformed. I want to pass valid, truthful information to my community so law-abiding citizens can keep and bear arms.

Finally, I learned gun ownership makes you more responsible. Carrying a gun is not just about my life. I can protect others, but I also have to be careful with my emotions. I have to make wise decisions every step of the way. That’s a good thing.

New Member Benefit from Aflac

by Sarah M Max

District Assistant Manager, Aflac Tidewater Region



As a thank you for your support as a member of the Virginia Citizens Defense League, we are excited to announce that we have set up special pricing and products available to you through Aflac.

Why Aflac?!

62% of all US bankruptcies are from medical bills.

77% of those people had major medical coverage!

Americans owe \$140 Billion in unpaid medical bills overall.

Whether you have major medical coverage or not, the extra security provided by Aflac plans can make a world of difference in keeping you from being one of those statistics. Plans are a la carte, pick the ones that work best for you and your family.

For more information, log into the member area at vcdl.org/page/Aflac and schedule an appointment to review the plan choices with our agent Sarah Max. As a member herself, she is excited to support the VCDL in our mission and looks forward to answering all of your questions.

You can also scan this QR code with your mobile device to go straight to the VCDL Aflac page.



“Harriet Tubman carried a small pistol with her on her rescue missions, mostly for protection from slave catchers, but also to encourage weak-hearted runaways from turning back and risking the safety of the rest of the group. Tubman carried a sharpshooter’s rifle during the Civil War.”

Bound For the Promised Land: Harriet Tubman, Portrait of an American Hero by Kate Clifford Larson

The PAC Corner (continued from page 11)

Even in the traditionally anti-gun areas of Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William, we saw Youngkin/Sears/Miyares gain tens of thousands of votes compared to the last gubernatorial election in 2017. We moved the needle where it needed to be moved by reminding voters—particularly suburban moms—that the McAuliffe/Ayala/Herring slate is a danger to their families.

The safety and security of you and your family, along with your ability to protect them by possessing and carrying a firearm—these are fundamental. We know this message resonated.

After spending record funds this election cycle, we need to be planning for the next one. We don’t yet know if the House of Delegate races will be running again in 2022 after re-districting. We left it all on the field, and now it’s time to replenish the VCDL war chest!

Please consider donating monthly, through a small donation, or with a large one-time donation. It’s because of YOU that we were able to achieve these results. Getting candidates elected that protect our 2A rights is what we do, so help us help our candidates!

Donate here: VCDL.org/PAC-Donate

Yours in Liberty,
Cathy McNickle
VCDL-PAC Chair

VCDL Membership Application

<p>RECRUITER MEMBER # _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal (Member # _____)</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____</p> <p>State _____ ZIP _____</p> <p>Phone (_____) _____</p> <p>Email _____</p> <p>____ 1 VCDL membership: \$ 25.00</p> <p>____ Family members @\$15/each: \$ _____</p> <p>____ Donation to VCDL: \$ _____</p> <p>____ Donation to VCDL-PAC \$ _____</p> <p>VCDL-PAC donations require the following information: Occupation: _____ Employer: _____ Employer's principle city/state: _____ <i>This information is not made public unless your annual contributions total more than \$100.00.</i></p> <p>Total Enclosed: \$ _____</p> <p><i>(Note: Membership processing can take 4-6 weeks)</i></p>	<p>Method of payment</p> <p>____ Cash (Do not send cash through the mail.)</p> <p>____ Check (Make checks payable to VCDL)</p> <p>____ Charge</p> <p>Credit Card Number: _____</p> <p>Expiration Date: _____ CVV _____</p> <p>_____ Name as it appears on the card</p> <p>_____ Signature of Card Holder Billing Zip Code</p> <p>Mail to: VCDL Membership Processing Center P.O. Box 5752 Fredericksburg VA 22403</p> <p>Save time and postage by using a credit card or eCheck at vcdl.org/join</p> <p>NOTE: For family memberships list primary member on application and family members on separate sheet. We need the full info for all family members. Full details on VCDL.org.</p>
VCDL and VCDL-PAC contributions, gifts, or membership dues are not deductible for Federal income tax purposes.	

The ballots have been counted and the races have been called. 2021 was a roller coaster election cycle with three statewide races, 100 House of Delegate races, and hundreds of state and local races. **VCDL-PAC endorsed 51 House of Delegate candidates, out of which 29 won. Better yet, out of the seven seats that flipped from blue to red, we endorsed five!**

There were some surprises along the way and the usual twists and turns, but know that we have a sizable group of candidates we believe will fight and vote to preserve our 2A rights.

VCDL-PAC engaged candidates throughout the election season. We held candidate forums for the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Attorney General primary candidates. We became more aggressive at fundraising, launching our first "Top Gun" Competition. This allowed us to endorse and support candidates in the general election to a degree never before possible.

We also engaged voters by running a massive ad campaign in strategic key markets. The theme of the ads was the heinous Parole Board decisions to release violent felons, who then went on to commit even more violent crimes. Some of these felonies were murders! While the McAuliffe/Northam Parole Boards were releasing criminals, they were also trying to restrict the right of legal gun owners. Our ads emphasized the VCDL Motto "Defending your right to defend yourself" – and your families! When dangerous felons are released, your family is in jeopardy.

These ads made a difference, and the proof is in the numbers where they ran:
Virginia Beach +8% from 2020 in favor of Youngkin/Sears/Miyares
Chesterfield County +6% from 2020 in favor of Youngkin/Sears/Miyares
Rural Counties +2 to 10% from 2020 in favor of Youngkin/Sears/Miyares

(Continued on page 10)

THE
PAC
CORNER





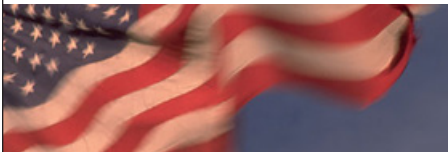
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Find us on social media
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Our moderators keep that
document updated to show
changing circumstances.

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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