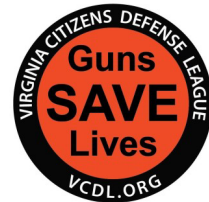




THE DEFENDER



A publication of

Virginia Citizens Defense League

Defending Your Right To Defend Yourself

VCDL.ORG

WINTER 2023

Lobby Day 2023

*This is what democracy looks like
by Executive Member Mark Ching*



There were no AR-15s, AKMs, FALs, or .50 BMGs at the rally—new rules and laws passed during the Northam administration prevented that. That did not stop hundreds of VCDL members and supporters from showing their commitment to rights for lawful gun owners. We broke bread together. We petitioned our delegates and senators, including those who disagreed with us but politely listened. We rallied and heard from a diverse group of speakers. If 2020's Lobby Day, the last time thousands of armed citizens legally and safely took to the streets, was an unashamed exercise of the Second Amendment, then January 16, 2023, demonstrated the very best of the First Amendment.

2020's Lobby Day saw as many as 80,000 demonstrators. This year, the one-hour rally hosted roughly 300 attendees. Featured speakers included VCDL President Philip Van Cleave, Executive Member Brendan Mooney, and elected lawmakers John

McGuire, Amanda Chase, Tim Anderson, and A. C. Cordoza. Radio personality Jeff Katz and Gun Owners of America Virginia State Director John Crump also spoke, as did candidates for office Leon Benjamin, Philip Hamilton, and Lance Allen. VCDL Academy Student Engagement Director Al Evans shared his experience as a young person exercising his rights (read his thoughts on page 5, as well as a photo gallery on pages 6–7), and Board member Gilbert Ambler closed with a look at gun rights in the courts.

Away from the cameras and microphones, VCDL members hustled the hallways of the Capitol, meeting with lawmakers to urge them to stand for gun rights. We jockeyed with other groups such as PETA and industry lobby organizations. My group met with both Republicans and Democrats. We showed the force of our conviction with words, if not with arms. I urge every VCDL member to join us next year!

VCDL Public Meeting Dates Planned

In person meetings have also resumed! They are held at 8:00 PM on the third Thursday of every month at XCAL Shooting Sports and Fitness, 44950 Russell Branch Pkwy, Ashburn, VA 20147

VCDL holds **live virtual monthly meetings on the second Sunday of each month**. These meetings are simulcast on Facebook and YouTube at [VCDL.TUBE](https://www.vcdl.org/tube) 8:00 PM Eastern Time..

. Watch the Events at [vcdl.org/events/event_list.asp](https://www.vcdl.org/events/event_list.asp) and the VA-ALERT for meeting notices. .



Brian Wrenn, Kirby Myers, and Carla Howell meet with Del. Phillip Scott.



From the Editor

When we use words carelessly, they lose their meaning. The word *democracy* is thrown around so glibly, the original meaning is lost to the average American. From the Greek meaning “rule by the people,” the word has been co-opted by everyone from anti-capitalist protestors to authoritarian anarchist-socialist groups like Antifa. “This is what democracy looks like!” they shout, even as they demand the state shut down, deplatform, and even criminalize opposing views.

Our liberal democracy, carefully structured as a representative Constitutional republic, affords Antifa and anti-capitalists the right to yell, irrespective of their wrongheadedness. But every so often, I get to witness real democracy in action—peaceable assembly, civil advocacy to our representatives in the republican assemblies, and the freedom to associate with those who share our views (and a few who don’t!). That’s what I saw on Lobby Day, both at the rally and inside the State Assembly building. That is why I decided to “take back” the authoritarian chant as a subhead to the cover story. It’s the truth, and it makes me proud to live in the U.S.A. and Virginia. Check out the photos in this issue to see what I mean.

Mark Ching
Editor

The President's Pen

Virginia's 2023 General Assembly Halfway There

The 2023 General Assembly is split between the Republicans and Democrats, with the Democrats controlling the Senate by a two-vote margin and the Republicans controlling the House by a four-vote margin.

At the halfway point each body is finishing up hearing the bills introduced in that body. In the Senate, all the Senate gun-rights bills were killed in committee and most of the Senate gun-control bills have passed out of the Senate and are heading to the House.

In the House, all of the House gun-control bills have been killed in committee and most of the House gun-rights bills have passed out of the House and are heading to the Senate.



There is a non-firearm bill we are watching, which legalizes the carry of switchblades in a pocket. It has passed a subcommittee and full committee in the House with a bi-partisan vote. As this is being written the bill is headed to House Floor, where I expect it will also pass with a bipartisan vote.

So far three Republican Senators voted with Democrat Senators to pass gun-control bills, such as banning AR-15s and extending Red Flag laws: Senators Hanger, Norment, and Dunnivant.

More than likely the House will stop the Senate gun-control bills and the Senate will stop most of the House gun-rights bills.

This November voters will have a major chance to fix the Senate so that the majority there support our gun rights. If that happens and the Republicans keep control of the House, then we should be able to make major strides into repealing the gun control passed in 2020 and 2021, including getting rid of any local gun-control. But for that to happen, you, your family, your friends, and your coworkers need to get to the polls in what is an off year for federal elections. If the Democrats keep control of the Senate and get control of the House, you can expect a new push for more gun control and the only firewall will be a governor’s veto. Let’s not get to that point.

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. It's an excellent way to easily recruit members. Verify all schedules; this list is correct as of February 5, 2023.

CHANTILLY, Dulles Expo Center
Feb 3-5 | April 21-23 | June 9-11

CHESAPEAKE, Chesapeake Conference Center
None scheduled at this time

DALE CITY, VFW Post 1503
None scheduled at this time

DOSWELL, Farm Bureau Center at Meadow Event Park
None scheduled at this time

FISHERSVILLE, Augusta Expo
Apr 1-2

FREDERICKSBURG, Fredericksburg Expo & Conference Ctr.
Mar 11-12 | May 6-7

HAMPTON, Hampton Roads Convention Center
Apr 1-2

HARRISONBURG, Rockingham County Fairgrounds
Feb 18-19

LYNCHBURG, Macy's at the River Ridge Mall
None scheduled at this time

RICHMOND, Richmond Raceway Complex
Mar 25-26

ROANOKE, Berglund Center
None scheduled at this time

SALEM, Salem Civic Center
Mar 11-12

VIRGINIA BEACH, Convention Center
Feb 11-12 | Apr 29-30

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

WYTHEVILLE, Apex Expo Center
None scheduled at this time

COORDINATORS

Chantilly—Danny Paulson, Debra Casey—
gunshows.chantilly@vcdl.org

Chesapeake—Mark Ashley, Vic Nicholls—
gunshows.chesapeake@vcdl.org

Dale City—Damian Ljungquist, Gene Brodetski—
gunshows.dalecity2@vcdl.org

Doswell—Twyman Andes, Rick Walker—
gunshows.doswell3@vcdl.org

Fredericksburg —Stephen Rochkind, Gary Shoemaker—
gunshows.fredericksburg@vcdl.org

Hampton— Randy Braddock, Bryan Dunn, Michael Mumford
Lee Affholter—gunshows.hampton@vcdl.org

Louisa— Brandy Polanowski— events.louisa@vcdl.org

Richmond—John Gosney, Dave Eckart, Dave Troxel,
Patrick Schrek—gunshows.centralva@vcdl.org

Southwest Virginia—Nat Weigle—gunshows.swva@vcdl.org

Virginia Beach—Mark Ashley, Phil Terrazas—
gunshows.vb@vcdl.org

Virginia West—Jim Kiser—gunshows.vawest@vcdl.org

Winchester/Woodstock—Mark Lintz—
gunshows.winchester@vcdl.org

State Gun Show Coordinators

Bryan Dunn, Brendan Mooney—gunshowcoord@vcdl.org

PROMOTERS

C&E Gun Shows www.cegunshows.com

SGK Gun Shows www.sgkshows.com

Showmasters www.showmastersgunshows.com

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS

Chesapeake, October 29-30

Vic Nichols, John Miller, Steve Toth, Phil Terrazas

Richmond, November 12-13

Michael Young, Brian Melde, Robert Seeland, Dave Eckert, Dave Troxel, Dave Morgerson, Bob Welch, Patrick Schrek, Jeni & Gary Shoemaker, Bob Williams, Sam Penn, Steve Rochkind, Mike Tomillon, Todd Flax, Pete Newcomb, Robert Hofrichter, David Crosby

Chantilly, November 18-20

Robert Eufemia, Douglas Bagdasarian, Clayton Vieg, Gary O'Brian, John Truxell-Svenson, Manny Perez, Alexander Rogge, David Green, Kelly Foster, Glen Foster, Dave Morgerson, Rick Richardson,

continued on page 4

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Chantilly, November 18–20 (cont.)

Ian McNeal, Jack Marinaro, Jorge Marmol, Carl Simchick, Francois Krodel, Tom Callahan, Rev. Robert Wilson, Rosalie Paulson, Debra Casey, Danny Paulson

Hampton, November 26–27

Lee Affholter, Billy Taylor, Douglas Kelsey, Chris Gatti*, Tajiman Old, Dennis Endres, Tom Brunton, Randall Braddock, Montford Oakes, Randall Braddock, Clem Tuttle, Roberta Tuttle, Lanny Moore*, Bryan Dunn

Fishersville, December 3–4

Thom Verga, Elijah Walters, Gaert Sime, Jim Kiser, Robert Mortenson, Twyman Andes, Brian Meyer, Jeff Miller

Fredericksburg, December 10–11

Michael Ross*, Stephen Rochkind, JD Davidson*, Matt Brewer, Alexander Rogge, John Walt, Dave Morgerson, Andrew Jones, Theron Keller, Ken Ross, Larry Lee

Salem, December 17–18

Robbin Weigle*, Al Steed, Jr. (and daughter Shellie), Maury Sharp, Catherine Gosney, Michael Cox*, Michael Grim, Ken Modica, Don Beheler, Neil Motter, Sam Hollingsworth, Larry Lewis, Danny Holdren, Jeff Miller, John Feldenzer

Chantilly, December 30–Jan 1

Clayton Vieg, Tom Callahan, Alexander Rogge, Rick Richardson, Carl Simchick, Manny Perez, Troy Hayes, Derik Watson, Robert Eufemia, Ian McNeal, Michael Gross, Peter Sabela, Max Padon, Gary O'Brien, Sandy Ellis, Bob Ellis, Douglas G.D. Bagdasarian, Keith Webster, Dave Morgerson, Mark Shinn, Debra Casey, Danny Paulson

Heritage Baptist Church Wild Game Supper, Woodbridge, January 14

Bruce Jackson

Hampton, January 14–15

William Jackson*, Lester Borden, Joe Hemphill, Kristjan Justesen, Tajiman Old, Chris Gatti, Sherri May, Clem Tuttle, Roberta Tuttle, Ron Kleiman, Vic Nicholls, Mike Ferris, Randall Braddock, Montford Oakes, Bryan Dunn

Salem, January 21–22

Sam Hollinsworth, Ken Modica, Neil Motter, John Rokisky, Bill Goodman, Bob Lutjen, Don Beheler, Catherine Gosney, Richard Pollack, Dave Smith, Kenneth Plybon, Jeff Miller, Ralph Stiles, Brad Allen

Fredericksburg, January 28–29

Stephen Rochkind, Dave Eckart, Samuel Redwine, Jim Thompson, Theresa DeCelle*, John Walt, Gordon Passauer, Dave Morgerson, Gary Shoemaker, Larry Lee, Chris Ferro*

*Indicates first-time volunteer

Lobby Day is Just the Beginning *by Patricia Webb, Secretary/Treasurer*

Each year VCDL members descend on Richmond on the third Monday in January. This is just after the start of the legislative session, so it's the perfect time for our annual Lobby Day.

Teams form and visit every single Delegate and Senator, leaving behind a packet containing a bill analysis for all the firearm related legislation that has been introduced. We hold a rally, visit with our representatives, and make our voices heard. But what happens for the rest of the session?

I'm glad you asked! Okay, maybe you didn't, but it's important, so we'll take a look.

During the session those bills get debated. At certain points in the process, we have the opportunity to state our positions on each bill. Philip Van Cleave and I visit the General Assembly regularly, attending committee meetings, speaking out on your behalf, and working to block bad bills or support good ones.



We also visit with the bill patrons, answering questions and discussing the pros and cons of the proposed legislation. Sometimes we suggest amendments to make the bill better. Our efforts have had a positive impact in many cases.

VCDL encourages our members to be citizen lobbyists. We give you tools to keep up with where bills are in the process (VCDL-LIS.org). We send you notices when you need to contact your Senator or Delegate, with prewritten text so you just have to fill in your personal information to send an email. And we let you know when committee meetings are being held and how to attend, either in person or virtually.

This is how grassroots organizations work, and this is why VCDL is so effective. YOU are the driving force. YOU have the power to make things happen. We work as a team. So, thank you for your activism. Due to the anti-rights majority in the Senate we don't expect major victories this year, but we won't lose ground either.

When this issue reaches you, the session will be winding down or over. But that doesn't mean we can relax. The elections are just around the corner, and the ENTIRE General Assembly is up for grabs. We need to vote for our 2A rights!

With good results in the 2023 elections, we can repeal the 2020 gun control and restore Virginia to the 2A Sanctuary it deserves to be. I see Constitutional Carry in Virginia's future. I'm just sorry that we weren't one of the first states to pass it. Let's not be the last! Are you with me?

We must train up our young people

Gun rights and use are no longer taught to students. If we don't fill the void, who will?

by Al Evans, VCDL Academy Director of Student Engagement



I attended my first VCDL Lobby Day on January 20th, 2020. I have always been interested in politics and defending the rights of the people of America. I was appalled by the Red Flag law that the General Assembly passed in 2020. I followed the sanctuary county saga of 2019 and even attended the Henrico County Second Amendment Sanctuary meeting. I knew our right to bear arms was under attack, so when I heard about VCDL's Lobby Day Rally, I felt compelled to attend. I was in college at the time, and one of my professors warned my classes about the "white supremacist" group coming to protest at the Capitol. She was referring to the VCDL rally!

I made sure to let my professors and peers know that I was attending, and that it was a rally for ALL Americans who care about their Second Amendment rights. I will never forget that day. Even though it was freezing, over 50,000 people from diverse backgrounds came together to peacefully protest the anti-gun laws that were being passed.

Now we are three years removed from the 2020 rally. I have graduated from college and worked with several different conservative organizations and political campaigns in addition to tutoring. The gun control that was passed in 2020 drove home the reality that we need to educate young adults about the history of the Second Amendment and how it is just as important today as it was in 1791. That's why when I was approached with the opportunity to help create the youth arm of VCDL, VCDL Academy, I was ecstatic. What could be better than educating Virginia's young people about firearms and the legislative process? We quickly got to work planning the roll-out of this new venture, but I was still humbled and honored when I was asked to speak about VCDL Academy at Lobby Day.

When the day came, I was nervous. All morning we lobbied for our rights, speaking to different Delegates and Senators. Many of these same legislators would be speaking at the rally before me. It was an honor to share how my family and mentors taught me about guns and how so many kids don't have the opportunity to learn that I had. I think back to 2020, when I was a concerned college student voicing my opinion, and hope now that I'm able to inspire young folks to stand up for their rights. There are more people like me out there. They just need experienced, dedicated people to teach them. With VCDL Academy, I believe we can.

Please join us! See the list of VCDL Academy events on page 10.

From the Secretary's Desk

It was great to see so many people at Lobby Day this year! Last year we suffered through an ice storm and frigid weather. This year was almost spring-like, with mild temperatures and sunshine.

I feel like this is also a "springtime" for our gun rights. The 2023 elections hold the promise of a new makeup in the General Assembly. With a favorable outcome, we have the opportunity to repeal the gun control passed in the 2020 session, and perhaps we will finally pass Constitutional Carry in Virginia. Twenty-six states have beaten us to that punch, I'm sad to say, but we won't give up.

Another positive note is the birth of VCDL Academy. I'm personally excited about this program and look forward to engaging with our youth and young adults. They are the future of our mission.

One more observation from this past Lobby Day—I was pleasantly surprised when I looked around at those who attended the rally. Roughly half of the people in the crowd were women! And there were people from all walks of life and ethnicities. So much for gun rights being for old white guys! Apparently, those who accuse us of being white supremacists haven't been looking around. But then again, when people resort to name-calling, it's usually because they've lost the argument and have no facts to support their position.

I'm hoping that you all will join me as I enjoy this resurgence of life and help nurture the sprouting seedling. Let's help this turn into the mighty oak that we know it can be. Let's bring freedom back to Virginia and protect it from future threats. And let's not forget to mark our calendars for the 3rd Monday in January 2024!

Patricia Webb
Secretary/Treasurer



Top left: Candidate Leon Benjamin (R) meets with a VCDL member.

Above: The pre-Lobby Day dinner at Hibachi Grill & Supreme Buffet

Far left: VCDL's Kristi Horton readies materials for the teams leads

Left: Del. Wren Williams (R) and VCDL member Kirby Myers



Far left: Del. Karrie Delaney (D) (second from left) meets with VCDL members Gary Casseus (second from right), David Custer (far right), and their team.

Left: VCDL members Arnold and Maria Pachtman



Far left: State House Majority Leader Terry Kilgore (R) (second from left) poses with Mark Ching, Brian Wrenn, Carla Howell, Kirby Myers, and Robert Bennett

Left: VCDL member Carla McNeal shakes hands with Del. Marie March (R)



From top to bottom, left to right:
 VCDL rally at the State Capitol
 2A supporters listen to speakers
 James Manship's annual appearance
 VCDL President Philip Van Cleave
 Hundreds at the VCDL rally
 VCDL Board Member Gilbert Ambler
 tells how the courts view gun control
 Del. A. C. Cordoza (R) recounts how the
 VCDL led him to politics
 Brandon Howard of Right to Bear Arms
 Virginia guards the gun storage truck.
 Howard offered the service so attendees
 had a secure place to leave their guns.



Choosing a Defensive Handgun

by William Moore

The choice of a defensive handgun is important. We all want a defensive firearm the size and weight of a credit card that will never malfunction, miss the target, or run out of ammunition. That's fantasy. Smaller firearms typically are more difficult to shoot accurately, can be more difficult to operate, have less ammunition capacity and may require more maintenance/parts replacement than full size firearms. Size does matter. The firearm should fit your hand size and physical abilities, but you have to realize you're not choosing a fashion accessory. The emphasis here has to be on what you can most proficiently use. It's important to make sure that you can operate the gun before you plunk down your hard earned dollars. How cute the gun is doesn't matter if you can't rack the slide to load/unload/clear malfunctions. You can learn to dress to conceal the gun.



Size and weight matter

There's another aspect about size to consider. Famed holster maker Chic Gaylord pointed out long ago that if you carry your gun in a belt holster, you need a certain amount of barrel/slide length below the belt to press the rest of the gun against your body. Otherwise, the butt will sag outward and show that you're carrying. This is especially true if most of your gun's weight is above the top of the belt when holstered. This can be a big issue with semi-automatics. Since the barrel is generally pointing down your body, it's not a big concealment issue unless you're planning to pocket carry. The butt/grip of the gun can be a bigger issue, particularly with semi-autos as the squared off shape can be harder to conceal.

Weight is another thing to consider when choosing a defensive handgun. There are all steel versions and some with aluminum, exotic alloy or even polymer frames that weigh less. In fact, there are versions chambered for the .357 Magnum that weigh less than 16 oz loaded. While those may be easier to carry, the .357 is downright brutal to shoot with full power ammunition. The heavier guns may be less comfortable to lug around, but they're much easier to shoot and shoot well.

You also should consider some environmental factors. If you live where cold weather gloves are part of your dress, you need to be able to operate the firearm while wearing them. Many of the smaller designs will restrict you to Isotoner-type single layer spandex or very light leather gloves. Even certain full size firearms have trigger guards that aren't well sized for use

with gloves. This can create issues in cold weather even if you wear silk gloves under the outer gloves. You may have to use a combination of light gloves under a heavy glove and pay close attention of situational awareness to be able to get the heavy gloves off before you're under assault.

You need to pick a gun that fits your hand and that you can shoot well. There are ranges in many places where you can rent guns to try out. If you already belong to a gun club, you might be able to borrow one and try it out. Offer to pay for the ammunition. Definitely get training from competent instructors.

By the way, the plastic insert in fiber optic sights seem to break and disappear. I've seen this happen to guys using them on semi-automatic pistols in competition. These might be something you want to avoid.

Revolver or Semi-automatic?

Now we'll discuss the choice of revolver or semi-automatic. This is a subject that can generate a lot of disputes. Let's start out with a generalization: given a quality handgun, ammunition and magazines, there's virtually no difference in reliability between revolvers and semi-automatic pistols. Both require training and practice to be able to use them to best advantage. Both types can malfunction and you have to know how to quickly clear them. Revolvers can handle a wider variety of ammunition types than semi-autos can.

Revolver Pros and Cons

Many people find the revolver simpler to use and safer. The triggers generally have a longer travel and need more force to press than semi-auto pistols. It's easier to tell if the firearm is loaded/unloaded. They can sit in a sock drawer for extended periods of time and still be able for instant use. They can use a wide variety of ammunition types and need little regular preventive care if not used often. I'm aware of one obsolete revolver (approximately 70 years old) loaded with 25-year-old ammunition that served a storekeeper well when needed. However, that's not what you want to bet your life on.



At the same time, revolvers are mechanically complex, do not do well when abused, have limited ammunition capacity, and can be slow to reload. Carrying spare ammunition can be an issue. Spare ammunition can be carried in pockets, but that should be the only thing in that/those pockets. The longer, heavier trigger pull can be an issue for some. Even in highly structured training programs, there is often no training on how to cope with malfunctions.

Semi-auto Pros and Cons

Semi-auto pistols generally require periodic maintenance and lubrication, including replacement of certain wear parts (recoil springs and other items) and quality magazines. As the size goes down from full size to compact to sub-compact to micro, the recoil spring has to get heavier (and needs to be replaced more often) with each step down. This can affect your ability to operate the firearm. Make sure you can safely rack the slide



easily before you buy. You'll need to do this to load, unload and clear malfunctions. Training definitely needs to cover the more complicated operation and malfunction clearance. Semi-auto handguns generally have easier-to-operate triggers with shorter presses, making them easier to shoot accurately. They also generally have higher ammunition capacities, can be reloaded faster, and often can have lights

attached to positively identify potential threats. Carrying spare ammunition is easier. Spare magazines should never be carried in pockets, they collect lint and this can cause malfunctions. I recommend you use a magazine pouch.

You do need to carry extra ammunition with either type of handgun. If you're carrying revolver ammunition in a pocket, make it the only thing in that pocket. You don't want to be sorting coins and ammunition in a gunfight. You have options for carrying revolver ammunition: loose in a pocket (not a good idea), inserted into a speed strip that keeps them together and allows faster loading, or in a speed loader. This last is a cylinder-shaped widget that holds the cartridges so they can be inserted in the cylinder in one motion. A belt carrier is the best way to tote these.

Firearm Maintenance and Modifications

If you're toting your gun (and magazines) close to your body, they will be exposed to corrosive sweat, cold, rain, and a lot of other elements. It's a really good idea to wipe your gun (and magazines) down regularly. How often depends upon just how nasty things get—weekly at a minimum is a good idea. As with regular cleaning, how often you wipe down your firearm and accessories can vary widely. It's amazing how much lint and other stuff can collect in your gun. WARNING: while WD40 does a good job of neutralizing water and sweat, it's not a lubricant and can make ammunition inert. Spray it on a cloth/paper towel and wipe the surfaces. Do have a duplicate of your carry holster in case it gets wet. Rotate them as needed.

I've mentioned the force needed to press the trigger. It seems that the ink isn't dry on print ads for new firearms before someone comes out with an "improved trigger" to solve all its supposed problems. If you're planning on using your firearm for defensive/duty use, your trigger needs to fall within factory specifications. The quality of the trigger pull (smoothness) is much more important than the actual weight. A new firearm might not have

a trigger that travels smoothly, but usually will smooth out by the time you really get to know it. Several hundred operations of the trigger will generally result in a much smoother operating trigger. With use, springs will lose their stiffness and slightly reduce the force needed to pull the trigger. This will happen with dry fire (no ammunition) to save money with most guns.

Keeping the trigger pull weight in that factory-specified range is a good idea if your firearm may be used in stressful circumstances. In a defensive gun use, for example, your heart rate will accelerate and adrenaline will flood your blood stream, possibly reducing muscle control and sense of touch. These are not the circumstances in which you want or need a light, short target trigger. If you live in an area where you have cold weather and wear gloves, this is another reason to avoid short-travel, lightweight triggers. In addition, there is a phenomenon known as trigger verification reflex. Research has shown us that under stress, even highly trained and experienced people will put their fingers on the trigger, sometimes with surprising force, when they shouldn't. It's thought that, at a deep level under stress, the brain wants to make sure your finger can find that trigger. Remember that you cannot always trust the safety and under stress you may lose track of whether it's on or off. So keep the trigger within factory specification. It's best to have any modifications done by someone who is a certified armorer for that brand or by the manufacturer if they offer that service. Save your work order/receipt for documentation purposes.

Revolvers especially have 150 or so years history of being made "easier on the trigger." However a revolver's factory specification on trigger weight is measured in the single action mode (hammer cocked). This also applies to double action/single action (double action first shot, single action after that) semi-automatics. Many revolvers that have their actions optimized within factory specifications for double action trigger use will have a single action trigger weight that won't meet factory specifications. Here



you have two options: limit the optimization to keep the single action within factory specifications or have the gun modified to only operate in double action mode. Or, you could buy a revolver with no single action, like the S&W 640 series.

You may have heard modifications like lightening the trigger press could cause you problems if you use your gun to defend yourself. Here is advice from Massad Ayoob, a court-accepted expert witness on this subject:

<http://smith-wessonforum.com/concealed-carry-self-defense/419191-facts-about-light-trigger-pull-liability.html>

I collected the information here over the course of about 50 years. Some of it I learned the hard way, some I had passed on to me by others. I hope it's been helpful.

Thank you VCDL for supporting the King George 4H Shotgun Club



The King George 4H Shotgun Club (KG4HSC) thanks VCDL for all they do for Virginia Shooting Sports and especially for your 2022 contributions to the KG4HSC.

The KG4HSC is an active club that has provided shooting education to young people between the ages of 9 and 19 since 2015. The Program is led by trained 4H shooting instructors and shotgun enthusiasts who have many years of shooting and coaching experience. The Club supports the youth of

King George County Virginia and surrounding counties where there is nothing similar available.

To see what the KG4HSC has accomplished this past year, including awards won by our young shooters, and also to read about our plans for 2023, please contact Jim Dooley at 540 226 4618 or jmartindooley@gmail.com.



VCDL Academy Events Calendar

March 9 | Senate District 12 Candidate Debate

Invited Candidates: Senator Amanda Chase, Tina Rameriez and Glen Sturtevant. Moderated by Philip Van Cleave, President VCDL, Hosted by Virginia Christian Alliance, 8659 Staples Mill Road, Henrico
Reception 5:30 P.M. Debate 6 :00 P.M.
Tickets Tickets \$30.00 individual, \$40.00 Couple
RSVP Required: academy.director@vcdl.org
Sponsorships available

March 11 | VCDL Academy Table at SGK Gun Show

Fredericksburg Expo & Conference Center
2371 Carl D Silver Pkwy., Fredericksburg
Meet the team and learn how you can get involved.

March 23 | Speakers series with Delegate Nick Freitas and Philip Van Cleave, President of VCDL
V.C.A., 8659 Staples Mill Rd., Henrico

April 10 | Meet VCDL Academy Team with Senator Bill Stanley, Hermie Sadler, and Philip Van Cleave
Fosho, 916 W. Atlantic, Emporia

April 13 | VCDL Academy Fundraiser
Castle Glen Winery, 18185 Narrow Path Trail, Doswell

April 20-23 | RPV Advance (VCDL Academy will have a table)
Richmond Convention Center, 403 N. Third St., Richmond

The PAC Corner

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We are required to collect certain information with each contribution, but it's not made public unless your total annual contributions are over \$100.00. Oh, and we're required to tell you that contributions aren't tax deductible.

We're working hard to make sure the 2023 election results create an environment where we can see the repeal of Red Flag Laws, local gun control, one handgun a month and private sale background checks in the 2024 General Assembly session. If things go really well, we may even see Constitutional Carry in Virginia next year! So please, stay engaged, and thank you in advance for your support!

Yours in Liberty,
Cathy McNickle
VCDL-PAC Chair

VCDL Membership Application

Recruiter last name/member # _____

____ **New** ____ **Renewal** (Member # _____)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

Phone (____) _____

Email _____

____ 1 **VCDL** membership: \$ **25.00**

____ Family members @\$15/each: \$ _____

____ Donation to **VCDL**: \$ _____

____ Donation to **VCDL-PAC**: \$ _____

VCDL-PAC donations also require the following information:

Occupation: _____

Employer: _____

Employer's principle city/state: _____

This information is not made public unless your annual contributions total more than \$100.00.

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

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ CVV _____

Name as it appears on the card

Signature of Card Holder Billing Zip Code

Mail to:

VCDL Membership Processing Center

P.O. Box 77

Willis, VA 24380

Save time and postage by using a credit card or eCheck at vcdl.org/join

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.

VCDL and VCDL-PAC contributions, gifts, or membership dues are not deductible for Federal income tax purposes.

The VCDL-PAC is the political action committee (PAC) for the Virginia Citizens Defense League (VCDL). While VCDL can educate people on, and lobby for, the right to keep and bear arms (RKBA), the PAC can advocate for, educate on, endorse, and contribute to political candidates on the state and local level that support your rights. These are two very different and important functions. Both organizations are necessary to effectively preserve and restore our RKBA.

2023 is a very exciting year for the VCDL-PAC. The entire General Assembly is up for reelection. In addition to this, the new redistricting takes effect in this election cycle. So there is a distinct possibility that the balance of power could shift dramatically—in our favor, or against us!

We're asking for your help. First, get involved. Find out about how the redistricting affects you. The VPAP.org website is very useful here. Next, research the candidates in your district. Not just watching the ads, but dig deep. Actually call them and ask questions about issues that are important to you, including your RKBA. If they don't have time for you before the election, they certainly won't after they're in office!

Work for the campaigns of worthy candidates. Consider helping VCDL Academy in their door knocking efforts to register voters and tell people why they need to vote for their gun rights first!

Finally, if you can spare some cash, please contribute to the VCDL-PAC. This year there will be a lot of heavy lifting to do, and that takes money! We can move the needle, but we need the resources. There's a form on the back of this newsletter, or you can visit VCDL.org/PAC-Donate. No amount is too small (or too large!) and we thank you for your generosity.

While the VCDL collects membership dues, which provide about a third to half of their operating budget, the VCDL-PAC relies entirely on your donations. We don't have dues-paying members, so each and every contribution is important to us!

**THE
PAC
CORNER**





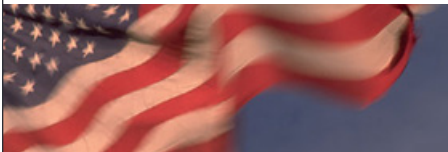
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Find us on social media
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Our moderators keep that
document updated to show
changing circumstances.

**Virginia Citizens Defense League
Officers**

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

**Virginia Citizens Defense League
Board of Directors
As of January 2023**

Bruce Jackson	Bruce@vcdl.org
Gilbert Ambler	Gilbert.Ambler@vcdl.org
John Pierce	John.Pierce@vcdl.org
Jim Snyder	Jsnyder@vcdl.org
Susan Brush	Susan.Brush@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). Members can add their permit expiration date to their member profile for email reminders during the 90–180 day window.

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