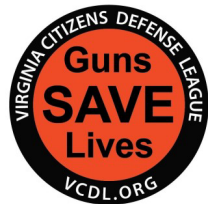




THE DEFENDER



A publication of

Virginia Citizens Defense League

Defending Your Right To Defend Yourself

VCDL.ORG

SUMMER 2025

VCDL at GOALS

by Patricia Webb, Secretary/Treasurer



VCDL was elated to attend the 2nd Annual GOA Gun Owners' Advocacy Leadership Summit, held in Knoxville, TN, August 2025. There were a number of things that stood out this year.

First, Knoxville is extremely welcoming, and a beautiful city to visit. Everywhere we went we were greeted by people who asked about guns in a positive way, and said that they would attend the event. VCDL Board of Directors Member Bruce Jackson even commented that there were gun store signs on the highway markers that let people know what food, gas, and lodgings are at an exit!

We were also pleased that attendance was up substantially from last year, at least on Saturday. We saw several people from Virginia, as well as Georgia, Alabama, West Virginia, the Carolinas, and of course Tennessee. I was happy to see many families attend, and there were things for the kids to do as well as the adults.

If you have not attended yet, GOALS is a celebration of 2A activism without compromises. The event features exhibits by gun manufacturers and other industry related companies. There are speeches and appearances by 2A celebrities and industry experts.



And, perhaps most importantly, it's a place to connect with 2A activists from all over.

We'll be sharing images on social media, and we'll let you know when my chat with Cheryl Todd from Gun Freedom Radio airs. Cheryl and Danny Todd are celebrating Gun Freedom Radio's 10th Anniversary!

And GOA will be celebrating 50 years of no compromise activism next year in Des Moines, Iowa for the 3rd annual GOALS. We intend to be there, and we hope you can make it as well.

Top left: VCDL Director Bruce Jackson; Above: Stephen Willeford, GOA's Grassroots & Industry Liaison, visits the VCDL booth; Below: Pat Webb, Gloria Snyder (wife of VCDL VP Jim Snyder), Devon Musser (Founder, Gals & Guns), Suk Finnell (GOA Chair, Empowerment2A), and Shelby Wilson (GOA Donor and Industry Relations Specialist). For more photos from GOALS, see inside.

VCDL Public Meeting Dates

In-person meetings are held around the state, usually on the 3rd Thursday of each month.

Check [VCDL.org/Events](https://vcdl.org/Events) for a current list.

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://vcdl.org/Events) 8:00 PM Eastern Time.

Watch the events at vcdl.org/events/event_list.asp
Check the website and VA-ALERT emails for meeting updates.





From the Editor

I like guns.

Does anyone remember Steve Lee's YouTube hit from (checks Google) 2009?! I watched it, chuckled, shared it, and so did you. Don't deny it. It's not Gershwin, but it is fun, and you get to watch a crazy Aussie shred a car with machine guns and an RPG.

I'm pretty sure no sociologist has studied why a day at the range is so edifying. (Plenty so-called academics have "studied" why gun owners are supposedly fearful, aggressive, and socially maladjusted.) It doesn't make sense—firearms are loud, they recoil, and they are *deadly*. I don't enjoy using my chainsaw. Rather, I enjoy the work I can accomplish with it. But I enjoy shooting for fun.

Maybe it's because guns are so dangerous that they thrill us. (The accomplishment of ringing steel at 100 yards could also have something to do with it.) At the same time, that noise, kick, and danger make others wary or even afraid of them. I can understand if another doesn't see firearms as fun. But whether we enjoy them, use them only when needed, or abjure them, no one should force others to do the same. I'll never compel a gun hater to shoot my K31, and I'll thank him to return the favor and not compel me to "turn it in."

Mark Ching
Editor

The President's Pen

The symptoms of GDS (Gun Derangement Syndrome)

Gun Derangement Syndrome, or GDS, is a severe mental disorder characterized by irrational beliefs and behaviors despite objective evidence. There is no age, sex, race, or other demographic characteristics that predisposes someone to this disorder. This insidious disorder can affect anyone. However, individual susceptibility can occur with other irrational beliefs such as: criminals are the victims, the police cause crime, the First Amendment includes government censorship, or disarming someone makes them safer.

To receive a diagnosis of GDS one must meet 3 of the following diagnostic criteria for at least 21 days.

1. A belief that merely owning a gun can turn any good, honest person into a killer.
2. A belief that a gun can plan a crime and carry it out by walking to a victim's location, aiming itself, and pulling its own trigger.
3. An obsession with firearms such that they use a gun-centric vocabulary. For example, if they use "gun violence," but not machete violence, beating violence, or strangling violence. Or they use "gunman," but not macheteman, beatingman, or stranglingman.
4. A belief that the gun—not the criminal holding the gun—is responsible for shooting someone, while also believing that a police officer, and not his gun, is responsible for shooting someone.
5. A belief that all gun owners are "gun nuts."
6. A belief that guns are so easily obtained that guns are found lying in the street. Or they believe that guns are easier to obtain than books. Or they believe that guns are only designed to kill humans as fast as possible.
7. Having anger-management issues and falsely projecting that character flaw onto peaceful gun-owners.
8. Knowing absolutely nothing about guns, but claiming to be an expert on "gun safety." They usually believe that guns "just go off" on their own. They often call for a ban on "assault weapons" or "barrel shrouds," but they can't give you a definition of either one. They use gun word-salads, like banning "high-velocity magazine clips," to attempt to hide their ignorance.
9. Stating that an openly carried gun makes them afraid but then say that a gun carried concealed makes them afraid.
10. Blaming innocent gun owners for the misuse of guns by criminals while not holding drivers to blame for owning cars, which drunk drivers use to create horrible carnage.
11. Stating a magazine limitation of "X" rounds is safe but "X+1" is dangerous. They are also unable to explain the science or math behind this.
12. Complaining about the loud noise coming from a neighbor's shooting range but stating that suppressors should be outlawed because they make guns quieter.

The good news is that GDS is not necessarily a lifetime disorder! A person with GDS can cure himself by getting to know a few gun owners, getting educated on guns and gun safety, and making a trip to the range! Alternatively, you can reach out to someone with GDS to help free them from GDS's grip.

Philip Van 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. It's an excellent way to easily recruit members. Verify all schedules; this list is correct as of August 15, 2025.

CHANTILLY, Dulles Expo Center
Sep 26–28 | Nov 21–23

FISHERSVILLE, Augusta Expo
Sep 6–7 | Nov 29–30

FREDERICKSBURG, Fredericksburg Fairgrounds
Oct 11–12

HAMPTON, Hampton Roads Convention Center
Sep 13–14 | Nov 29–30

HARRISONBURG, Rockingham County Fairgrounds
Nov 1–2

RICHMOND, Richmond Raceway Complex
Aug 23–24 | Nov 15–16

SALEM, Salem Civic Center
Oct 4–5 | Dec 20–21

STAFFORD, Fraternal Order of Eagles
Dec 6–7

VIRGINIA BEACH, Convention Center
Oct 18–19

Looking for volunteers for the Fishersville show on Sept. 6 & 7. I need people to cover these shifts:

Sat., Sept. 6
9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

Sun., Sept. 7
10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

Contact Jim Kiser, Shenandoah Valley/Fishersville Coordinator, through VCDL



Not registered to vote? Use this QR code to visit the Virginia Department of Elections at www.elections.virginia.gov/citizen-portal and register. Your rights depend on it!

COORDINATORS

Chantilly—Matt Schorr, Sean Kennedy, Terrell Prude—
gunshows.chantilly@vcdl.org

Doswell—**Need coordinator and co-coordinators**—
gunshows.doswell@vcdl.org

Fishersville/Harrisonburg—Jim Kiser—
gunshows.vawest@vcdl.org

Fredericksburg/Stafford—Stephen Rochkind, **need co-coordinators**—
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.richmond@vcdl.org

Roanoke/Salem—Nat Weigle, **need co-coordinators**—
gunshows.swva@vcdl.org

Virginia Beach—Phil Terrazas, Vic Nicholls—
gunshows.vb@vcdl.org

Winchester/Woodstock—Mark Lintz, **need co-coordinators**—
gunshows.winchester@vcdl.org

State Gun Show Coordinators

Rowley Molina, Brendan Mooney, Dave Morgerson
gunshowcoord@vcdl.org

PROMOTERS

C&E Gun Shows www.cegungunshows.com
SGK Gun Shows www.sgkshows.com
Showmasters www.showmastersgunshows.com

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS

Louisa Bowling Pin Shoot, Jun 7

Brandy Polanowski

Chantilly, Jun 13–15

Mitch Robey, Larry Zabel, Brian Wrenn, David Lee, Michael Weaver, Josh Goldaire, Alexander Rogge, Charlie Buettner, Michael Gross, Stephen Anthony, Brian Melde, Mitch Darling, Paula Weiss, Robert Wilson, Matthew Schor

Hampton, Jun 21–22

Ciara Stanisiz, Bryan Dunn, Angel Arruda, Todd Morgan, Mike Durig, Tom Brunton, David Reinhart, Jim Polanosky, Bryan Dunn, Randy Braddock

Richmond, Jul 12–13

Michael Wade, Ken Vann, Sam Penn, Selden Denton, Phil Freda, Donna Grebas, Tony Grebas, Dave Troxel, Rowley Molina,

continued on page 4

continued from page 3

Dave Morgerson, Markus Kahn, David Crosby, Rick Walker, Dan Powell, Dan Liberty, Lee Hurlock, Michael Wagner-Diggs, Patrick O'Connor, Jack Snead

Chantilly, Jul 18-20

Ted Hsu, David Lee, John Nagel, Robert Williamson, Alexander Rogge, Brian Wrenn, Charlie Buettner, Josh Goodaire, Michael Gross, Corey Sinay, Rev. Robert Wilson, Ric Richardson, Lisa Giulianelli, Dave Morgeson, Paula Weiss, Mitch Darling, Brian Melde, Mo Minkahm, Rashil Rane, Mark Shinn, Matthew Schor, Sean Kennedy

Salem, Jul 26-27

Larry Lewis, Lexi Wiggins, Mike Poff, Robert Schaller, Sam Hollingsworth, Kevin Grimes*, Dave Knight, Neil Motter, Robert Lutjen, Fred Picini*, Faye Curren, Walter Drew, Jeff Miller, James Osten, Nat Weigle

Richmond, VA Outdoor Sportsman Show, Aug 1-2

Daniel Powell, Dave Morgerson, Steve Rochkind, Amanda Crosby, Sam Penn, Vincent Ikley, Rick Walker, David Crosby, Markus Kahn, Theron Keller

*Indicates a first time volunteer.

From the Secretary's Desk *by Patricia Webb, Secretary/Treasurer*

This is an exciting time to be alive. It is also terrifying. On one hand, we've seen major wins (and some setbacks) in the federal courts. It looks like the NFA may fall, possibly within my lifetime. On the other hand, we're still battling to reverse the gun control that was passed in Virginia in 2020 and 2021.

We've seen the Trump administration overturn some Biden policies, but we must remember that the vast majority of assaults on our rights come from state and local governments. The good news is that this is where we have the most influence as well.

VCDL has been working hard to restore our right to carry on state property, to reestablish full state-wide preemption, repeal laws like one-handgun-a-month and private sale background checks, and pass permit-less carry. In the meantime, we've been working to lower CHP fees in localities around the state.

VCDL depends on you, our members, to help get this done. Your dues and contributions help fund lawsuits and lobbying, but there's more to it. As a grassroots organization, we depend on you to act when we sound the alert. This simple thing is what makes VCDL a force to be reckoned with! We've often said that our members are our lifeblood, and we mean it!

We know it's easy to get discouraged. But we can never rest and must always think ahead. Our future and our families depend on us to keep them safe. We cannot let some politician take that away from us. Those who wish to disarm good people are always planning their next move. We must stay one step ahead. And we must work hard to keep the gun grabbers out of office! So we'll see you at the polls this fall and at the General Assembly in January! Mark your calendars now for MLK day and plan to be in Richmond for Lobby Day.



Clockwise from above: Pat Webb with YouTube Attorney Tom Grieve (Grieve Law); Pat with Mark from Freedom Hunters and Tony Simon of Instagram's Simon Says Train; YouTuber Braden Langley wishing Gun Freedom Radio a happy 10th birthday at their booth.



The Mind is the Weapon

by William Moore

Recently, there was a prolonged online debate about a Lucky Gunner article about “The True Distance of a Typical Gunfight.” Statistics from noted trainer Tom Givens (rangemaster.com) and 2019 NYPD Firearm Discharge Reports were cited. That the 2019 FDR was cited and not the later 2020 FDR was what they call a smoking gun. That’s because the 2020 report showed 68% of NYPD shootings were beyond five yards. Sort of defeats the argument that everything is going to be at spitting distance.

Statistics can be a trap. They can produce a mindset that enables one to walk about in a fantasy that sets you up for failure. You need to be aware, flexible and adequately prepared. Statistically, you’re unlikely to be a crime victim, have to perform a DGU, fire the gun, or need more than three shots per attacker. But what if you’re one of the outliers? After all, if you’re about to become a crime victim, you’re already in a tiny fraction of the population.

***“No plan survives contact with the enemy.”
Field Marshall von Moltke the elder***

There were a substantial number of posts from folks who are certain that every potentially lethal encounter they have will be within 10 feet, they won’t need to aim, and that everything will be solved by the shots in their chosen gun. While they might be right statistically, what if they aren’t? There’s another stat (from the FBI UCR) that’s dated, but is still relevant. At three yards, the good guys lost 90% of the time. Why? Because the bad person knew there was going to be a shooting and the good guy/gal didn’t. Action beats reaction.

First, a basic principle: gunfights involve bullets moving in both directions. That’s a situation that’s best to avoid. Shootings only involve bullets moving in one direction.

***“Only a damn fool learns from his mistakes.
I learn from the mistakes of others.”
Attributed to Otto von Bismarck***

It’s a whole lot safer to pay attention to your surroundings and do your best to avoid getting into a use of force incident. Pay attention to your surroundings and have a questioning attitude. Why is someone doing what they’re doing? Is this profiling? Yes, but we’re profiling behavior that can identify possible threat, not race or other possibly discriminatory categories. Failure to maintain awareness of your surroundings can cause you to cede the initiative to the aggressors.

Your defensive gun use is going to happen where/when it happens if you don’t see it coming and avoid it. Having a preconceived notion (fantasy?) of what the attacker(s) are going to look like and do, how many rounds you’re going to need, where it’s going to happen or the distance involved is setting yourself up for failure.

Novelist John Sanford had one of his characters make a statement that’s applicable: “I’ve never been over gunned. I have

been under gunned. After that happened, I reconceptualized.” “Under gunned” can mean having the wrong tool for the job at hand or running out of ammunition before you solve the problem. I personally reconceptualized decades ago. Still, I’ve had a couple of reminders about complacency. I’ve spent hours in classes on the mechanisms of wounding and incapacitation. There were a substantial number of cases where persons managed to still present an active threat despite literally being the walking dead. While the equipment may seem a burden, the only two times you’ll have too much ammunition is if you’re on fire or drowning. Magazine capacity matters—but also carry spares.

***“The mind is the weapon. What you use is a tool.”
Unknown (but true)***

Aggressor(s) will choose the circumstances of any confrontation. If you’re paying attention to what’s going on around you, you can avoid the aggressor(s) or possibly find a position where you have the advantage. If you don’t, the aggressor(s) have the advantage. At those very close ranges, whoever effectively moves first is going to win. In any case, the aggressor(s), and only the aggressor(s) decide when they are either incapacitated or they chose to flee and the situation ends. They may not agree with your fantasy of how they’re supposed to act. The only shot placement I know of that will instantly cause incapacitation and stops the threat involves the brain stem—not the brain—and a very few inches of the spinal cord. There are numerous documented cases of aggressors with other fatal wounds who continued their attacks. Medical experts advise that the brain and muscle tissues store enough oxygen for 10-15 seconds of directed physical activity. That can go longer depending upon rate of blood loss.

The final point here is that rounds somewhere aren’t necessarily going to stop the threat. You have to know where vital areas are and hit them until the threat ends. If multiple aggressors are involved, boarding house rules apply: everyone gets one helping before anyone gets seconds. Much better to avoid trouble, but also properly prepare to defeat it if you can’t avoid it.

***“Everyone has a plan ‘til they get punched in the mouth.”
Mike Tyson***

One last quote, this one from Helen Keller: “Safety is mostly a myth. It does not exist in nature and, as a whole, the children of man do not know it.” Insert “humans” if you find “the children of man” to be sexist.

Books and references I suggest: *Deadly Force Encounters, Second Edition*, Alexis Artwohl and Loren Christensen

Left of Bang, Patrick van Horne and Jason A. Riley,
blackirishbooks.com

www.tacticalanatomy.com (Tactical Anatomy, LLC) Click on the shop button and read Gunfight Myths.

What's Your (Second Amendment) Why?

by Jill McDaniel, Director of VCDL Academy

The Second Amendment, “the Right of the people to keep and bear Arms,” has stirred debate across the nation for decades. In Virginia, though, the conversation runs especially deep. As the birthplace of American liberty, Virginia has played a major role in revolution, rebellion, and resilience. With this in mind, we ask not just what you believe about the Second Amendment... but why?

Virginia's Founding Fathers, including George Mason and Thomas Jefferson, fiercely championed the right to bear arms as a safeguard against tyranny. Mason's Virginia Declaration of Rights (1776) directly influenced the U.S. Bill of Rights, asserting that “a well-regulated militia, composed of the body of the people... is the proper, natural, and safe defense of a free state.” For many Virginians, this isn't just history, it's heritage. It's our roots.

Some see the Second Amendment as a continuation of that legacy: a symbol of self-reliance, civic duty, and protection. Others, shaped by modern realities, advocate for its reform. They believe that the Founders' intent must evolve with today's challenges. Their “why,” sometimes stemming from personal loss, urban violence, or a desire to prevent tragedy, drives them to

pursue legislation that limits good people from fully exercising their Constitutional Right while arguing that these restrictions keep bad people from misusing this right.

As Second Amendment advocates, our civic duty isn't just about changing minds. It's also about understanding them. What shaped your stance? Was it a family tradition, a moment of fear, a principle of freedom, or a call for safety? Do you see the Second Amendment as a shield, a sword, or something else?

We invite Virginians to reflect and share their “why.” In a time of division over this topic, perhaps the path forward begins with empathy, but more so with education. Behind every opinion is a person. Behind every person is a reason.

Your voice matters. Your story matters. And your “why” might be the bridge that helps someone else understand WHY the Second Amendment is so important.

So, we'd love to hear from you: What's your “why” when it comes to the Second Amendment?

Email me, Jill McDaniel, VCDL Academy Director, at academy.director@vcdl.org to share your Why.



Clockwise from left: VCDL's Pat Webb and Jill McDaniel meet up with author Dan Wos and Cheryl Todd, owner of the Gun Freedom Radio Podcast; Bruce Jackson speaks with Stan, an attendee at GOALS; Jim Snyder with Pepper, the official VCDL Service Dog; Pat with Paul Glasco of the Legally Armed America YouTube channel.

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! Use a credit card or eCheck at vcdl.org/join.

***For family memberships, the primary member is \$25 annually and each additional member \$15 annually.** 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.

It's déjà vu all over again! I'm reminded of the 2019 election cycle when VCDL President Philip Van Cleave warned Virginia patriots that we were only ever one election cycle away from major gun control. The masses didn't believe it. They didn't show up at the polls to stand up for their rights, and in 2020 we saw the threat materialize.

Flash forward to today. Once again, our state races are a major battle. The entire Virginia House of Delegates is up for election, as are the seats for Governor, Lt. Governor and Attorney General.

The VCDL-PAC has a lot of work to do motivating the freedom-loving public to activate. We need your help! We are working on several major ad campaigns including mailings, social media ads, and more. All of this costs money. The more we can spend, the more people we can reach. Make no mistake, if the 2025 elections mirror the 2019 races, the 2026 legislative session will make 2020 look tame!

I'm asking you all to help us make a difference. We need your contributions, and we need you to help us get the word out. Here are some ways to help.

- Contribute to the VCDL-PAC at VCDL.org/Donate.
- Volunteer at gun shows to help us educate the public.
- Help us spread literature to like-minded people.
- Volunteer to help the campaigns of worthy candidates.
- Encourage your friends and family to do the same.

We dislike fundraising campaigns as much as you do, but sometimes there's no other choice. Let's not wait until the house is fully engulfed in flames before we buy a fire extinguisher. We must be proactive if we intend to preserve and restore our rights. Together we can turn the tide in Virginia and set an example for the rest of the nation.

Yours in Liberty,
Cathy McNickle
VCDL-PAC Chair





VIRGINIA CITIZENS DEFENSE LEAGUE
PO BOX 513
NEWINGTON VA 22122

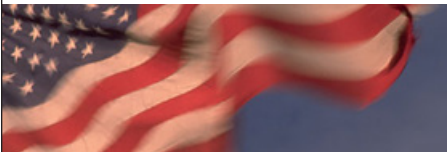
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**DEFENDING YOUR RIGHT
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August 2025

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Find us on social media
[Linktree.com/VCDL](https://linktree.com/VCDL)



Our moderators keep that
document updated to show
changing circumstances.

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Secretary	Pat Webb secretary@vcdl.org
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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