



Firing Lines

Fighting for your Second Amendment Rights since 1965

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

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Jan/Feb 2023

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Today!
SCOPEny2A.org**

"Guns are our friends because in a country without guns, I'm what's known as "prey." All females are."

Ann Coulter

The mission of S.C.O.P.E. is to Protect, Restore and Expand the gun rights of all New Yorkers.

Hochul to Double Down

By Tom Reynolds

In the recent NY Governor's race, Lee Zeldin and other Republican candidates made an unexpectedly strong showing, given that NY's voter enrollment is overwhelmingly Democrat. Democrats have 3.2 million more registered voters than Republicans but Zeldin lost by 378 thousand votes. Obviously, lots of independents and some Democrats voted Republican.

The unexpected closeness has caused a number of media "talking heads" to wonder if Governor Hochul will modify any of her positions given that many New Yorkers voted against her. I'm betting that Hochul and the Democrat legislature will do the opposite and continue or increase the ill-directed efforts, especially against 2nd Amendment rights, which is one of the main pillars of the Democrat party.

Hochul can look at the results and know that most major issues were against her and the Democrats at both the state and national level; crime, inflation, NY citizens moving to other states, taxes, regulations, to name a few. In addition, she was burdened by financial scandals and she was opposed by a very good, hard working candidate in Lee Zeldin. And yet she won comfortably; 378 thousand is a lot of votes when less than 6 million were cast.

Hochul is probably feeling unbeatable because she has some big assets on her side.

She knows - if she did not already - that high population cities and especially inner-city minorities will continue to reliably vote Democrat. It seems that nothing will be bad enough to stop them from voting Democrat. Inner-cities have the worst

schools, the worst crime rates, the worst economies and the worst poverty, but they reliably vote Democrat. Major cities in New York have been controlled by Democrats for years but inner cities don't seem to make a connection.

In addition, Hochul has a relatively reliable ally in the media, which is overwhelmingly leftist. The only time they will turn against Democrats is if it benefits their bigger leftist agenda. Stay leftist and don't personally become a drag on the leftist movement and the media will provide cover.

Anti-gun Democrats control New York's Legislature, Governor's Office, Courts of Appeals, the Albany bureaucracy and the media. Hochul and the Democrat legislature know they can pass laws that appeal to their base, even if the laws are unconstitutional and hurt New York State—rather than help it. Pay to play in New York is not a problem, if you pay Hochul.

The media will provide her cover and the legislature will ignore anything, so her attitude is "what are you gonna do about it". Sue her? You will need deep pockets while Hochul has deeper pockets - called taxpayers.

Sounds like a good time to leave New York.

Be careful where you go since many Democrat controlled states are like New York; they are passing the same laws since they, too, are controlled by big cities which always vote Democrat. And they are working hard at changing things on a national level.

And other countries? Forget it. Most other governments want a gun free country, except for the government's guns. And they're not big on those free speech

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Firing Lines allows S.C.O.P.E. to keep members informed on issues in regards to defense of the 2nd Amendment, in particular, and the Constitution in general. It is also an opportunity for members to voice their opinions and concerns on those subjects; as such, it contains a variety of personal opinions. It should not be taken as representing the official position of S.C.O.P.E. or its officers and members unless so stated. Readers should remember that it is not meant to constitute legal advice

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SCOPE CHAPTER INFORMATION

go to www.SCOPEny2a.org/chapters
for your local meeting information

If you do not see your county listed below;
Contact Don Smith for information
don6027@gmail.com

Allegany Chapter
Chairman Jim Krywalski
scope.allegany.chair@gmail.com
716.913.8176
Meetings 3rd Tuesday 7:00pm
Angelica Conservation Club

Capital District/Saratoga Chapter:
Albany/Columbia/Greene/Schenectady/Rensselaer/Saratoga
Chairman Rich Chapman
richiechap@me.com

Cattaraugus Chapter
Chairman Mike Wesley
mswesley@localnet.com
Meetings 2nd Thursday 7:00pm
American Legion Post 531,
Little Valley

Cayuga Chapter
Jim Dishaw
dishawjp@gmail.com
315.255.3315

Chautauqua Chapter
Chairman Will Conta

Newsletter Deadline for the Firing Lines

Firing Lines is printed every two months. The deadlines are **January 15, March 15, May 15, July 15, September 15 and November 15.**

We do take articles from you, our members. They are subject to editing for spelling and grammar. We also reserve the right not to print the article.

Articles should be emailed as a file. Text or basic Word document formats are preferred. Please pictures in JPG format. NO PDF files. Thank You

716.857.0382
will.conta@charter.net
Meetings 3rd Tuesday 7:00pm
VFW Post 8647 Mayville

Erie Chapter
Chairman Nick Brzezniak
beefree60@yahoo.com
716.583.5394
Meetings 3rd Thursday 7:00pm
Jan/Mar/May/Jul/Sep/Nov
Thomas E. Tchan Post 1449
2075 Electric Ave., Blasdell

Genesee Chapter
Chairman Jim Tuttle
Tuttlej507@gmail.com
716-474-4454
Meetings 2nd Tuesday 7:00pm
Sportsman Coon Club
8770 Hopkins Rd., Batavia

Jefferson-Lewis Chapter
Chairman C. Bruce Kingsley
cbkingsley@tds.net
315.649.3424

Monroe Chapter
Vice-Chairman Jay Cunningham
jboy55@reagan.com
Meetings 4th Tuesday 7:00pm
Elks Lodge 24, Henrietta

Oneida-Herkimer Chapter
Chairman Bohdan Rabarsky
bohdan1@roadrunner.com
315.733.2720
Meetings 2nd Monday 7:00pm
Fraternal Order of Eagles
Club, Deerfield

Ontario Chapter
Contact Gary Zielinski
Cdga157@aol.com

Orleans Chapter
Chairman David Thom
orlctychair@gmail.com
585.589.6918
Meetings 2nd Tuesday 7:00pm
Hoag Library, Albion

Schoharie Chapter
Chairman Joe Kopacz
jkopacz04@gmail.com
518.813.7024
Meetings 3rd Thursday 7:00pm
Alternate venue every 3 months
Jan/Feb/March/Jul/Aug/Sep:
Carlisle Town Hall, Carlisle
Apr/May/Jun/Oct Nov:
Middleburgh R&G Club,
Middleburgh

Schuyler Chapter
Chairman Steven Getman
scopeschuyler@gmail.com
607.288.3220
Meetings 1st Thursday 7:00pm
Jan/March/May/Oct
Moose Lodge, Montour Falls

Seneca Chapter
Chairman Frank Capozzi
fcapozzi1@rochester.rr.com
315.568.8054
Meetings N. Seneca
Sportsmen's Club, Phelps
www.SCOPEny2A.org for meeting updates

Steuben Chapter
Chairman Doug Mitchell
dmitch7664@stny.rr.com
607.359.2928
Meetings 1st & 3rd Mondays 7:00pm
Bath Rod & Gun Club, Bath

Wayne Chapter
Chairman Don Smith
don6027@gmail.com
315.398.0195
Meetings 2nd Wednesday 7:00pm
Marion American
Legion, Marion

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Mail: PO Box 133 Warsaw, NY 14569

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kjwrattman68@yahoo.com
585.297.8203
Meetings 2nd Thursday 7:00pm
5 Point Rod & Gun Club, Wyoming

Yates Chapter
Chairman John Prendergast
jpr3nder66@outlook.com
315.694.0481



And / Or Unusual

By Don Smith

The Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) has decided that a gun ban is legal if an arm is dangerous AND unusual but not if an arm is dangerous OR unusual. You have to have both elements to ban a gun.

In District of Columbia v. Heller, 554 U. S. 570, 582 (2008) SCOTUS held that guns or arms are protected that are commonly possessed for **all lawful purposes including self-defense**.

In McDonald v. Chicago, 561 U. S. 742, 750 (2010) SCOTUS decided that this Second Amendment right is fully applicable to state and local governments.

In Caetano v. Massachusetts, 470 Mass. 774, 777, 26 N. E. 3d 688, 691 (2015) SCOTUS then reinforced that the Second Amendment extends, prima facie, to all instruments that constitute bearable arms, **even those arms that were not in existence** at the time of the founding.

In 2022's NYSRPA v. Bruen, SCOTUS struck down New York State's unconstitutional concealed carry law that required an individual to prove "proper cause" existed before a license to concealed carry would be issued.

All guns are dangerous; that's their purpose. So, the first part of the definition is met by all guns. If the definition were dangerous **OR** unusual, all guns would be illegal.

As to what is "unusual", consider the case brought by Jaime Caetano who was convicted of possessing a stun gun in violation of Massachusetts's blanket ban on civilian stun gun possession. (She carried the stun gun in her purse for protection from her dangerously abusive ex-boyfriend.) The Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts upheld the Massachusetts law prohibiting the possession of stun guns. They ruled that, since it didn't exist in 1789 and wasn't in common use then, it wasn't protected by the Second Amendment. However, on March 21, 2016, SCOTUS vacated the Massachusetts Court ruling.

If the government can only ban arms that are "unusual", what type of arms can the government ban? If an arm is commonly possessed and commonly used, it cannot possibly be considered unusual. There were only about 200,000 stun guns known to be commonly possessed when Caetano was decided. Yet bans of one sort or another are threatened on tens of millions of semiautomatic rifles and pistols in common possession & use as well as magazines capable of holding more than 10 rounds.

If you show that semiautomatic handguns are commonly owned and used by millions of Americans (they are) then they certainly are not unusual. Therefore, the same logic must also apply to the large capacity magazines and ammo that semiautomatic rifles & pistols use:

- The Supreme Court said we are not bound by 18th

century arms. We get modern-day arms.

- Semiautomatic arms are not "unusual" because they are commonly owned and thus cannot possibly be considered "unusual."
- Commonly owned modern semiautomatic rifles & pistols use commonly owned magazines. Without them, the arms are not semi-automatic.
- Ammunition is needed to utilize magazines. Without ammunition the magazines are useless.
- Since an integral part of semiautomatic firearms are their magazines and their ammunition, all are commonly owned & commonly possessed and they cannot constitutionally be banned since the government cannot meet the "unusual" standard.

In addition, these weapons are commonly possessed and used for self defense, which is a need also recognized by the Supreme Court in Heller.

Consider these thoughts by Mark W. Smith, @FourBoxsDiner, which reinforce these ideas.

"The most important thing we can do, as I see it, is to get a Supreme Court decision that says semiautomatic arms are protected arms. They clearly are but it would be nice to have a Supreme Court decision that robustly unequivocally holds that and also deals with magazines."

"...by definition semiautomatic pistols require magazines...with bullets, if you don't have a magazine that can feed ammunition into the gun, you have a single shot firearm that is clearly not the key to the Second Amendment...we need magazines and bullets to effectuate our right to self-defense and other lawful purposes. Otherwise you really have single shot firearms..."

"Once magazines fall under the textual definition of arms, which I think they clearly do just like bullets do, the burden of proof shifts to the government to show through historical tradition dating back to the 18th century that limitations on firearm capacity are long-standing traditional restrictions on our right to keep and bear arms."

"The only conceivable legal test that the Supreme Court has said that touches fingers with any kind of a gun ban or arms bans, which includes magazines and ammunition bans because they are all arms, is can the government demonstrate historically since the late 18th century, that dangerous and unusual arms were banned and that there were specific historical analogues banning either firearms or ammunition or multi-shot firearms or repeating firearms."

"Note that the Girandoni air rifle brought by Lewis and Clark on the expedition during the presidency of Thomas Jefferson held somewhere between 20 and 24 rounds. So, our forefathers were well aware of firearms

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Members' meeting

SCOPE's annual Members' Meeting will be held on April 29th at 10:00 AM at the Montour Falls Moose Club (2096 Route 14, Montour Falls, NY 14865). Nearby is the Watkins Glen State Park and the Watkins Glen Race Track. The meeting is open to all members and includes lunch.

The unconstitutional activities of the Hochul regime have led to a barrage of lawsuits, which have ever changing status. This meeting gives members an opportunity to be updated on the status of and ask questions about these lawsuits as well as meet SCOPE's officers and get updated on SCOPE's activities. In addition, guest speakers will be adding additional insights.

Per Doctors for Responsible Gun Ownership's

(DRGO's) web site, *"Medical associations have been insinuating an anti-gun political agenda into the patient-doctor relationship for decades... Worse, many physicians commit boundary violations by pressing anti-gun messages on patients. Frankly, medicine has an institutional bias against guns."*

Their web site further states that DRGO *"...is a nationwide network of physicians, health professionals and others who support the safe and lawful use of firearms."*

DRGO's Dr. Robert Young, a practicing psychiatrist, will be one of our speakers at the Members' Meeting. Dr. Young, a SCOPE member, speaks and is frequently interviewed and writes articles about guns, from a doctor's perspective. He corrects many of the medical profession's misrepresentations about firearms.

The leftist politicians and media like to focus

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rights, either.

The USA is the strongest most powerful country in the history of the world. Our standard of living has been the envy of the world. Our science and culture lead the world. And we have been the freest nation in history, too. Any connection to those 1st and 2nd Amendments? (Of which the left wants desperately to rid themselves.)

But before leaving with their tail between their legs, Sarah Palin had a better strategy: "Don't retreat – reload."

Hochul has a lot of ammunition but we, also, have a very big one.

Hochul won with 3.1 million votes. There is estimated to be about 5.5 million gun owners in New York State. Given New York City's gun laws, the majority of those gun owners will be in upstate New York. If gun owners would get politically active, we would be the most powerful political lobby in New York State.

The answer is right in front of us. We don't need a shooting war. We don't need to burn down buildings and loot stores. We don't need to buy politicians. All we have to do is vote and the politicians will come to us.

Oh wait. Many gun owners hate politics. They would rather move than learn something about the issues and actually vote. They are going to show their disapproval by not getting involved. Brilliant strategy!!!!

Someone once said, seventy-five percent of life is just showing up.

Georgia has had two recent special Senate elections after the November election did not produce a winner. The elections were a BIG deal since control of the US Senate hung in the balance in each and the Democrat eventually won. In the first one, 250 thousand fewer Republicans voted in the special election than voted in the

one a few weeks before. In the second special election, 200 thousand fewer Republicans voted in the special election than voted in the one a few weeks before. If Republicans had just shown up, the last two years would have been very different without Chuck Schumer leading an anti-gun Democrat controlled Senate.

Hundreds of thousands of dollars are being spent on multiple lawsuits challenging Hochul's laws. And half of that is taxpayer dollars defending the unconstitutional. It would have been a lot cheaper to have voted.

The media will still be a problem but Elon Musk's purchase of Twitter is a start. Like him or not, and however it turns out, Twitter will not be the extreme leftist organization that it was and people may be tweeted "the rest of the story."

And some reports have the New York Times in financial trouble! (That Capitalist system will get you!) Of course, the federal government will try and throw it a lifesaver since it can't afford to lose its biggest propaganda arm.

We've got some ammunition and we have about two years until the next big election. It's going to take that time to get gun owners to change and get motivated. SCOPE will be doing everything it can. And we can be sure that Kathy Hochul will find new ways to attack our rights protected by the Constitution, which will give us even more impetus.

And of course, Hochul is a liberal and liberal policies never work! Which is why they need to be sure civilians are unarmed.

You can be sure that SCOPE will be doing its part to turn this around. We need your help. Now is not the time to be a "Sunshine Soldier and Summer Patriot."

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exclusively on the gun when there is a shooting and ignore that the root cause of many incidents is not gun ownership but psychological problems. As a psychiatrist, Dr. Young gives us a chance to get deeper insight into and understanding about psychological issues and not just the left's abridged versions.

Dr Young has an article on suppressors in this edition of the Firing Lines.

Also speaking will be Assemblyman Phil Palmesano, who represents the 132nd District. He was first elected in 2010 and has spoken, often, at various SCOPE Chapter meetings.

No one who has ever heard him speak will accuse him of being "laid back". He speaks passionately about the issues.

When the Safe Act was passed, Palmesano was leading rallies against it. He is against the 2019 dangerous bail and discovery acts which started a dangerous trend and rise in violence. When Hochul passed her unconstitutional Concealed Carry Improvement Act, he introduced legislation against it. And he has interesting ideas such as the New York government should do a cost-benefit analysis of the programs and laws it passes.

An attorney will give a short presentation about the structure of the federal and state court systems and how various court decisions have a different impact.

State Republican Chairman and newly elected Congressman Nick Langworthy has also expressed an interest in speaking, if his schedule allows .

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that held dozens of rounds."

"The government can't prove that magazines are dangerous and unusual because they can't prove 'unusual'. Why can't they prove these are unusual? Because there are millions, if not tens or hundreds of millions of magazines that hold more than 10 rounds."

"Therefore, semi-automatic rifles and large capacity magazines are protected by the Constitution because they are both commonly possessed and commonly used by Americans for lawful purposes."

"The Heller decision said that guns or arms that are commonly possessed for all lawful purposes including self defense are protected. The Supreme Court also struck down the trigger lock requirement in DC saying you then have a hammer not a gun and the purpose of a gun is to have it at the ready loaded and unlocked so if you need to use it you can use it."

"The Bruen decision dealt with self defense outside the home. It elaborated and strengthened the Heller decision. It pointed out how to do the Heller test properly which is to start with the text of the Second Amendment and then go to the history, where the government bears the burden of showing the historical tradition of the regulation being attempted."

Other speakers have been known to drop in. Last year, NY Governor Candidate Lee Zeldin, unexpectedly, dropped in and spoke.

The reservation for this meeting is included in this Firing Lines.

We look forward to meeting and talking with you.

Reservation form for members meeting on page 22

Pistol Permit Recertification

By Tom Reynolds

If you read our emails from SCOPE, you know that NY State has been changing the date on which Pistol Permits had to be recertified. Permits that had five (5) years to recertify have been changed to three (3) years.

I checked mine and it was true!

I have a piece of paper that I copied off of the New York State Police (NYSP) web site, when I recertified, that says my recertification date is August 2027.

Being warned, I went to that same web site. I now have a piece of paper, copied off of the same State Police web site, that says my recertification is now due on August 2025.

Apparently, a lot of people were as surprised as I was about the change in recertification dates. SCOPE's email was burning up after members checked their recertification date. We obviously believe that this was done "behind our backs".

Pistol Permit holders were surprised because they believed that if they recertified before September 1st, it would be 5 years to recertification. Why did they believe that? Because when they recertified, the response from NY State Police (NYSP) had a 5 years renewal date. That, very reasonably, strengthened their belief that they had 5 years.

As of January 19th, there has not been, to my knowledge, any public statement by the NYSP that the 5 years recertification dates that licensees had been given were no longer valid and had been unilaterally changed to 3 years.

If the government passed some subsequent law that changed any other license or permit, we would reasonably expect some kind of notification and public statement. But it did not happen with firearms. (Merely an oversight in a state that hates the 2nd Amendment?)

In similar instances where a subsequent law changes an expiration date, the original date is left in place

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Fully Informed Jury

By Richard Rossi

Rethink your ideas about jury duty.

Douglas Buchanan wrote: "*The primary function of the independent juror is not, as many think, to dispense punishment to fellow citizens accused of breaking various laws, but rather to protect fellow citizens from tyrannical abuse of power by government.*" (Emphasis added.)

Want to avoid Jury Duty? Think of it in the way Buchanan wrote; you are protecting you and your fellow citizens from a tyrannical government. That should be especially meaningful here in New York State where the governor and the legislature pass laws to suppress our 2nd Amendment rights and would punish those that dare oppose them.

We can stand up for our Rights and Freedoms against legislators and judges who dictate laws that are unjust. One important way is the right of juries to exercise Jury Nullification. It is not something that Judges, District Attorneys, and Prosecutors readily speak about.

Cornell's Law School's Legal Information Institute writes: "*Jury nullification refers to a jury's knowing and deliberate rejection of the evidence or refusal to apply the law either because the jury wants to send a message about some social issue that is larger than the case itself, or because the result dictated by law is contrary to the jury's sense of justice, morality, or fairness. Essentially, with jury nullification, the jury returns a "not guilty" verdict even if jurors believe beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant broke the law. This can occur because a not guilty verdict cannot be overturned and jurors are protected regardless of their verdicts.*"(Note: while "jurors are protected", that protection is not absolute.)

Juror nullification is your right to refuse to enforce what you believe to be unjust or unconstitutional laws. Nullification is your right to veto corrupt laws. You can protect yourself, friends, family and neighbors, by refusing to enforce bad/unjust laws.

You have every right to vote 'Not Guilty', according to one of the writers of the Federalist Papers, Alexander Hamilton. He wrote in 1804 *that jurors should acquit even against the judge's instruction... "if exercising their judgment with discretion and honesty they have a clear conviction that the charge of the court is wrong."*

In our system of checks and balances, you, the juror, are the final judge of law and justice. Jurors have that power via Jury Nullification.

If a juror's personal convictions say this is an unjust law, jurors can use discretion. If the law violates any our rights, jurors can vote no against that law by voting 'Not Guilty'. If you preserve and hold to your convictions, you can make our democracy work for every

person. Only one 'Not Guilty' vote can be the difference. A 'hung Jury', is better than a conviction under an unjust law!

Jurors must question the law - In American courtrooms there are 12 judges plus the one in the robe. In fact, one court ruled, "*If the jury feels that the law under which the defendant, is accused is unjust... or for any reason which appeals to their logic or passion, the jury has the power to acquit and the courts must abide by that decision.*" (U.S. V Moylan 427 F 2d 1002, 1006, 1969)

When these kinds of rejections of enforcement of laws accumulate over time, the laws become unenforceable. For example, the Fugitive Slave Laws and alcohol prohibition. Eventually, it becomes no longer worth the time or trouble for government officials to try to enforce these laws.

Self-protection is a natural and constitutional right that our government does not have the legal right to take away. If you are on the jury, you can vote 'Not Guilty' to any and all laws that infringe our rights, as a Law-abiding firearm owner, to the self-defense of ourselves and others.

Jury Nullification can be a peaceful tool that protects Law-abiding firearm owners from being unconstitutionally disarmed.

The next time you receive a juror duty notice, stand up and cheer. You are one of the most powerful individuals in our country. You can make a difference. You can ensure that our Rights and Freedoms are maintained through Jury Nullification.

Jury Nullification is empowering the jury as a Fourth branch of government.

I encourage each and every one, to read and understand all you can concerning 'Jury Nullification'. Go to "WWW.FIJA.ORG"

Niagara County Advisory Panel

By Ed Pettit

The Niagara County Gun Owners Rights Advisory Panel was created by unanimous vote of the Niagara County Legislature on April 20, 2021. The gun vote in Niagara County is very strong and since it was a county election year, this resolution was proposed and supported by our legislators in order to appeal to gun owners.

The genesis of this resolution was the work that 2A advocacy organizations have been doing over

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many years with Niagara County on affecting policy important to gun owners. From making recommendations on Pistol Permit Department staffing and policies to creating the Pistol Permit Fast Track Process for people under threat, key legislators felt a more formal panel would help to ensure the county was doing its best to address issues important to gun owners.

The panel is not an advocacy group, per se, but a conduit between the gun rights advocacy groups and local government. Its purpose is to address issues important to gun owners while helping county government make policy that protects the rights of gun owners.

Objectives of the Panel:

- To Identify ways for the county to support legal gun ownership.
- Make recommendations for resolutions and local laws.
- Propose process improvements to county functions affecting gun owners.
- Promote safe, legal gun ownership.

The panel consists of a Legislator who is Co-Chair; a citizen Co-Chair and four volunteer panel members.

Potential volunteers submitted applications to their legislator and were then chosen by the co-chairs and approved by the Chair of the Legislature.

One panel member is the owner of a Gun Store, another is president of a Gun Club, another is former Law Enforcement Officer and the last one is a hunter safety instructor and a former deputy supervisor of a local town.

The panel meets monthly, in person or by conference call, to review action items or develop new items that need to be addressed. The Citizen Co-chair manages the meetings. The Legislative Co-chair takes official proposals forward to the appropriate county department or to the legislature if a resolution or funding is proposed.

There have been some key accomplishments in a short time;

*Reducing Pistol Permit Application Approval Backlog, post-Covid. The panel identified that the cities of Niagara Falls & North Tonawanda had investigation backlogs of over 2 years and recommended adding a part time investigator, reporting to the Niagara County Sheriff, who could focus on the backlogs.

*Cross Registration of Handguns. Formerly, Niagara County's policy was to only allow cross-registration among family members living in the same household. Our work led to the judges relaxing that policy and opened it up to non-cohabitant family members.

*Resolution Opposing CCIA. The Panel recommended and wrote a resolution for passage by the Niagara County Legislature to oppose the CCIA, authorize

legal or legislative action, and to call for cooperation with other counties to actively oppose unconstitutional gun control laws from the State. This was passed in September, and Niagara County is currently involved in a lawsuit.

The Gun Owners Rights Advisory Panel greatly increased the access of Niagara County's 2A advocacy groups to the county government. Our recommendations are given great respect and deference as being the "voice of the citizens." Our strategy has been to start small and bring up simple issues to address. We were thus prepared to address the CCIA issue much faster since we already were established and had a year of operation.

I believe most counties could benefit by such an advisory panel as a mechanism for helping gun owners. The key is to start with pro-2A legislators to bring forth a resolution to create the panel. Niagara County will help in any way possible.

Following is a copy of the resolution:

WHEREAS, Niagara County has a long, proud tradition as a community that strongly supports the Second Amendment and the rights of gun owners, and

WHEREAS, in recent years, there seems to be constant efforts at the state and federal level to chip away at the rights of gun owners, adopting rules and regulations in the name of public safety that do nothing to keep the public safe and instead create barriers for legal gun ownership, and

WHEREAS, while Niagara County has consistently passed resolutions opposing such actions, there is a desire to find more concrete ways to support legal gun ownership within the enumerated powers of county government, and

WHEREAS, a Gun Owner's Rights Advisory Panel is one way to engage with the legal gun owner community, and

WHEREAS, such a panel could, among other actions, make recommendations to the Niagara County Legislature for resolutions and local laws propose process improvements to things like pistol permitting, and help promote overall safe, legal gun ownership in Niagara County, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Niagara County Legislature creates a Gun Owner's Rights Advisory Panel, and be it further

RESOLVED, all appointments to the panel are to be made by the Chairman of the Legislature, and all Niagara County Legislators are invited to submit names for consideration.

www.SCOPEny2A.org

ERPO's Unconstitutional

By Tom Reynolds

Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPO) are a way for government officials to take away the 2nd Amendment rights of individuals who have not committed any crime.

In January, Justice Thomas E. Moran of the Monroe County Supreme Court ruled that New York's Extreme Risk Protection Order laws, (Red Flag laws) are unconstitutional and declined to issue an ERPO.

In a 10 page decision, Justice Moran cited the United States Supreme Court decisions in Heller, McDonald and NYSRPA v Bruen.

He applied the Bruen Standard that a law must be consistent with the country's historical tradition of firearms regulations.

Very importantly, the justice noted that many safeguards of due process -which were included in other situations -were not included in New York's red flag laws:

- Red Flag laws and the New York Mental Hygiene Law use the same definition for "*likely to result in serious harm*". Under the New York Mental Hygiene Law, those determinations are made by a doctor, who is a person licensed trained and experienced in making such determinations. Under New York Red Flag laws, most of the authorized petitioners are not doctors and are not licensed, trained or experienced in making that determination.
- Under the Mental Hygiene Law, two doctors are required to make the determination if a person's liberty is to be taken away for more than 48

hours. Under Red Flag laws, not even one doctor is required before a person loses their constitutionally protected gun rights for one year.

- Under the Mental Hygiene Law, civil detention of certain dangerous sex offenders, after they have served their sentence, is permitted. However, the convicted sex offender is entitled to a court appointed free attorney, a state-funded psychiatrist to assist in the defense, a probable cause hearing within 30 days and a full jury trial before the convicted sex offender's liberty can be taken away. Under New York's Extreme Risk Protection order Laws, none of those protections exist.
- When mental health issues have formed the basis for a loss of fundamental Constitutional rights, New York laws have always provided a number of substantive and procedural due process protections. Under New York's ERPO laws, none of these are provided.

The Court reiterated a statement from the Supreme Court that Second Amendment rights are not a second class constitutional right.

We all want dangerous individuals prevented from injuring others but that desire is not license for the government to take away constitutional rights. History tells us that governments abuse laws aimed at protecting people and, instead, use them as a way to deprive people who oppose the government of their fundamental rights. (See the Sedition Acts under John Adams and Woodrow Wilson for examples.)

Without question, New York will be appealing this decision and defending another unconstitutional law on the taxpayers' dime.

S.C.O.P.E. Inc.

Shooters Committee On Political Education
PO Box 165, East Aurora, NY 14052

Application for Associate Club Membership in S.C.O.P.E., Inc.

S.C.O.P.E. does not sell, give away, or allow others to use your club information.

DATE: _____

DUES: _____ 1-99 Members: \$25 / Over 100 Members: \$50.00 / Sponsor (receives plaque) \$200.00

Organization Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____ County: _____

City / State / Zip: _____ Phone: _____

*Club Email Address: _____

Club Website: _____

*Please ensure we have an email contact for your club. This will enable us to keep you up to date on information regarding our Second Amendment rights.

SCOPE Member Clubs

The following are clubs that are members of SCOPE. If you plan to join a club, please try to join one that is a SCOPE member. If your club would like to become a SCOPE club member please give SCOPE a call or drop us an E-mail.

5 Point Rod & Gun Club
Adirondack Federation
of Sports Clubs
AFNYST Batavia Chapter
Alabama Hunt Club
Allegany County Federation
of Sportsmen
Allied Sportsmen of WNY
Almond Rod & Gun Club
Angelica Conservation Club
A-ON-DO-WA-NUH
Sportsman Club
Assoc. of Former NYS Troopers,
Baldwinsville Rod & Gun Club
Barre Sportsmens Club
Batavia Rod & Gun Club
Bath Rod & Gun Club,
Black Rock Fish & Game Club,
Blasdell Rod & Gun Club
Bog Trotters Rifle & Pistol Club
Boonville Rod & Gun Club,
Branchport Rod & Gun Club
Broome County Sportsmen's Assoc.,
Buckhorn Sportsmens Club
Canajoharie Forest
Fish & Game Club
Caribou Rifle & Pistol Club,
Cattaraugus Rod & Gun Club,
Chemung County Fed of Sportsmen
Chemung County Rod & Gun Club
Chesterfield Fish & Game Club,
Community Conservation Club
Conservation Club of Brockport
Dalton Gang Sportsmen Club
Deer Search of WNY
Deerfield Fish & Game Club
Depew Rod & Gun Club
Dutchess County Pistol Association
Dutchess County
Sportsman Association
East Hook Sportsmen Assn.,
Elbridge Rod & Gun Club
Essex County Fish & Game League
Evans Rod & Gun Club
Federated Sportsman's Club of

Cattaraugus County
Franklinville Conservation Club
Genesee Co. Federation
of Sportsman Clubs
Genesee Co. Fish & Game
Protective Assoc,
Genesee Valley Conservation Club
Genesee/Wyoming
Pheasants Forever #843
Glen-Coe Conservation Society,
Gouverneur Rod & Gun Club
Gowanda Rifle Club
Grand Island Rod & Gun Club,
Greenway Verona Mills
Fish & Game Club
Hamburg Rod & Gun Club
Harder O'Donnell Post
734 American Legion
Hawkeye Bowman,
Hidden Lake Conservation
Association
Hidden Valley Lodge
Hoisingtons NY Ranging Co. 1776
Holley Rod & Gun Club
Honeoye Fish & Game Club
Hornell Sportsman Club
Ilion Fish & Game Club
Indian Lake/Blue Mtn.
Fish & Game Assoc
Iroquois Rod & Gun Club
Junior Wilson Sportsmen Club
Lackawanna Conservation
Lake Forest Sportsman Club,
Lima Gun Club
Lime Lake Sportsman's Club
Lodi Rod & Gun Club
Long Lake Fish & Game Club
Mendon Conservation League
Middleburgh Rod & Gun Club
Millgrove Sportsmen's Club,
Millport Hunting & Fishing Club
Neighbors Gun Club
New Paltz Rod & Gun Club,
Newark Rod & Gun Club
Newfield Rod & Gun Club,
Niagara County Sportsmen's
Association
North Seneca Sportsmen's Club
North Star Sportsman's Club,
Northern Chautauqua
Rifle & Pistol Club
Northern Dutchess Rod & Gun Club,
Northwoods Sportsmen Association
NY Houndsmen Conservation
Association

Oakfield Rod & Gun Club
Oatka Fish & Game Club,
Olean Rod & Gun Club,
Ontario Rod & Gun Club,
Painted Post Field & Stream Club
Point Rock Fish & Game Club
Pulaski Police Association
Richfield Sportsmen's Club
Ripley Rod & Gun Club
Rochester Rifle Club
Roslyn Rifle & Revolver Club
Safari Club Int., WNY Chapter
SaraSpa Rod & Gun Club
Scio Rod & Gun Club
Second Amendment For EVER,
Seneca Co. Fed of Sportsmen's Clubs
Shortsville Rod & Gun Club
Sons of American Legion
Squadron 734
South Bristol
Fish & Game Association,
South Seneca Sportsmens Club
Sportsmans Coon Hunters
Association
Sportsmen's Club of Clifton Park
Springville Field & Stream Club,
Square Deal Sportsmen,
Stamford Rod & Gun Club,
Steuben Co. Federation of
Conservation Clubs
Syracuse Pistol Club
Tonawandas Sportsmens Club
Trumansburg Rifle & Pistol Club
Tupper Lake Sportsmens Club
Twin City Shooting Club
Vernon Rod & Gun Club
Walden Sportsmen's Club
Waterloo Rifle & Pistol Club,
Wellsville Rod & Gun Club
Westfield Fish & Game Club,
Williamson Conservation
& Sporting Club
Wolcottsville Sportsman's Club
Wyoming County Conservation
Wyoming County Wildlife Federation
Yates County Federation of
Conservation Clubs
Yates County Sportsmens Association

www.SCOPEny2A.org

SCOPE Chapter Activities

By Susan Maressa

To find your county's meeting information go to SCOPEny2a.org/calendar or go to your chapter's page of the website SCOPEny2a.org/chapters.

SCOPE is a 'boots on the ground' organization and we need your boots! We want a chapter in every county to work with our elected officials. If your county does not have an active SCOPE chapter and you are willing to help form a County Committee and subsequently an active Chapter, please contact Don Smith at don6027@gmail.com.

The following is an update of some of our chapter's activities.

Allegany County: Held their meeting at the Angelica Conservation Club on September 20th.

The main portion of the meeting involved discussing a lawsuit challenging Kathy Hochul's Concealed Carry Improvement Act, or CCIA. In a decision, Judge Suddaby pointed out that the laws will probably fail because parts of the law are unconstitutional.

On October 18th, a big *Thank You* went out to all the Allegany SCOPE chapter members. Results from the state SCOPE 5-gun raffle were in and Allegany SCOPE (along with Genesee SCOPE) sold the most tickets. One of the Allegany members also purchased one of the winning tickets!

Nick Massal spoke about the special meeting held at the Angelica Conservation Club, concerning the new semi-automatic and pistol permit laws. A lot of good information came about in the meeting and Nick's summarization was very informative.

Voter ID, elections and AUDITNY's website about voter statistics were the topics of conversation. Chairman Jim Krywalski went to AUDITNY's website and downloaded a copy of the Allegany Co. voting statistics; many irregularities were present.

On November 15th; the results of the November 8th election were discussed. Ideas of a future raffle of an Amish-made rocker were discussed, which we will be further explored. Dates were given for upcoming meetings.

The December 20th meeting was also a Christmas gathering; good food and good conversation.

Cattaraugus County: Held their monthly meeting at the Little Valley American Legion on September 8th. Upcoming events include: West Valley Gun Raffle; Morton's Corner's Fire Co. Sportsman's Raffle; Annual SCOPE Banquet. All have volunteers to work booths.

The SCOPE Banquet basket is complete for the raffle and Mike & Sue Wesley will be attending to represent Cattaraugus SCOPE.

The guest speaker was Joseph Giglio, NYS

Assemblyman for the 148th district. Mr. Giglio talked about the attack in Albany on our way of life. He has never seen such partisanship in Albany as there is now. He noted that there is supposed to be 3 days to review a bill before that bill is voted on unless the governor says it is a message of necessity. The new Gun Laws were voted on without the 3 day review. Mr. Giglio noted that we need to VOTE in order to change things in Albany!!! He also answered questions on various issues such as the Dominion voting machines and upcoming changes in the building codes



Senator George Borrello and
Cattaraugus County SCOPE chairman
Mike Wesley

Senator George Borrello was the guest speaker at the October 13th meeting; he covered a variety of topics including

- Inflation and how politicians need to take economic classes.
- Proposed Isolation/Quarantine Law: law suit that was filed and won due to no due process
- Redistricting Law suit
- Attorney General's focus on Trump and NRA
- New Gun Law lawsuits where the court has thrown out 80% of the laws
- Status of States of emergency by Governor

He also passed out a flyer from the State Police on "Frequently asked questions regarding recent changes to the NYS Firearm laws"

On December 8th, Cattaraugus County held their annual SCOPE Christmas Party.

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Cattaraugus County SCOPE president Mike Wesley (right) and treasurer Jim Land (left) presented a donation to American Legion Post 531 in gratitude for allowing SCOPE meetings to be held there. Mike and Jim also presented Cattaraugus County Sheriff deputy Sgt. Tonya Dry a check for the annual Sheriff's Santa Fund.



Erie county chapter officers and members at the September 17th banquet.

Erie County: The Erie County chapter has consistently added new members thanks to the continued presentations of local and regional political candidates at meetings. In October, Steven Sams II (candidate for the 26th Congressional district) and David DiPietro both spoke at the meeting. Sheriff John Garcia was scheduled to speak in November.

Meetings will now be held on the 3rd Thursdays of every other month; Starting in January: January/March/ May/July/September/November 2023. Meeting information is posted at www.SCOPEny2a.org/ Erie

Genesee County: Was gracious enough to host the SCOPE Annual Banquet on September 17th. Chairman Jim Tuttle, Secretary Kathryn Seweryniak and Genesee County

members put together a wonderful event.

They carried this momentum into their October meeting by discussing participation in upcoming events.

Hochul's unconstitutional gun laws: AG Letitia James support of these laws and the subsequent lawsuits filed were main topics of the meeting, along with a final push to get people out to vote. For those not in attendance at the SCOPE Banquet, a summary of what was said by Joe Pinion and Claudia Tenney was given.

At the meeting on November 8th, previous shows/events were discussed (there is nothing coming up until February of 2023). The SCOPE Banquet was also discussed, especially Claudia Tenney and Joe Pinion, both of whom were fabulous speakers with a lot of information. A discussion on the upcoming election results concluded the meeting.

NY Governor Hochul was named as one of the top 5 worst governors in the country, per FOX News, based on crime, economy, anti-gun legislation, as well as other major issues.

On December 13th, chapter donations were made to both Gun Owners of America and the NY State Conservation Council.

There was discussion on the latest bill on Governor Hochul's desk that would allow individual counties to set conservation laws instead of a statewide mandate for all counties. One example is the proposal to allow 13 years-old to hunt (muzzle loader, cross bow or bow), which was an "opt in" or "opt out" vote from each county. The Conservation Council asked for opinions on the two bills, one in Assembly, one in the Senate. He said that the bill goes nowhere if no one responds; We need to send out emails and make phone calls.

A Genesee member who purchased a firearm a month ago picked up a brochure on "*Firearm Responsibility in the Home*" and "*Firearm Safety*". He's trying to get copies, and feels that it's great information to use as a hand-out to our members and at events.

Oneida-Herkimer: On September 12th, the Oneida-Herkimer chapter made a special motion to suspend normal meeting business due to the number of speakers: Senator Joe Griffo, Assemblywoman Marianne Buttenschon, and Assemblyman John Salka all took the time to come out and speak to our members. Each spoke about the issues we are facing and the importance of voting.

On November 14th Oneida-Herkimer welcomed Lewis County Certified NRA Instructor Patrick Morse. Patrick spoke on CCIA and the new requirements. (The course is now 18 hours long.) He graciously answered questions and a very lengthy, informative conversation ensued. There were 2 members in attendance who have taken the new course (in counties other than Lewis) and they gave brief synopses of their experiences.

The December 12th meeting started out with a

(Continued on page 12)

SCOPE member businesses

A&K Gun Sales
5 West main St
Corfu, NY 14036

AR Pierrepont Co,
154 Berkeley St
Rochester, NY 14607-3003

Ashville General Store
PO Box 199
Ashville, NY 14710

B&B Repair Service
14 Second Street
Canisteo, NY 14823

BD Enterprises
4514 Saeli Rd
Savannah, NY 13146

Bonded Collection Services
PO Box 305
Fairport, NY 14450

Brocton Arch Antiques
22 East Main Street
Brocton, NY 14716

BS Recreational Farm
8384 State Park Rd
Three Mile Bay, NY 13693

Bullseye Shooters Supply
453 S Hamilton St
Painted Post, NY 14870

Creekside Morgans, LLC
60529 Rt 415
Avoca, NY 14809-9540

Dick Ferraioli/Guilderland Pump
6230 Hawes Rd
Altamont, NY 12009

Dick's Country Store Gun City & Music
Oasis
7429 US Rt 11
Churubusco, NY 12923

Donahoo-Consulting, LLC
1000 N Division Street, STE-2i
Peekskill, NY 10566-1830

Earl's Enterprises
3231 Armstrong Rd
Branchport, NY 14418

Frankie's Removal Service
11406 Partridge Rd
Holland, NY 14080

George's Gun Shop
PO Box 39
Grand Gorge, NY 12434

Golden Coin Laundry
582 east Main Street
Batavia, NY 14020

Harold's Welding Shop
1164 E Swamp Rd
Penn Yan, NY 14527-9363

Inspire Pecision
2495 Andover Rd
Wellsville, NY 14895

Interlaken Guns & Ammo
8268 Main Street
Interlaken, NY 14847

J Kozel & Son,
1150 Scottsville Rd
Rochester, NY 14624

Legal Shield/ ID Shield
PO Box 364
Ransomville, NY 14131

Pointer Lodge Clays
5090 Shauger Rd
Cameron Mills, NY 14820

Powers Taxidermy
2 Elmwood Place
Canisteo, NY 14823

Precision Armament Div of PM Research
4110 Niles Hill Rd
Wellsville, NY 14895

S&B Products,
PO Box 145
Munnsville, NY 13409

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discussion of Bill S9601: stops the NRA from certifying pistol instructors. Who else would qualify if NRA disqualified?

Also, a discussion of the CCIA in general and the lawsuits that are underway.

The majority of the meeting was spent in conversation with Herkimer County Sheriff Scott Scherer who has 30 years law enforcement experience. Very informative.

Ontario County: Met on September 20th.

Ontario County Clerk Matt Hoose spoke about required training for firearms permits, the recertification process and the overall confusion these new gun laws are causing across the board.

Sheriff candidate Dave Cirencione also spoke about the new laws and their affect on law enforcement and firearms owners.

Assemblyman Jeff Gallahan was the 3rd speaker of the evening. He discussed the 'Concealed Carry

Welcome Here' signs and the issues gun clubs are facing.

Ontario County SCOPE in 2023 is facing challenges. Members are asked to step up and help out. Please contact Gary Zielinski if you are willing to help with chapter meetings or events.

Orleans County: On September 8th, the Orleans SCOPE chapter held their meeting at the Free Methodist Church in Albion.

The main topic of discussion was the *Concealed Carry Improvement Act* and whether or not local government had the ability to pass a law objecting to it. Steps necessary to do so were noted and a suggestion to pass those along to the local legislature was made. One final push will be made to try and get everyone out to vote in the upcoming election.

On December 8th, a decision was made to change the location and day of the Orleans chapter meetings in hopes of encouraging more attendance. Meetings will now be held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Hoag

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Strong Side Defensive
Firearms Training
5316 Franklin Rd
Marion, NY 14505

The Firing Pin LLC
8240 Buffalo Rd
Bergen, NY 14416

Thunderbird Arms
714 Broadway
Darien Center, NY 14040

Tilton Sears, FFL
11000 Salter Rd
North Rose, NY 14516

Wallkill River Small Arms, LLC
2332 Route 300
Wallkill, NY 12589

Walton's Service Center
1634 Rt 54
Penn Yan, NY 14527



Bruce P. Tillapaugh, age 71, of Perry, NY passed away unexpectedly Sunday October 16, 2022 at his home.

He was born in Cobleskill, New York on June 12, 1951 a son to the late Irving M. and Marjorie A. (Stinover) Tillapaugh. He is survived by his wife of 40 years Donna M. (Slusarczyk) whom he married on October 16, 1982

Bruce grew up in the Cobleskill area, and graduated from Cobleskill Central High School, he received his associates degree from SUNY Cobleskill, his bachelor's Degree from Georgia University and master's degree from Cornell University.

He was employed by the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Herkimer County, later working with Cornell Cooperative Extension in Wyoming and Erie Counties where he was a crop specialist.

Bruce was a former member of the Brick Presbyterian Church in Perry where he was on the session Board and Deacons Board. He worked on the Wyoming County Election Board, a member of SCOPE (*Shooters Committee on Political Education*) where he held the secretary position for the Wyoming County SCOPE, and was a former assistant Scoutmaster and then Scout Master of Perry Troup #45.

SHOOTER'S COMMITTEE ON POLITICAL EDUCATION (SCOPE, INC)

PO Box 165, East Aurora, NY 14052

Business Associate Membership Application

Date of Application _____ Donation, Annual \$50 _____ Annual Sponsor \$250 _____
 Business Name _____ Phone _____
 Address _____ City _____
 State _____ Zip _____ Fax _____
 Mailing address if different _____
 Contact Name & Title _____
 Secondary Contact _____
 Website _____ Email _____
 Type of business (gun shop, sporting goods, etc.) _____

(Donations to SCOPE are not refundable or tax deductible)

Please use our member businesses whenever you can

(Continued from page 12)

Library.

Also discussed was having speakers with information regarding firearms laws, safety, Red Flag law etc. and inviting the public. Suggestions were i.e. Church pastors, DA, Sheriff, DEC and others. We will reach out and set up speakers and notices will be posted to the SCOPE website as we receive confirmation(s).

Saratoga County: Is now known as the SCOPE Capital District-Saratoga County Chapter. Meetings have started back up and participation via zoom is available; check the Capital District-Saratoga County page of the SCOPE website for information. <https://Scopeny2a.org/CapitalDistrict>

On November 17th, a meeting was held at the Clifton Park Elks Lodge.

Officers were elected and the decision was made that it would become the Capital District-Saratoga County chapter with headquarters in Saratoga. These chapter counties would include Saratoga, Albany, Colombia, Green, Rensselaer and Schenectady.

At December 15th's meeting it was decided to hold meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, alternating between Albany and Saratoga. Venues are being researched. Members will be notified via <https://Scopeny2a.org/CapitalDistrict>, email and social media.

Pending court cases (CCIA) and future speakers were also discussed.

Schuyler County: Legal updates for September, October and November have been posted.

September's update includes the 1st Amendment and social media aspects of Hochul's new gun laws and how that tests our right to free speech. Also included is the initial Federal ruling of the laws stating that they *may* be unconstitutional.

In October, the Schuyler County Meet the Candidate Night was held at the Montour Falls Moose Lodge. Among the topics addressed were each candidate's belief in the right to keep and bear arms, a pending resolution of the Schuyler County legislature calling for the repeal of recent New York gun law changes, pistol permit procedures, emergency management plans, and federal conceal carry laws and related issues.

The November Legal update includes key portions of the new gun law blocked by a Federal Judge.

Legal updates have also been posted for December and January. December's update is full of CCIA (Concealed Carry Improvement Act) information including a breakdown of Gazzola v Hochul.

January's update includes gun laws affecting states across the nation, not just NY. Buffalo, with the city of Rochester, filed the first of its kind lawsuit against the firearms industry, taking aim at gun manufacturers.

State Senator Sean Ryan introduced Senate Bill 9601 that would end the NRA's ability to certify gun-safety

trainers.

These Legal Updates have information on State and Federal laws, articles and editorials from around the state and links to city and county websites for details and further information.

For all of these Legal Updates, go to: <https://scopeny2a.org/Schuyler>

Seneca County: Met on November 16th at the South Seneca Sportsmen's Club.

Senator Tom O'Mara was the guest speaker. Since he is 'new' to Seneca county, due to re-districting, there was a lengthy Q & A session so members could get to know him. The Seneca chapter looks forward to having a good working relationship with him in the future.

On December 12th, the Seneca chapter meeting was held at the North Seneca Sportsmen's Club. Outgoing Senator Pam Helming was invited and presented with a plaque of appreciation for all of her support while in the Senate.

The chapter also made their annual donation to Senator Helming's *Toys for Tots* drive.



Left: Seneca Chapter Chairman Frank Capozzi, Senator Helming and SCOPE member Rosemarie Capozzi

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Steuben County: The Annual Steuben Raffle was held on Sunday, September 18th. Thank you to all who made this year a great success!

On September 19th, the speaker was Attorney Richard Bitter who gave an update of progress in the "Divide New York movement". Its main goals being more local control and a say about state mandates and their acceptance by each new region. Successful completion of the process would have, as a centerpiece, organizing a Constitutional Convention, which would likely take 2-3 years to accomplish.

In October, the Steuben chapter discussed ongoing firearms lawsuits and made a huge push to get out and vote. They ran radio ads and placed a print ad in the *Outdoor News* to promote voting.

November was a month to concentrate on Steuben County. For the Annual Fall Raffle, is there a need to improve prize handling and what items will be raffled in 2023? Thank you letters were sent out for 2022. Speakers for upcoming 2023 chapter meetings were discussed. An emphasis was placed on visiting gun clubs and local businesses. Let's find like-minded groups and work together on 2A issues.

The Steuben SCOPE chapter has wholeheartedly supported the Steuben chapter of Armed Women of America (AWA). AWA is represented at every SCOPE chapter meeting and, in December, a donation was made to the AWA Steuben chapter to help with purchasing shooting supplies. Also discussed was the increasing cost of ammunition for High School trap teams.

One member discussed the problems he had with his pistol permit renewal process. Lawsuits abound about the new CCIA in New York; SCOPE is working with other gun-positive organizations in hopes of getting this law overturned.

January brings about the Steuben Chapter Annual Dish-to-Pass dinner on the 16th. Joe Sempolinski will be the speaker; he will talk about his time spent in Washington as our 23rd district congressman.

Wayne County: During their November 9th meeting, new County Judge Art Williams spoke to the members regarding his policies around pistol permits. He was elected on November 8 and his term begins January 1, 2023. WCS gave him an "A" rating prior to the election.

Wayne County Sheriff Rob Milby spoke about the state's new CCIA including changes recently decided by the U.S. District Judge. Additional CCIA update information was provided by Roy Franks, Esq. He noted it was not clear if the

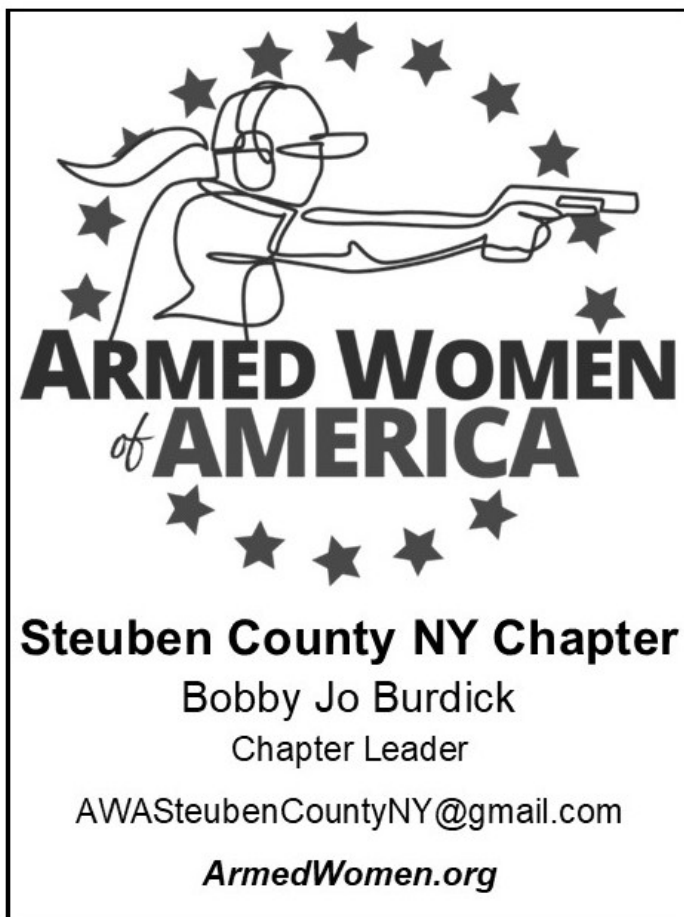
state would appeal the new injunction.

Dan Majchrzak was our final speaker of the night; he will meet with the Wayne County Republican Party in January 2023 to seek the Republican nomination for County Judge to replace the retiring Judge Dan Barrett. A Q&A period was held with many questions from the audience regarding Mr. Majchrzak's positions on pistol permits and gun control.

There will be no December Wayne county meeting. The next meeting will be held January 11th, 2023. **Yates County:** Met on November 10th.

After a discussion of providing funds to 3 county schools for their Clay Target League a motion was made to *Provide \$2000 to the Finger Lakes Crush, \$2000 to the Penn Yan Sports Boosters for Penn Yan students participating in the Clay Target League and \$2000 to the Middlesex Sportsman Club for the Marcus Whitman students participating in the Clay Target League.*

A date of December 4th was decided on for the Yates County SCOPE Chapter Christmas Party, to be held at the Elks Lodge.



DRGO on suppressors

Doctors for Responsible Gun Ownership (DRGO) produced a Position Paper in Favor of Firearm Suppressors to Prevent Hearing Loss in March 2017. Its facts are as valid today as they were then and we reprint it here, with their permission.

The report was written by MD's who were all Board Certified by the American Board of Otolaryngology. (Ear, Nose Throat Head & Neck.) As far as we know, neither Kathy Hochul or any member of the NY Legislature is Board Certified by the American Board of Otolaryngology.

If you want to read the entire report, it is available on their web site at: [Microsoft Word - DRGO HPA Position Paper 2017March FINAL FINAL 170324](#)

Executive Summary:

DRGO strongly supports making firearm suppressors readily available as a critical public health step to prevent hearing loss. Lowering barriers to suppressor ownership will decrease gunshot induced hearing damage in over 100 million American firearm users, with no material impact on criminal use.

Noise Induced Hearing Loss (NIHL) is a real public health problem:

The causal relationship between loud noise exposure and irreversible hearing loss has long been recognized by medicine and the U.S. government.

NIHL is permanent and untreatable. Prevention is the only possible intervention.

Demonstrable need:

NIHL is the most prevalent service-connected disability among Veterans.

Per the CDC, 15% of adults aged 18 and over (or nearly 38 million American) have hearing problems.

Over 100 million Americans who own guns are at risk for gunshot-induced NIHL. Auditory injuries are sustained by bystanders the same as by shooters.

Nearly all gunshots exceed the noise threshold for instant damage to the hearing cells of the inner ear. And their explosive blast generates 1,000 times the force on the eardrum than the noise itself.

Benefit of suppressors:

Muzzle blast sound levels from most firearms range from 140 to over 170 decibels. 120 decibels is considered the maximum safe level for short exposures (the intensity of a car horn 3 feet away). Ear plugs and/or ear muffs only reduce noise by 20-30 decibels.

Evidence supporting the need for greater use of firearms suppressors comes from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the National Institute on Deaf-

ness and Other Communicative Disorders, the Centers for Disease Control, as well as academic and military research.

Muzzle-mounted suppressors are vastly superior to ear protectors, providing 50% greater noise reduction. Only suppressors can make most modern firearms safe for hearing, as noise at gun ranges routinely reaches 160 decibels.

Conventional ear protectors deafen the wearer to external sound. Suppressors facilitate clear verbal communication between shooters, increasing safety.

Restricting suppressors is a longstanding obstacle to hearing safety:

Listing suppressors in the 1934 National Firearms Act for no apparent reason made them extremely expensive and difficult to acquire here. They are readily available to gun owners in much of Europe and in New Zealand, where firearms are more strictly regulated.

Suppressors do not promote crime:

Suppressed gunfire is still very loud, about 120 decibels. There is no evidence that commercial suppressors increase the danger of criminal shootings. Single-use suppressors can easily be made at home. Criminals want easily concealed weapons; suppressors may double the length of handguns. Illegal suppressor use is extraordinarily rare, and is prosecuted at a rate of only 0.02%.

SCOPE Note: Under federal law (the National Firearms Act and successor acts), suppressors can be legally bought and possessed. 42 states allow suppressor ownership. Guess which state is NOT in the 42! The process is not terribly difficult in those 42 states but it takes a little more time and costs \$200 for a tax stamp.

Please SHARE

A reminder from Ed Borkowski, Steuben County:

After you have thoroughly read your copy of the Firing Lines,

Remove or cross out your name and address and drop it off at any of the waiting rooms you may visit; doctor, dentist, barber shop, mechanic etc.

It's a great way to widen our exposure and educate others on the 2nd Amendment and how current legislation will affect our future rights.

(Continued from page 5)

and “grandfathered” in.

I went back and checked the NYSP’s website for Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ). They addressed several recertification FAQ’s but the one conspicuously missing was:

If I am currently scheduled for recertification in 5 years, will it be shortened to 3 years? Somehow, NYSP didn’t think of that as worth mentioning, even later while they were actually doing it. It is valid for people with a piece of paper issued by the NYSP which indicates a 5 years recertification date to believe they have those 5 years before recertification is due.

One thing that angered many permit holders is that there was no notification to them that their recertification time had been shortened. Apparently, many of them (like I did) kept track of their recertification date so they would continue to be law-abiding citizens and would not inadvertently break the law. They / I had no reason to go back to the NYSP web site to see if anything changed since we had a piece of paper in our files telling us exactly when recertification was due.

Another big response has been people asking if this was intentionally misleading, to give the NYSP an excuse to confiscate firearms. Will NYSP be notifying them in 3 years? Only the NYSP can answer if it is cover for confiscation and if they will notify us.

On August 27th, I wrote an email about people recertifying early (before September 1, 2022) in order to hopefully avoid getting the shorter, 3 years, recertification period. What I wrote at that time was: “*What we don’t*

know is if NY will try to strike back at people who avoided the new law when they recertified early.”

Now we know.

One other interesting point: check the actual pistol permit plastic cards we were issued. No expiration date and no statement that it is a lifetime permit. It was left open for abuse like this.

Since NYS laws are written in ‘legalese’, we depend on the government to issue instructions and forms that interpret laws and keep us as the law-abiding citizens we want to be. For instance, before applying, does anyone read the actual wording of the law for obtaining or renewing a driver’s license? We follow the government’s instructions and depend on the government to guide us and insure we comply according to the law. (Since the NY government is trying to do away with the 2nd Amendment, they believe they can leave a rather important part unsaid and make criminals of law-abiding gun owners?)

NYSP will simply say that the 3 years period is in the law. But did the law apply to permits issued, recertified and documented before the law became effective? There is obviously a lot of questions being frequently asked about that. As stated earlier, the NYSP didn’t believe that would be a FAQ...or did they and they wanted to bury it.

Bill number S2176 has been introduced in the NY Senate that would require the state police to send renewal notices to holders of a license to carry or possess a pistol or revolver at least 90 days before expiration of the license.



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Tenney Resolution on CCIA

By Tom Reynolds

Congresswoman Claudia Tenney has introduced a bill in the House condemning the Concealed Carry Improvement Act. Please consider contacting your Congressional Representative and let them know you support this bill.

SCOPE sent the following statement of support.

We are a nation of laws. By passing the so-called Concealed Carry Improvement Act, Governor Hochul and the New York Legislatures have said that decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States do not apply in New York State. They have 'thrown down the gauntlet' to the United States Supreme Court.

At a time when crime is sweeping through major cities, the Governor and the Legislature want to leave law abiding citizens at the mercy of criminals. How will these citizens protect themselves from armed criminals to whom the laws mean nothing?

Governor Hochul and the New York Legislatures know that they aren't held accountable for unconstitutional laws that they pass and that the law-abiding victims of these laws must spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to overturn those laws. We need "The People's House" to step forward and protect the American people of New York State.

SCOPE strongly supports Congresswoman Claudia Tenney's Resolution that says:

Resolved,

That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that-

New York State's Concealed Carry Improvement Act violates the rights of New Yorkers under the Second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States and is unconstitutional; the courts should immediately strike down the Concealed Carry Improvement Act as unconstitutional; and

all States should pass legislation supporting Second Amendment rights instead of trying to restrict or undermine Americans' constitutional rights.

Are you a life member?

Want to do more?

Would you like to upgrade your membership today?

Life Member _____ Upgrade me to Endowment Membership \$200.00
 _____ Upgrade me to Benefactor Membership \$400.00

Endowment Member _____ Upgrade me to Benefactor Membership \$200.00

Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State, ZIP _____
 Telephone _____
 Email _____



Mail to: SCOPE Membership PO Box 602, Tonawanda NY 14151-0602

SCOPE Annual Members Meeting



**April 29, 2023
10:00 am**

**Montour Falls
Moose Lodge #426
2096 State Route 14
Montour Falls, NY 14865**

The meeting is open to all SCOPE members
in good standing.
You must RSVP with the attached form.

Lunch will be provided

Our Speakers Will Be:

Robert Young, MD

Doctors for Responsible Gun Ownership

DRGO educates health professionals and the public in the best available science and expertise about firearms, including gun safety and preventing injury and death through wise use and lawful self-defense. They teach what science shows—that guns in responsible hands save lives, reduce injuries, and protect property by preventing violent crime.

Assemblyman Phil Palmesano

Assembly District 132

The 132nd Assembly District consists of a majority of Steuben County, all of Schuyler and Yates counties, and portions of Chemung and Seneca counties.

check SCOPEny2a.org for possible additional speakers



____ Yes I will be attending the 2023 SCOPE Annual Members Meeting

____ No, I cannot attend, however I am committed to S.C.O.P.E.'s mission to Protect and Restore 2nd Amendment Rights here in New York State.

Please accept my donation of

\$50____ \$25____ \$10____ Other____

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____ Phone_____

Email_____

RSVP is Required
And must be post marked
No later than
April 14th, 2023

Please return this form to:
SCOPE Member Meeting
PO Box 165
East Aurora, NY 14052

www.SCOPEny2a.org

AT Large Director Election

In this edition of the Firing lines is the ballot for At Large Directors. There are 3 directorships open and a candidate must get a minimum of 35 votes to be elected. You can vote for 1 or 2 or all 3.

At Large Directors represent all members and especially those without a local chapter. They are full fledged directors on the same basis as Chapter Chairs. They serve a two-year term.

The votes are counted at the Members' Meeting on April 29th.

Please take the time to read these biographies and cast a vote.

Clyde Washburn

Clyde Washburn (Jr) lives in Victor NY and is a retired Electronics Engineer with a lifelong interest in shooting sports and 2A issues. In addition to being a Life Member of SCOPE he is a Life Member of SAF, GOA, and CCRKBA, NYSRPA and NRA. He is also a member of the Genesee Conservation League and the International Defensive Pistol Association. He is the elected Secretary of his church, a Member of the Parish Council, and a Trustee.

After a successful battle with Throat Cancer, he is

GOA-NY Lawsuits

On January 2nd and 3rd, SCOPE wrote emails updating members about two GOA-NY sponsored lawsuits against Hochul's unconstitutional attacks on the 2nd Amendment: Antonyuk v Nigrelli and Gazzola v Hochul. Antonyuk challenges Hochul's Concealed Carry Improvement Act from an individual's position and Gazzola challenges it from the Federal Firearm Licensee's perspective. These have been winding their way through the judicial system.

Since a victory in either or both of these will be a victory for all of us, Scope, as an organization, has contributed \$4,500 to the expense of these lawsuits. On January 4th, we also asked SCOPE members to contribute directly to supporting these lawsuits. I'm happy to say that contributions total almost \$4,000 as of January 15th. That's about \$8,500 to help strike down Hochul's attempt to ignore the Constitution and take away our constitutional rights.

On behalf of SCOPE and GOA-NY, we want to thank all those who donated.

The fight for our constitutional rights is not the province of any one organization. It is the fight of all organizations that care about the Bill of Rights and especially about the 2nd Amendment. We all fight in different ways and we contribute (literally) in different ways.

again fit and ready to devote his time and effort to the 2A cause in NY State.

He has trained extensively in the defensive use of Pistols, Rifles and Shotguns.

To illustrate his interest in and knowledge of defensive firearms and related issues, his training history follows:

Three Defensive Pistol programs

Ten pistol training certifications including NRA Certified Pistol Instructor

Three rifle training certifications including NRA Certified Rifle Instructor

Two shotgun training certifications including NRA Certified Shotgun Instructor

Seven other trainings including being NRA Certified as a Range Safety Officer, a Home Firearms Safety Instructor and in Personal Protection in the Home.

Christopher Croom II

Born in 1986, Christopher holds a Bachelor's Degree in Religion, a Masters in Bible Exposition, and is a PhD student in Christian Leadership. He also holds Customs Specialization and International Traffic in Arms (ITAR) Export certifications.

Christopher is also a podcaster ("Town Ethics"), peer-reviewed journal contributor, cultural commentator, Christian Ministry leader, and academic scholar.

Married for 12 years with four children, Christopher loves all things small-arms focused and believes the Second Amendment is non-negotiable as a protection for our speech, our families, and our communities.

Christopher is a multi-year member of the Tonawanda Sportsmen Club, NRA, IDPA, NYSRPA, NAAGA and GOA as well as SCOPE.

He believes strongly in God, Family, Freedom, and Guns. He's a cultural supporter of many traditional American positions and believes that 2A is the right that supports free speech and upholds all the others. He wants to see many changes to the NYS gun ownership process that align better with the Constitution yet maintain a level of safety and wisdom for our communities. He also deeply wants to see more ownership and acceptance of gun culture among Black American citizens.

Christopher enjoys the NBA, professional wrestling, playing Xbox with his oldest son, and listening to audio books on self-development and leadership in his "free time."

Dave Colburn

Dave is a graduate of Wayne Central School District in Ontario, NY. He and his wife, Linda, have been married for 51 years and have four sons and six grandchildren.

(Continued on page 23)

Official SCOPE 2023 Ballot

SCOPE Elections for At-Large Board of Directors

Vote for as many as three

→ *Clip and mail your ballot as per the directions below* ←

☐ Colburn ☐ Croom ☐ Washburn

- You *must* be a member in good standing with a current active membership to vote
 - Your address label *must* be on the back side of the ballot
 - Ballots *must* be **postmarked no later than April 14, 2023**

Ballot *must* be mailed separately from any other SCOPE mailing

*Mail Ballot ONLY to:

SCOPE BALLOT
PO Box 165
East Aurora, NY 14052

DO NOT include anything else in the envelope with your ballot; we do not open envelopes until the member meeting.

(Continued from page 22)

Dave's career track has included fourteen years of employment at Eastman Kodak Company before leaving to pursue pastoral studies at Practical Bible Training School in Johnson City, New York, and then serving in two pastorates, also in New York State, from 1987 until 1996. After that he returned to his hometown high school in Ontario, New York, and became a computer technician where he remained until retirement in June of 2018.

Dave's interest and involvement in the SCOPE organization has been to support their mission of watching over the civil liberties of the citizens of New York State and the country and communicating the threats to those liberties, especially as it relates to Second Amendment rights and the possession and use of firearms. He believes that SCOPE's commitment to the orderly and law-abiding communication of those threats and providing solutions to those threats by way of our electoral process is the best method for protecting our liberties.

Dave is a member at the Ontario Rod & Gun Club and maintained the club website for several years until 2019. Currently he is serving as the vice chairman of the Wayne County chapter of SCOPE and maintaining their web and Facebook pages; Dave also helps support the New York State SCOPE website.

Dave has taken a variety of firearms training

classes:

NRA Range Safety Officer

NRA Personal Protection in the Home

NRA Personal Protection Outside the Home

NRA Basic Pistol

Two classes in tactical carbine and handgun from an NRA certified instructor.

He enjoys trap, skeet, and sporting clays as well as pistol and rifle shooting; boating and fishing at the family summer camp in the Thousand Islands and family activities with his sons and their families.

Dave has also been a member of the Webster Bible Church in Webster, New York since 2008, where he serves as chairman of the deacons and provides the visual graphics for the sermon presentations

Memberships: SCOPE (Wayne County Chapter), Ontario Rod & Gun Club, NRA (Range Safety Officer)



Firing Lines page 24

Your membership expiration date is on the label, please renew today!

**YOU INSURE YOUR CAR, YOUR HOME, EVEN
YOUR HEALTH - WELL HOW ABOUT
INSURING YOUR 2ND AMENDMENT RIGHTS?**

SCOPE THE RIGHT INSURANCE!

**SO DON'T DELAY
SIGN UP TODAY!**



We are S.C.O.P.E.

We get no air time on CNN.
We don't riot and burn things down.
We go to work and support our families.
We love America.
We protect the unborn.
We salute the flag.
We say the pledge of allegiance.
We sing the Star Spangled Banner
- while standing.
We respect law enforcement
and we obey the law.
We appreciate the military.
We use guns safely and legally.
We defend the Constitution
- especially the 2nd Amendment.
We support conservation and hunting.
We are S.C.O.P.E.

Donate Today!
www.SCOPEny2a.org



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Membership Dues: ☐ New Member ☐ 3-Years Annual \$80 ☐ Life \$600
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Please Check the boxes that apply: Will you serve on Committees ☐ Yes ☐ No

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Revised Feb. 2021
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