



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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May/June 2019

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The ‘E’ in S.C.O.P.E. is for Education: The Time is Now to Ramp Up Those Efforts

By Nick Massal
S.C.O.P.E. President

What can we/I do? This is a question I have asked myself quite a few times – the immediate answer is nothing. First, we didn’t get to this point overnight – it has been a work in progress by those who wish to take away our rights and establish control. I could go into the biblical explanation that you should have known this was coming, the Bible explains it, and we cannot stop it. That doesn’t mean we roll over and play dead and let them win. It may be happening, but it doesn’t mean we have to let it happen – the exact timetable is not given and we are told to resist evil.

As I said, we didn’t get this way over night and we are not going to get things back to the way they should be over night. They knew “we” would not stand for a mass change and a big grab all at once – too obvious and massive resistance immediately – revolt. As it was explained to me years ago, if you have a large chub of bologna and someone steals a large chunk of it, you will notice it right away and go after the thief to try to recover your loss. BUT – if the thief comes and takes a very thin slice now, a thin slice later and another later on, you will not notice until much later and by then there may not be much you can do except preserve what you have left – this is our present predicament.

Can we get all of our rights back? Possibly, but it IS highly unlikely. We can get most of them back. It is possible that we get all of them. We need to work at it and we

will have to do it incrementally. The (UN) SAFE Act was one of those big chunks they took in the dark of the night (literally) and having activist judges in place helped them ensure the law stayed on the books. Now we need to continue to chip away at the statute. It will be a slow process. The best way is through the ‘E’ in S.C.O.P.E. We must educate politicians, the public, and the news media.

We have all heard about taking a liberal shooting to educate him or her on firearms and the fun of shooting. My advice: Do It. Also take your local politicians and judges shooting – some chapters have already done so with great success. Some of us have politicians and judges that are already pro-gun. Take them anyways and have some good conversation about the possible solutions you each might have. You never know where this may take us!

Know any reporters? Invite them to go shooting. Like anyone else you would take out shooting, teach them safety in shooting, proper techniques, and good shooting etiquette. Answer their questions and be honest.

Even if you don’t know (but know of) a reporter, contact your local newspaper, radio station or TV station and see if you can contact one of them. It doesn’t necessarily have to be for an article, but it may lead to one. If you can get several to come at one time and need assistance in teaching them the basics, get a qualified instructor to assist you and make a day of it at your local shooting

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**Join SCOPE
Today!
SCOPEny2A.org**

“Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could do only a little.”

Edmund Burke

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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Meetings 3rd Tuesday
Angelica American Legion
7:00pm Angelica, NY

Capitol District Chapter:
Albany/Columbia/Greene/
Schenectady/
Rensselaer/Saratoga
Chairman Curtis Cappellano
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518.330.7732
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Nassau Sportsmen's Club

Cattaraugus Chapter
Chairman Mike Wesley
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Meetings 1st Thursday 7:00pm
American Legion Post 531,
Little Valley

Cayuga Chapter
Jim Dishaw
dishawjp@gmail.com
315.255.3315
Meetings 2nd Thursday
7:00pm
Masonic Lodge Weedsport,
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Central NY Chapter:
Contact don6027@gmail.com

Chautauqua Chapter
Chairman Will Conta
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716.857.0382

Newsletter Deadline for the Next Issue

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

Meetings 3rd Tuesday 7:00pm
VFW Post 8647 Mayville, NY

Chemung Chapter
Contact don6027@gmail.com

Delaware Chapter
Chairman Andrea Elliot
del.co.scope@gmail.com
845.586.1721

Erie Chapter
Chairman Tony Matuszak
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716.799.4513
Meetings 3rd Thursday,
7:00pm
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Genesee Chapter
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585.356.4992
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7:00pm
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Meetings 3rd Monday 7:00pm
Gander Outdoor Salmon Run
Mall

Monroe Chapter
Chairman Gene Nolan
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Meetings 4th Tuesday 7:00pm
Elks Lodge 24 Henrietta, NY

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Oneida-Herkimer Chapter
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bohdan1@roadrunner.com
315.733.2720
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American Legion 229 Utica,
NY

Ontario Chapter
Chairman Tim Maher
tmaher@rochester.rr.com
585.281.3336
Meetings 3rd Monday 7:00pm
Elks Lodge #1844 Canandaigua,
NY

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orlctychair@gmail.com
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Meetings 3rd Monday 7:00pm
Hoag Library; 1st FloorAlbion,
NY

St. Lawrence Chapter
Contact don6027@gmail.com

Schoharie Chapter
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ljanczak@midtel.net
518.868.6902
Meetings 3rd Thursday
7:00pm
Alternate venue every 3
months
Carlisle Town Hall Carlisle,
NY
Middleburgh R&G Club Middleburgh, NY

Schuyler Chapter
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lhwilson100@yahoo.com
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Meetings 2nd Thursday
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Jan/Mar/May/Oct
Moose Lodge Montour Falls,
NY

FIRING LINES

Editor - Ralph Esposito

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and FIRING LINES

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East Aurora, NY 14052

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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

RC PRODUCTIONS



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 jcruger357@yahoo.com
 315.651.8753
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 VFW Post 6433 Waterloo, NY

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 Chenango/Madison/Broome
 Chairman Shawn Palmer
 shawnpalmer@frontiernet.net
 607.316.4907

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

Suffolk Chapter
 Chairman Sherman Kearns
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 scope@gmail.com
 631.806.1171
 Meetings 4th Thursday 6:30pm

Dark Storm Industries Oak-
 dale, NY

Ulster Chapter
 Chairman Edward Altenau
 ealtenau@hvc.rr.com
 845.382.1143

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 Chairman Don Smith
 don6027@gmail.com
 315.398.0195
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 7:00pm
 Marion VFW Post 1430
 Marion, NY

Wyoming Chapter
 Chairman Gary Gardner
 585.786.9946
 Meetings 2nd Thursday
 7:00pm
 Dept. of Social Services Bldg.
 Warsaw, NY

Yates Chapter
 Chairman John Prendergast
 jpr3nder66@outlook.com
 315.694.0481

Chairman Emeritus
 Harold 'Budd' Schroeder

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 sue.scopeny@gmail.com

Check your address label for your renewal date

With this newsletter your expiration date is included on the address label. It will save SCOPE time and money if you can renew your membership a month or two before your membership is due to expire.

You can use the membership application in the newsletter or go online to www.Scopeny2A.org to renew.
 Thank you

Renew your membership today!

SCOPE-PAC

Political Action Committee

Effectively defending the 2nd Amendment requires us to go on the offensive. We cannot wait, unprepared, for the next assault from the radical left. Although we may have a friend in the White House, Cuomo and the radical left still reside in Albany.

SCOPE Inc. works to educate the public and influence legislation while SCOPE-PAC is a separate, all volunteer organization and can provide direct financial support to candidates and promote legislation safeguarding the 2nd Amendment. Money is the "Mother's Milk" of politics.

Politicians and candidates look at each individual and organization in terms of can they help, can they hurt me or do they matter at all. We can help candidates in a number of ways but the most effective is with money, that's where SCOPE PAC comes in and where each individual gun owner can help. There is estimated to be about 4 million gun owners in New York and if all those gun owners just donated a dollar each month we would have millions to work with. All we are asking is that you, our members and other gun owners donate at least that much to SCOPE PAC. It's not a lot to ask, so please help.

The time to begin building up cash reserves for that election cycle is now, when smaller donations given over time can mount up into a significant amount and will make a difference. Please consider making a donation now, no matter how small, to SCOPE-PAC and again whenever you can afford to support the 2nd Amendment



SCOPE-PAC
P.O. Box 12711
Rochester, NY 14612

Or online at:
www.SCOPEPAC.com



Change and Continuity at S.C.O.P.E. Annual Meeting

By Michael Giuliano

A reengaged membership and a peaceful succession to the office of President (although many of us still hedged our bets and bought some gun raffle tickets) marked the S.C.O.P.E. annual meeting on April 27 in Syracuse. Nick Massal was elected President. The other officers were reelected for another term. Battle plans were formulated. Members and directors left their respective

meetings with new ideas to reach and educate the public and local elected officeholders.

While a comparison to James Monroe's so-called Era of Good Feelings might seem overblown, few opportunities for such comparison have presented themselves in New York State of late. The S.C.O.P.E. membership should adopt the example of Monroe and the renewed national spirit at the end of the War of 1812 as a guide for our own collaboration and development of an action plan. S.C.O.P.E. needs a renewed optimism to grow and thrive. At the meeting, there was a vigorous exchange of ideas and proposals, and the sense abounded that our efforts this year will be supported by a solid lineup of leaders across the state.

for improvements within the organization. The meetings produced spirited debate; the discussions were wide-ranging and included fundraising proposals.

Monroe County Chair Gene Nolan reported on his chapter's recent meetings with several legislators. Among the hot topics of discussion that arose at one of Monroe's recent meetings was the ever-popular idea of dividing New York. He also proposed some alternative chapter funding methods.

An issue critical to the organization's future arose during the discussions: Should S.C.O.P.E. reach out more overtly to those who support other fundamental freedoms such as free speech and due process? A potential update to the S.C.O.P.E. mission statement was proposed by new Wyoming chairman Gary Gardner. The new statement, if adopted, would reaffirm our commitment to the many other rights within the Bill of Rights, including due process which is so beleaguered in New York. This might broaden S.C.O.P.E.'s popular base of support to include those who aren't specifically pro-gun.

Prominently absent in Syracuse was 2nd Vice-President Jack Prendergast, as he was on an assigned mission, as a Yates Republican official, to rid us of Ed Cox. His punishment for being absent however, inflicted by the board in absentia, was to be nominated for another year in his V.P. position.

1st Vice-President Andrea Elliot inspired us with her interpretation of the struggles we face and the perseverance we must maintain. Tim Andrews' term as President expired and he was elected to an at-large position on the board.

The late-meeting assurance by Budd Schroeder that he would

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range.

Above all, be courteous and exercise great care, especially on the range with live ammunition. The last thing we need is some sort of accident on the range while trying to show liberals the fun and quality of the shooting sports. We are trying to inform and educate – win them over if possible. If nothing else, they will see we are the responsible citizens that we have always been, fighting for our rights including gun rights and due process.



Among the presentations delivered to the membership, Wayne County S.C.O.P.E. led the charge, offering a progress update on the drafting of a model resolution/ordinance for county and town boards, commissions, and legislatures throughout Western and Central New York, that will reaffirm the officeholders' commitment to due process and gun rights. The painstaking efforts by Don Smith and Bob Brannanon this initiative was quite evident as are the efforts of many others both within and outside of S.C.O.P.E. who are working tirelessly on it.

Several chapter chairs were partaking in their first statewide board meeting and a vibrant discussion was had on various suggestions

Please check your email for renewal reminders.

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remain a cantankerous gun rights advocate may not sound like a harmonious note, but one had to be present at the meeting to realize that it added bite and punctuation to an optimistic S.C.O.P.E. assembly.

Budd announced his retirement from the board of directors effective in May, timed to coincide with his 54th anniversary with S.C.O.P.E. It was Schroeder's wag-gish promise to remain "mean" (*his* word) and irascible in retirement that in some ways capped the dual meetings in Syracuse. Indicating he still planned to stay active with *Firing Lines* and political debate, he wished everyone well and praised the quality of the new board and leadership.

The announcement framed a perfect opportunity both to reflect on S.C.O.P.E.'s long history and to concentrate on the future.

As we prepared to part, Nick Massal, as the new President, addressed the assembled board and members. Offering his plans for the year, he reminded everyone of the challenging work that is ahead for all

members.

Much has been accomplished since 1965 and yet so much more remains to be done. Albany would have it no other way. The struggle is never over. Liberty must always be guarded.

With the retirement of Budd Schroeder, and with Tim Andrews having finished his terms as President, a S.C.O.P.E. founder and a longtime S.C.O.P.E. leader leave the duty of engaging the future to S.C.O.P.E.'s newly-elected leader Nick Massal—and indeed, they leave this responsibility to all of us.

2019 S.C.O.P.E. Election Results

At-Large Director (Elected to 2-year terms)

Tim Andrews, Steve Speta, and Michael Giuliano

Officers

President of S.C.O.P.E.
Nick Massal

1st Vice-President
Andrea Elliot (Delaware Co.)

2nd Vice-President
Jack Prendergast (Yates Co.)

Chairman of the Board
Rob McNally

Treasurer of S.C.O.P.E.
Tom Reynolds

Secretary of S.C.O.P.E.
Michael Giuliano



Commitment

Rob McNally,
Chairman of the Board
& Tim Andrews,
Board Member at Large

In recent years we're all aware of the concerns many have regarding a clear understanding of our country's traditions and values — whether it's disrespecting our flag or our national anthem. It can be blamed on poor parenting or even our educational system. Why is there such disregard for our country's traditions and values? What is the solution? It takes little to point the finger of blame or to rally like minds to the faults of this country. It takes another approach altogether to develop solutions for those problems.

Organizations are made of

various personalities. Sometimes those personalities disagree with how to implement solutions to problems, or worse, spend time pointing those fingers rather than developing the necessary solutions to society's ills. Typically, when that happens splits occur. The best example of this is how our religious denominations have occurred over the centuries. The only time such a division occurs is when there is a split in philosophy, not so much in the ultimate goal.

We have recently experienced just such events within groups of Second Amendment supporters and their organizations. Ultimately, the goal still remains the same. The only difference is in how those in the various organizations believe we should get there. Thus far, none of us have been all that successful. I will advocate that we need to refocus on

working together rather than focusing on the differences between us. Too many times those differences are the focus and drive any discussion. Unfortunately, even four or five voices focusing on differences distract the bulk of the organization from the ultimate goal. Truly, if the goal is the ultimate destination, then why should the focus be on intermediate obstacles? Address such obstacles, determine solutions for the good of the organization and move on.

As Tony Robbins has said, "Stay committed to your decisions, but stay flexible in your approach." Financial responsibility is certainly a key factor in any organization, but when that focus over-takes the organization's focus, those involved

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Breaking Down the Second Amendment

Richard Rossi
Delaware County

What are the most 27 misunderstood words in our Constitution/ Bill of Rights? These 27 words have been controversial words for decades. They are found in our Bill of Rights – in the 2nd Amendment.

“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.”

Let’s analyze exactly what these 27 words that our Founding Fathers decreed actually mean. If we really think about it, the Second Amendment has TWO parts:

Part 1: The Collective: “A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State.”

Definitions:
Well Regulated = in good working order, supervised and trained.
Militia = organized group of ordinary citizens that are not military.
Necessary = must have, mandatory.
Security = safe, secure, protect.

Free State = sovereign state, controlled by its own government with the consent of the people.

Part 2: The Individual: “the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.”

Definitions:
Right = Guarantee
People = every individual citizen
Keep = own
Bear = carry
Arms = any and all weapons-such as firearm, sword or knife
Shall not = can not
Infringe = restrict, or abolish

Our Founding Fathers realized that this right existed before our Constitution was drafted. It was stated to enforce that this right of the people would never be abolished. If our Founding Fathers were “giving” the people this right, it would never have been worded as it was.

Adding to this controversy that we have seen by the Anti-2nd Amendment movement is the notion that the 2nd Amendment is not relevant today. However, the same argument is never made with respect to the 1st Amendment. Our Founding Fathers had no vision of the internet, TV, Radio, and social media options now available. Similarly, our Founding Fathers had no idea what weapons would be available to the public. However, the assumption was that

citizens would have the same weapons as the government. Today, this intent has been severely compromised.

SAFE Act Infringes on Firearms Culture

Joseph Kopacz
President, Middleburgh Rod & Gun Club
Sloansville, NY

My culture is that of an American. A culture passed on to my father from his father, and from my father to me. We are a culture of God and country. Mine is a culture of hunting, fishing and the love of the great outdoors; a culture that embraces the use of firearms, for harvest, sport, and protection against personal attack.

In my culture, firearms have been a source of learning responsibility and bonding with others in the shooting sports.

Elders pass on their knowledge to youngsters. The youngsters, in turn, impress the elders with their knowledge and abilities.

Shouldn’t every culture be protected from the intrusion and interference of local and state governments? If so, why is my culture not afforded those protections?

The state SAFE Act has infringed upon my culture since its illegal implementation. It limits my inalienable right to live my life with liberty and the pursuit of happiness. No culture or community should be punished for the violent actions of a few.

I leave you with this thought. The world is not a crazy place. There are crazy people in it.

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Passing of fellow S.C.O.P.E. member Kevin Issing

February 21, 1944 – May 1, 2019



Kevin Issing of Gorham, NY and a dedicated S.C.O.P.E. member for decades passed away May 1, 2019 at the age of 75, after his battle with cancer.

Kevin was instrumental in starting the Ontario County S.C.O.P.E. Chapter roughly 13 years ago and served as Treasurer since its inception. He was a staunch supporter of all shooting sports. Particularly, he was a board member for over 20 years with the Canandaigua Sportsmen's Club and the Head Coach of the Trap League there.

Kevin was born in Flushing, NY, on Feb. 21, 1944. He grew up in Port Washington, Long Island. He was accepted to and attended the U.S. Coast Guard Acad-

emy in Kings Point, NY. He was drafted and served in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War where he remained to complete a 30-year career with the Navy. Kevin retired in 1987, but continued his service in the Naval Reserves.

Kevin's funeral service was held at the Kenneth J. Perkins Funeral Home in Gorham on May 6th, 2019. He will be buried at the Bath National Cemetery, with full Military Honors, at the convenience of his family.



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lose track of pursuing revenue and other activities necessary in the final goal. For Second Amendment organizations such as our own, that final goal is restoring rights that have and are being removed from us consistently. Not only the rights guaranteed under the Second Amendment to our U.S. Constitution, but also those guaranteed under the First Amendment particularly the right to 'petition the government for a redress of grievances'; the Fourth Amendment 'the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreason-

able searches and seizures'; the Fifth Amendment '...nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation.'; the Ninth Amendment 'The enumeration in the Constitution of certain rights shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.'; the Fourteenth Amendment '...No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, nor deny

to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.'.... The point here being that fiduciary responsibility is not in and of itself our goal, but an avenue toward that goal and a responsibility to our members. While focusing on that responsibility and maintaining its integrity, we must still pursue revenue to progress toward the ultimate goal.

As we all know, it takes revenue to make things happen. The thing that most allows revenue pursuit is commitment to the ultimate goal; not revenue pursuit in and of itself. That commitment requires all

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With the results in on the November elections, the battleground to save our Second Amendment Rights is now in the courts.

Court litigation is expensive and necessary and we need your help. Please donate today to help us fight Cuomo in the courts.

You can donate using your credit card at: www.Scopeny2A.org

Or you can mail a check to: SCOPE, PO Box 165, East Aurora, NY 14052

Please Donate Today

The Importance of Context in Constitutional Interpretation

Tom Reynolds
S.C.O.P.E. Treasurer

One thing that should irritate everyone is a statement taken out of context to create an invalid impression; an impression counter to one we would get if made in context.

Why is this concept of “in context” so important to Second Amendment advocates?

The “in context” principle should apply when interpreting our Constitution. Each individual part should be interpreted in the overall context within which the Constitution was written and that context is, beyond any reasonable doubt, to narrowly limit the federal government’s power. Even the far left that advocates an all-powerful federal government are conceding this when they argue the Constitution is out of date and needs changing. They are, in fact, agreeing that the U.S. Constitution limits the power of the federal government that they wish to expand.

The Second Amendment says that “...the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be in-

fringed”, but taken in the context of a Constitution which limits federal power, it also implies that a limited federal government has not the power to chip away at that right.

And before anyone gets excited about the states having this power, the Fourteenth Amendment says:“...No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States”. Therefore, every state law is also subject to the “in context” concept of how our privileges and immunities are interpreted.

Let’s look at the framing of our Constitution in an historically accurate context to prove my point about limited government.

During and after the Revolutionary War, the 13 former colonies became states. Not states as we think of them now, but “Nation States”. Each state viewed themselves as self-governing *sovereign states*, but they also saw the need for some sort of cooperative arrangement, so they adopted the Articles of Confederation to define their relationship. Words have meanings and a confederation is a union of *sovereign states*, united for purposes of common action.

A later example of nations preserving their individuality while engaging in cooperative actions was during World War II. The “Allies” consisted of many sovereign countries: USA, England, France, Poland,

etc. No one believes these countries gave up their individual status as sovereign countries by uniting against Germany, Italy and Japan.

After the Revolutionary War, the “Nation States” preserved their individuality but within a few years it became evident that the thirteen “Nation States” needed a stronger arrangement than a confederation, for self-protection and for economic reasons. But these “Nation States” had a great fear of a powerful central government trampling on State’s and individual’s rights. So, they built many elements into the Constitution to prevent a runaway government. Examples of what we refer to as “Checks and Balances” are: three coequal branches of government; a legislative branch divided into two houses each representing different constituencies; the Electoral College; voting on a contested Presidential election.

Fear of a strong government almost stopped the Constitution from being approved by the states until a Bill of Rights was promised. James Madison and Alexander Hamilton argued against a Bill of Rights being needed as they believed the Constitution did not give the federal government the power to take away those rights. (Thank goodness they lost that argument about the need for a Bill of Rights.) Many people will be surprised to know that New York

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Have you Moved?

If you have moved, please send us your new address so we can update our files.

Have you changed your Email?

Sending us your email address does two things:

It allows us to get information to you quickly

It saves on mailing costs. Please email updates to:

sue.scopeny@gmail.com or mail to -PO Box 165, East Aurora, NY 14052

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State was one of the “Nation States” that would not approve the Constitution until a Bill of Rights was promised.

The first nine amendments in the Bill of Rights have to do with protecting our individual rights from the government while the tenth amendment takes another tack and gives further evidence that the Constitution was meant to limit the federal government’s power. Number ten says, “The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved by it to the States respectively, and to the people”.

The idea of a constitutionally limited government held sway until Franklin Roosevelt became President – although an earlier President, Woodrow Wilson, would also have shredded the Constitution if he had been more capable. Roosevelt used the Great Depression crisis to destroy the Tenth Amendment and 140 years of limited federal govern-

ment precedent.

An example of one part of the Constitution being interpreted out-of-context of a limited government was FDR’s overuse of the “Commerce Clause”. Article 1 section 8 of the Constitution says, “The Congress shall have the power...to regulate commerce...among the several states...” Roosevelt’s administration said that a farmer was engaged in interstate commerce even though the farmer did not sell his products in interstate commerce and only sold them locally or used them himself. FDR’s rationale was that by not engaging in interstate commerce, the farmer was affecting interstate commerce. FDR’s insane trampling of the Constitution was only possible with the help of the other branches of the government as the Supreme Court upheld FDR’s decision!

Those of us who are constitutional fundamentalists – like Justice Antonin Scalia - believe the U.S. Constitution should be interpreted in line with the meaning of the words

when they were written. If those words need changing or updating to provide for a more powerful government, there is a way of amending it by approval of the States. It is not subject to judges amending it for any reason, no reason, or political reasons.

When an amendment is approved, it becomes as much a part of the Constitution as the first seven articles that were originally approved. The Amendments are not an add-on that can be ignored at will. They are the Constitution and a limited federal government does not have the power to infringe on them. Any interpretation of any part of the Constitution must be made with the acknowledgment that the Constitution very narrowly limits the ability of the federal government or state governments to infringe on our 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.

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(Continued on page 13)

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

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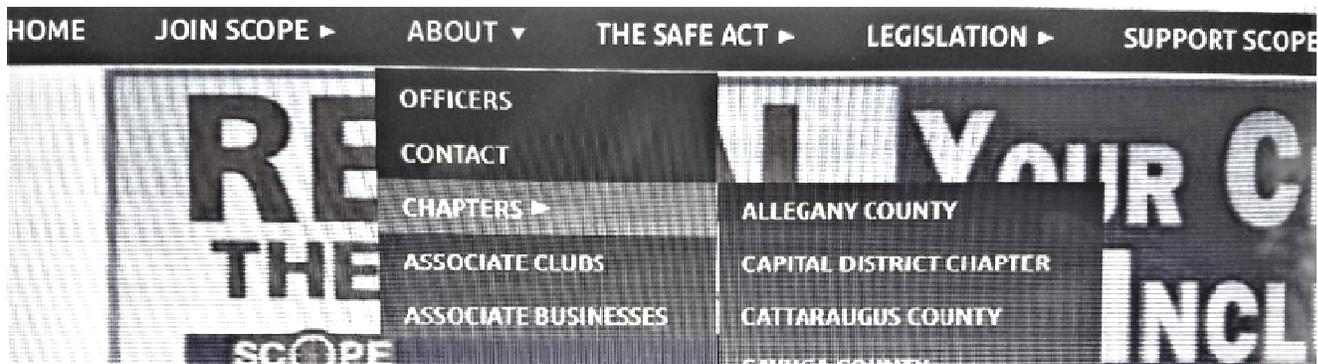
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Mail to: SCOPE Membership, PO Box 165 East Aurora NY 14052



S.C.O.P.E. Local Chapter Notes

www.SCOPEny2a.org

This past March, the S.C.O.P.E. chapters held officer elections. If you were unable to make it to your chapter meeting you can always find your chapter information on the S.C.O.P.E. website. Visit www.SCOPEny2a.org. Under the heading *ABOUT*, use the drop-down menu, find *CHAPTERS*, locate your local chapter and see what you have missed.

Meeting information is posted for your convenience and chapter officer contact information is listed in case you have questions. Go to your local meeting and bring your friends. Our meetings are always open to the public. Get involved. Get your friends involved. If you're traveling this summer, use the website information to find chapter meetings around the state.

Allegany County S.C.O.P.E.: The chapter recently reached out to all the candidates running for Kathy Young's vacant Senate seat. Curt Crandall is speaking at the May 21 meeting and George Borello will be speaking June 18th. They will be presenting their views on the 2nd Amendment and what they hope to accomplish if elected. To date, there has been no response from any Democratic candidates.

Jefferson-Lewis S.C.O.P.E.: The chapter has donated \$3000 to their local trap teams; the money was donated in appreciation to the teams promoting a sport that is rooted in the Con-

stitution. The money will be used to support the teams with team shirts, ammunition etc. Jefferson-Lewis S.C.O.P.E. raises money by having gun raffles and participating in events throughout the year. They were at Brownville Day on May 31st and were to also be at the Lowville Fair.

Schuyler County S.C.O.P.E.: Schuyler has benefitted from the leadership of Chairman Dan Phillips for the past 3 years. S.C.O.P.E. thanks him for his commitment. In March, Les Wilson assumed the Chairman position and will continue to work with Dan Phillips as they move towards the 2020 election season. Schuyler County S.C.O.P.E. members are meeting June 5th with the county Democratic party to discuss the SAFE Act, new proposed gun legislation, and the impact of gun control on the traditional way of life in Schuyler County.

The chapter will also be participating in the Montour Falls Harvestfest this September. This event is ideal for S.C.O.P.E. to meet local voters, highlight candidate voting records, and register new voters. On October 10th, the chapter will be holding a 'Meet the Candidates' night at the Montour Falls Moose Lodge. All county level candidates will be invited to speak on their views particularly related to 2nd Amendment issues. There are 3 vacancies in the NY Supreme Court to be filled in the 6th Judicial District. It will be a very busy season in Schuyler County.

Seneca County S.C.O.P.E.: A primary election Candidates Day is to be held on June 2nd. Each candidate

answers questions from the moderator with a brief Q&A session for the audience.

Wayne County S.C.O.P.E.: Wayne members watched a video presentation, 'Gun Rights Are Women's Rights,' followed by a presentation from two leaders in the local chapter of *Well Armed Woman*, a national organization that meets regularly at local gun clubs and offers instruction to any women interested in owning and properly operating a firearm. They also had a presentation from their area NRA representative. This presentation was to educate members as to Cuomo's efforts to damage the NRA via the NYS banking and insurance industries. Wayne County S.C.O.P.E. is preparing a candy bar sales program and will be at the Williamson Apple Blossom Festival.

Yates County S.C.O.P.E.: The chapter continues to support youth programs. It has donated \$750 to 4-H Shooting Sports and \$1000 each to 3 area high schools. The Yates chapter held a Chicken and Biscuit dinner in April. Money raised from the dinner provided an additional \$1000 to each of the 3 high schools for a total of \$2000 to each school for 2019.

In order for these, and other S.C.O.P.E. chapters to continue holding these events and donating to local programs, we need your help. Go to a chapter meeting, meet other members and local officials, volunteer your time, ask your questions, and help our youth.

Financial Blacklisting: A High-Powered Weapon Aimed at the Second Amendment

By Harold Moskowitz

A “blacklist” is a compiled list of “undesirables” to be cut off from a basic necessity. It was once used by Pennsylvania coal mine owners. They compiled and shared lists of “trouble makers” who had been identified as union organizers. Being blacklisted prevented a man from being able to find work. In our time, blacklisting has advanced from union-busting to the cutting off of credit and to interference in legal commerce.

The financial industry has become an increasing danger to the firearms industry. Allum Bokhari at Breitbart News has investigated financial blacklisting. He has stated that: “Thanks to the encroachment of progressive ideology into the financial industry – including major credit card companies like VISA, Discover, and Mastercard -- it has become a reality.”

Our 21st century economy depends upon access to credit and, in our increasingly cashless society, to be able to have credit card purchase transactions processed. This reality gives the relatively few corporations providing these necessities tremendous power through financial blacklisting. Pressure can be exerted on firearm-related companies to act in certain proscribed ways to avoid being dropped as a financial services customer.

In Spring, 2018, First National Bank of Omaha stopped offering the NRA VISA card. Republic Bank ended the NRA VISA Prepaid Card. Bank of America refuses to work with any company producing “military style firearms.” J.P.Morgan Chase limits business with gun companies. CitiBank refuses to service any retailer which sells “high-capacity” magazines or sells firearms

to adults younger than 21. Bank of America has cut off services to any firearms maker producing or selling military style weapons for civilians. It also requires firearm retailers to perform background checks on customers. None of the firearms sales may be to adults younger than 21. Failure to meet these requirements will result in termination of financial services. It has also hinted at future requirements for gun manufacturing clients which might dictate the types of permissible firearms and which retailers would be allowed to sell those firearms.

One major bank resisted pressure from the New York Times and others to show “corporate responsibility.” In October, 2018, Wells Fargo Bank granted a \$40 million line of credit to Sturm, Ruger and Company. According to Bloomberg News, this was in addition to the \$431 million in financing that Wells Fargo had already given to gun companies since 2012. In an open letter, the management wrote that “the bank does not believe that the American public wants banks to decide which legal products consumers can and cannot buy.” Wells Fargo should be applauded and rewarded for its “backbone” with our patronage.

Not satisfied with these types of unwarranted interference with legal commerce, the Times in December, 2018 tried to exert pressure on credit card issuers to monitor customers’ firearm-related buying habits and to blacklist gun purchases. It suggested that banks “unwittingly finance mass shootings” by allowing individuals to use their cards for the purchase of firearms. It wants credit card companies to put systems in place to detect firearm purchases and to either decline them at the point of sale or to flag them to see how much money an individual is spending on guns. Their goal is for credit card issuers and card transaction processors to collectively set new rules for the sale of guns. All of this pressure is based upon the Progressive Left’s

value of “corporate responsibility.”

Under the “social responsibility” banner, Pay Pal, Square, Stripe, and Apple Pay, already are refusing to allow their services to be used for the sale of firearms. Now, the Times is pressuring the biggest customers of these payment processing companies. Corporations like McDonald’s, Starbucks, Amazon, CVS and others that publicly refer to “social responsibility” are urged to collectively pressure the payment processing companies to end the handling of gun sale transactions. What would stop this type of pressure from eventually extending to restrictions of the purchases of ammunition types, accessories, and even reloading equipment?

The Progressive Liberals, socialists and Marxists among us realize that they cannot impose their dystopian, tyrannical utopia on the nation until the potential for determined, effective armed resistance through the Second Amendment has been rendered impossible. After each incident of multiple homicide perpetrated by mentally disturbed individuals in gun-free zones, they incrementally chip away at the ability of the citizenry to remain armed in a meaningful way.

This article has focused upon financial blacklisting, a “pincer movement” in the Progressive Left’s multi-front war on the Second Amendment. If they succeed, this nation will be at a “tipping point.” Not just commercial entities are potentially endangered by this assault on freedom. Could your personal credit card be terminated in the future by its issuer because of your monitored donations to the NRA or to other groups which credit card companies might view with contempt?

To quote again from Allum Bokhari: “... to be shut off from an entire financial system. That is the terrifying new threat to freedom that Western society must now contend with.”

(Continued from page 7)

those people this article began about. EVERY organization, EVERY person who is willing to focus on the goal. No organization can afford to be waylaid by those who do not demonstrate this commitment. The Scottish author William Hutchison Murry once said "Until one is committed, there is hesitancy, the chance to draw back, always ineffectiveness."

The point that needs be made here is we must all, every Second Amendment organization, be unified and committed in that ultimate goal while pursuing different avenues of approach to it. Meanwhile, every member of individual organizations must be committed internally to one another. We cannot afford to pursue distracting avenues which misdirect us from our ultimate goal.... the violation of rights which we are experiencing as mentioned previously. No one organization, or subdivision of an organization, can hope to have any true result toward that goal without such commitment. An American writer, John D. MacDonald was quoted as saying "At times it seems as if arranging to have no commitment of any kind to anyone would be a special freedom. But in fact, the whole idea works in reverse. The most deadly commitment of all is

to be committed only to one's self. Some come to realize this after they are in the nursing home."

In other words, our strength is in our unity, not our differences. Commitment is primary and the goal of resurrecting our lost rights the ultimate goal. That entails several factors. Our members; their involvement and their commitment; their willingness to get involved beyond the basic membership level. Their seeking opportunities to become further involved beyond their membership fees. The voters; shifting the apathy and lack of confidence that exists these days in the 'system'. Education (the last word in our acronym S.C.O.P.E.) comes down to a one-on-one scenario more often than not. Unfortunately, the bulk of our society does not greatly involve itself in publications, social media or internet access to the news. We are awash daily in information, but a minority of people actually engage in it beyond the briefest exposure. Much like 'looking' and 'seeing' are two distinctly different functions.

So join us! Or join another organization better to your liking! But actually 'join' beyond putting membership fees forward and expecting someone else to commit for you. Take that commitment upon yourself.

With your time or with your money, or both. Spread the word. Become a leader, an organizer, or participate on the local level in getting out and conversing with those who have chosen apathy or action. Get involved! We ALL need you. We need your commitment! As tennis great Martina Navratilova said so well, "The difference between involvement and commitment is like ham and eggs. The chicken is involved; the pig is committed."

Your donations can be submitted at <https://scopeny2a.org/donate-to-SCOPE>. Your interest in volunteering can be directed to your local chapter chair or your other Directors on the Board at the state level. All contacts are listed on our website.



SCOPE Business Associate Membership

Show your support for our 2nd Amendment rights with a Business Associate Membership. Dues are \$50 annually, or \$250 for a Sponsor level membership. Members will receive a window sign to display, a listing on our website and contact information. We will also supply them with membership applications and a supply of each issue of the *Firing Lines* for their store. Sponsors will also receive a wall plaque for display in their store.

Application on page 12

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