

IS JUSTICE REALLY BLIND?

By Budd Schroeder

This column has been informing you about the injustices of the NY SAFE Act since it was enacted, literally in the middle of the night with no chance for input from citizens or even giving the legislators time to read and intelligently debate it. Governor Cuomo passed it with a message of necessity in order to ram it into law before anyone outside of the legislature could voice any objections. It had the effect of affecting the honest gun owner and having little effect on the criminal misuse of firearms.

The message of necessity was a joke. Most of the effects of the law were delayed including the recertification of pistol permits which was held off until this year. Requiring a background check to buy ammunition was found to be impractical and the state had no way of doing that since it could not be part of the NICS check. This is yet another incidence of stupidity of those who support the law.

People have been having pistol permits suspended by false reports from hospitals and medical personnel regarding mental health. Some have been reported as involuntary admissions to a hospital or medical facility when they came to the hospital voluntarily. Yet, because of the mistake and a report to the Office of Mental Health, they were reported to the State Police and their pistol permits were suspended and all guns were confiscated.

There was no due process before a qualified judge. There was no evaluation by a psychiatrist or psychologist. The case of *Montgomery v. Cuomo* is still languishing in the courts because the state keeps stalling on getting it settled. Whatever became of swift and sure justice? It is being ignored by those who are enforcing the SAFE Act.

The Act requires a universal background check for any transfer or sale of a gun to anyone outside of immediate family. This

prevents the Amish from acquiring a gun because of the need to produce a photo ID in order to get a NICS check. When a religion prevents photographs of its members, should that be a valid reason to prevent them from enjoying a constitutional right? The supporters of the SAFE Act think so.

For those who lost their right to possess a gun because of a false report, or a mistake, the process is based on the perversion of the concept of "innocent until proven guilty." This has been changed to "presumed guilty until the person can prove they are innocent." This is a timely and expensive process and the state cannot be held liable for any damages. The bureaucrats and politicians really look out for themselves when making laws.

One of the really dumb provisions of the law is the prohibition of gun magazines that hold more than ten rounds of ammunition. The law first prohibited magazines holding more than seven rounds. Then, there was an uproar because the standard for most semi-automatic handguns is ten rounds, so they changed that part of the law that allowed ten round magazines, but said the person could put only seven rounds in it.

Along with the stupidity of this provision, police were not exempt from this part of the law and instantly, cops on duty were law breakers. This again was changed and police were allowed to carry high capacity magazines, but not civilians and civilians could load ten rounds in their ten round magazines. However, a civilian caught with a high capacity magazine could be arrested and charged with a D Felony.

No violence is necessary to make the charge. It is an easy case to prosecute because it is one of just possession and a person can be sentenced to seven years if found guilty. That is the same sentence that a person who shoots someone can get depending on the circumstances.

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"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
Chairman Ray Kosorek
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518.966.4271

Meetings 4th Wednesday
7:00pm
Zaloga Post Albany, NY

Cattaraugus Chapter

Chairman Michael Guerin
Michael.guerin@scopeny.org
716.597.9001
Meetings 1st Thursday 7:00pm
American Legion Ellicottville, NY

Cayuga Chapter

George Chipman
George.chipman@scopeny.org
315.252.8541

Central NY Chapter:

Onondaga/Oswego
Chairman Mike Mastrogiovanni
Mike.mastrogiovanni@scopeny.org
315.652.4597
Meetings Runnings Store
7:00pm Liverpool, NY

Chautauqua Chapter

Chairman Will Conta
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716.857.0382

Chemung Chapter

Tom Reynolds
Tom.reynolds@scopeny.org
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**Newsletter Deadline for the Next Issue
July 15, 2017**

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 NO PDF files.

Cortland Committee
Chairman Randy Weatherby
Randy.weatherby@scopeny.org
607.423.2953

Delaware Committee
Chairman Andrea Elliot
Andrea.elliott@scopeny.org
845.586.1721

Dutchess Chapter
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Chris.zaleski@scopeny.org

Erie Chapter
Chairman Carl Leas
Carl.leas@scopeny.org
Meetings 3rd Thursday,
7:00pm
Harvey D. Morin VFW Post
965 Center Rd. West Seneca

Genesee Chapter
Chairman Bill Fox Sr.
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585.356.4992
Meetings 2nd Tuesday
7:00pm
Calvary Baptist Church
3515 Galloway Rd. Batavia, NY

Jefferson-Lewis Chapter
Chairman C. Bruce Kingsley
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Meetings 3rd Monday 7:00pm
Watertown Sportsmen's Club
Watertown, NY

Monroe Chapter
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Chris.edes@scopeny.org
585.202.7741
Co-Chair Bill Robinson
585.413.6340

Niagara Chapter
Chairman John Peracciny
John.peracciny@scopeny.org
716.998.1434

Meetings 2nd Tuesday 7:00pm
Wilson Conservation Club
Wilson, NY

Oneida-Herkimer Chapter
Chairman Fred Rebscher
Fred.rebscher@scopeny.org
315.723.6846

Ontario Chapter
Chairman Doug Negley
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585.507.6735
Meetings 3rd Monday 7:30pm
Inn on The Lake Canandaigua, NY

Orange Chapter
Chairman Mike Kubow
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845.496.1183

Orleans Chapter
Chairman David Thom
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585.589.6918
Meetings 2nd Monday 7:00pm
Hoag Library; 1st Floor
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7:00pm
4H Training Center Ballston Spa, NY

Schoharie Chapter
Chairman Russell Case III

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FIRING LINES

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RC PRODUCTIONS



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alternate venue every 3 months.

Meetings 3rd Thursday 7:00pm

Carlisle Town Hall Carlisle, NY

Meetings 3rd Thursday 7:00pm

Middleburgh R&G Club Middleburgh, NY

Schuyler Chapter

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Meetings 2nd Thursday 7:00pm,

Moose Lodge Montour Falls, NY

Seneca Chapter

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Southern Tier Chapter
Chenango/Madison/Broome
Chairman Shawn Palmer
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Steuben Chapter
Chairman Doug Mitchell
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Meetings 1st & 3rd Mondays 7:00pm
Bath Rod & Gun Club Bath, NY

Suffolk Chapter
Chairman James Saccardi
James.saccardi@scopeny.org
631.807.5016

Meetings 4th Thursday, 6:30pm, Dark Storm Indus-

tries Oakdale, NY

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Please call Chairman Hopler for Meeting dates & times

Ulster Chapter
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Wayne Chapter
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585.944.3965

Wyoming Chapter
Chairman Mark Yount Jr
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585.322.3144
Meetings 2nd Thursday 7:00pm, Dept. of Social Ser-

vices Bldg. Warsaw, NY

Yates Chapter
Chairman John Prendergast
John.prendergast@scopeny.org
315.694.0481



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. In less than two years, Cuomo or some equally radical liberal will be running for governor and the slim majority in the NY Senate will again be at stake. We cannot wait for the last months before that election to begin preparing. In addition, if we can help a genuine 2A supporter in a primary, that will occur months before the election. 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.

Our ad in *Firing Lines* gives you specific directions on how to donate.

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

Or online at:

www.SCOPEPAC.com



SCOPE has a new President

By Tim Andrews, SCOPE President

To those of you who were unable to attend SCOPE's members meeting on April 22nd, I'll begin by introducing myself. My name is Tim Andrews and your Board of Directors elected me president of SCOPE at our April meeting.

Most of you probably don't know me but I do have some history with SCOPE. I've been a SCOPE member for about thirty years and I'm currently an Endowment member. Beginning in the mid '90's I was the Chairman of the Monroe County Chapter and later went on to become president for about five years into the early 2000's.

You might be asking what brought me back after all these years? Well like many of you I was concerned with the level of infighting that was taking place within our organization. I contacted some folks in SCOPE leadership and offered my services to help resolve some of the differences. My intentions were to help mediate and I made it clear on several occasions I was not interested in an official position.

As time went on I learned that Tom Reynolds was not going to seek reelection as SCOPE president. At that time, some members asked me if I would consider running for president. I called Tom to confirm his intentions and I told him I would not consider running if he decided to seek another term. I'm grateful for Tom's service to SCOPE; he served during a trying time and did a great job of guiding us through some difficult waters. We owe Tom a debt of gratitude.

So, I'm the new guy at least in some sense. I was not a party to the divisions of the past year and the past is behind us.

Allow me to share a few of the reasons I decided to once again

serve as SCOPE'S president. I've always been a devout patriot. I love America and the freedoms we all share, especially the one freedom that guarantees all others, the Second Amendment. I'm a life member of several other pro-gun organizations, but in my view, there is no more effective defender of the Second Amendment in New York State than SCOPE. In the real sense of the word SCOPE is a true grass roots organization. We are the only pro-gun organization in New York with a local chapter structure that, forgive the phrase, gives us boots on the ground in every corner of New York State. You are more than a member you are part of our team, you are the lifeblood of SCOPE.

If you live in an area where there is a chapter I would urge you to get involved. Offer your voice, your input. Run for office in your chapter or next year consider throwing your hat in the ring for a state office. If there's no chapter in your area consider starting one. SCOPE is your organization.

I understand how frustrating it is to be a gun owner in New York. We have all, probably at times, felt like throwing our hands in the air and saying what's the use. I urge you don't give up, giving up is the only way Cuomo and his cronies can win the ultimate fight. We have lost some battles but we have not lost the war. With the addition of Neil Gorsuch to the U.S. Supreme Court, our prospects of overturning unconstitutional laws like the (un)SAFE Act have greatly improved. We will continue our efforts in the courts.

The gun grabbers in the New York State Assembly do have a solid majority, however, we do have a tepid pro-gun majority in the Senate. With divided government in Albany it's possible to move pro-gun legislation with some creative horse-trading between New York City Democrats and downstate pro-gun legislators. SCOPE is retooling our strategies to advance a pro-Second Amendment

agenda in Albany.

More details will soon follow but I want to let you know that SCOPE is working on proposed legislation in the United States Congress to repeal unconstitutional state laws like the New York (un)SAFE Act. Our proposal would use the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment that provides a means for the Federal Government to repeal state laws that violate the constitutional rights of their citizens. Stay tune more will be forthcoming.

We are all aware of the anti-gun bias that exists in today's media. It's a problem that President Trump experienced as well and he taught us how to overcome the lying and deceitful media. President Trump's deft use of the internet and social media, allowed him to do an end run around the media and successfully delivered his message to voters. In the next few weeks you will see a new and improved SCOPE website as well as a presence on social media. An electronic presence gives us an opportunity to reach not only gun owners but non-gun owners as well. Opportunities to educate the public on law abiding gun ownership to correct the lies and deceptions that unsuspecting New Yorkers hear in the media almost every day.

SCOPE is reloading; we are fine-tuning our efforts in Albany and tightening our business model. You, our members are still and always will be the tip of the spear. SCOPE needs you! We need you involved, recruit a member, if each of us could recruit just one member we would double our membership. Talk to your family and friends, call your legislators and let them know you expect them to honor and defend all the constitution including the Second Amendment.

As always please contact your local chapter, any officer or me with any questions, concerns or suggestions you may have and I look forward to a successful future. Thank you for your continued support.

Yates County has Three High Schools Competing in the New York State High School Clay Trap League

By John Prendergast – Chairman

The old saying is that when you want something done, ask a busy man to head up the work. Well Leigh Williams our Yates County SCOPE (YC SCOPE) Vice Chairman is that man. Leigh has worked tirelessly with the High Schools in Yates County; Dundee, Penn Yan Academy and Marcus Whitman to get the 1st year of competition underway here in Yates County.

Here is how the program was born. Leigh engaged with Mr. Tom Schmandt, the Athletic Director at Palmyra Macedon High School about getting the Clay Trap League going in Yates County. After a presentation by Tom and Mr. David Dandino at one of our monthly meetings in Penn Yan in 2016, Leigh was off and on a mission.

Contact with the three High Schools was undertaken by Leigh. As one might expect, the schools were busy with the day to day operations at their schools. Getting the attention of the Administration and the Athletic Directors took some work, but that is to be expected. Once contact was initiated the acceptance of having a shooting program was quickly accepted by all of the Schools Administration. The Athletic Directors at each school, Dundee; Sheldon Gibson, Penn Yan; Tobin Tansey, and Marcus Whitman; Paul Lahue took over the task of acquiring coaches for the program. Again the faculty responded quickly and the program was underway.

YC SCOPE quickly turned its attention to helping the embryonic

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Basics of the U.S. Court System

By Henry S. Kramer

Many Americans are unaware of the details of how our legal system works. Which government – federal or state-controls which aspects of our lives? Which court will hear a case? What does it mean when a district court judge enjoins a presidential executive order? What is our court system like?

There is a hierarchy of laws. At the top of the pyramid is the Constitution, followed by statute (or legislated) laws, then regulations issued under those laws, then guidelines. Executive agencies have to follow executive orders. There are a plethora of federal and state administrative agencies, (the bureaucracy), some of which, like the Federal Reserve, operate fairly independently.

Every American citizen (except those dwelling in the District of Columbia) is subject to two sovereign levels of government, federal and state. In DC, there is no state government; the city government operates under federal authority.

The states are the lowest *sovereign* level of government. Under U.S. Supreme Court law, cities, counties, towns, and all local governments are mere sub-divisions of the state government. The state government can establish, abolish, modify, mandate, or do what it wishes with local governments, unless restricted by state constitutions.

In many areas of the law, both the federal government and the state may act on their citizens and on residents within their borders. This is called concurrent jurisdiction. There are some cases where the federal government, using the Constitution's supremacy clause, has entirely preempted the state government of authority (for example the National La-

bor Relations Act regarding unionization). When there is concurrent jurisdiction, the state laws may go further than federal law but may not override federal law. One example of this is the recreational or medical marijuana law in a state like Colorado. The state can decriminalize marijuana use under state law, which protects people from state prosecution as long as they adhere to the terms of the state law. However, all marijuana use is still illegal under federal law. The state cannot override or overturn this federal law, so it cannot protect people in these states from federal prosecution.

There are some areas of the law confided exclusively to the federal government such as coining money or waging war. The federal government also enforces immigration law. Although some cities claim to be "sanctuary cities", local laws cannot override federal ones and the federal government has the authority to enforce federal law. While local officials may not be forced to cooperate, active *obstruction* of federal enforcement is not lawful and it may also result in the withholding of federal funds.

There are some areas in which there are three levels of government that claim authority. In civil rights there is the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the New York State Division of Human Rights, and in some counties a Human Rights Commission that enforce similar laws.

Crimes are based on legislative (statutory) law. Most crimes are under the general police power of state criminal laws. The federal government, too, can create federal statutory crimes but most "garden house" prosecutions are done under state law.

What is our court system like? At the lowest state court levels we have small claims, justice of the peace, and city and town courts. These have limited jurisdiction confined to just certain types of cases and dollar amounts in issue.

The lowest level of general court jurisdiction in New York State is surprisingly -and confusingly-called the New York State Supreme Court. (Because it had general jurisdiction in colonial times it was considered to be "supreme".) Since then, New York has added two higher tiers of courts: the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court handles appeals, many by right, from the New York Supreme Court; and the New York Court of Appeals which is the highest level court of New York State law and has control and discretion over most of the cases that litigants seek to take there.

The judgments rendered by these courts have different effects on other courts. Judgments of the State Supreme Court are not binding on other state Supreme Court judges. Decisions of the Appellate Division are binding precedent only in the judicial department in which they sit. Decisions of the New York Court of Appeals are binding state wide. The federal court system is parallel and there are some special courts such as bankruptcy court and tax court.

At the lowest general jurisdiction level are the United States District Courts. These are trial courts, that is, they hear and decide both the facts (sometimes with a jury) and the law. On appeal, in both federal and state systems, higher level courts review the law, not the facts.

The next higher level of the federal system is the U.S. Courts of Appeals. These are regional. Appeals at this level are generally heard by panels of three judges and rarely will all the judges in a circuit sit together on a case. Decisions of the U.S. Court of Appeals are binding in their own circuit and influential in the other circuits. These are the second highest level of courts in the U.S.

The United States Supreme Court is the highest court in the land. Very few cases can start at this level (e.g. suits between states); most Su-

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preme Court cases are appeals. The Supreme Court has discretion whether or not to hear most cases and it hears relatively few cases; it takes four justices voting to hear a case for the matter to reach the court. Most often the cases they hear involve major principles of law and are there because the U.S. Courts of Appeals have ruled differently on the law creating a split between the circuits. Important federal issues also may be reviewed. There are nine justices. To create binding national precedent, a decision must have five votes. If a plurality opinion decides the case, it leaves the door open for the court to eventually rule differently on the issue. The court is normally very deferential to its prior decisions and although it can overrule prior decisions it rarely does overrule them. More often, the court may “distinguish” a case from its predecessors and so begin to change the law in that way.

Cases involving laws enforced at administrative agencies often substitute the trial phase of a litigation with a hearing at the agency in lieu of the U.S. District Court. Appeals generally go from there to the U.S. Courts of Appeals. However, appeals from some agency hearings can and do go to the U.S. District Courts.

Not every case can start in the federal system. To go there, there must be either a substantial federal question in issue or the parties must be from different states with at least a certain dollar amount at issue. Most cases are handled in the state court system. On questions of state law (which do not involve federal constitutional issues), the state courts have the last word. However, if a case reaches the state’s highest court and there is a federal constitutional issue, the litigant can ask the U.S. Supreme Court to hear the case on appeal. This is what happened in *Gore v. Bush*, concerning the outcome of a presidential elec-

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tion in Florida, which raised federal questions.

Judges in the federal system are appointed by the President, confirmed by the Senate, and serve for life on good behavior. They can be removed only by impeachment. Judges in state systems may be appointed or elected - it varies by state - and may serve for life or a term of office.

An injunction is a court order forbidding the doing of some act. Federal district judges traditionally avoided making constitutional law decisions, leaving that to higher courts. Alas, no more. Federal district court judges now are prone to issuing orders and even declaring these are of national effect. Of course, these injunctions can be appealed, but this takes time. So, the parties may “forum shop” and try to find a federal district court judge they think will lean their way. As these orders don’t bind other judges, there can be conflicting orders and these have to be sorted out by higher courts.

That, in a nutshell, is how our system works. There are variations that are not discussed but those are the basics of the system.

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Jefferson County Fair Administrators relent- Jefferson-Lewis SCOPE Chapter will be represented at the Jefferson County Fair

By Dave Petteys, Vice Chair Jefferson-Lewis SCOPE

This is to notify the general membership of SCOPE that in 2016 the Jefferson County Fair Administration conducted a running battle with our Jefferson-Lewis SCOPE Chapter during the 2016 Fair Season. They refused to grant us a vendor's slot claiming we were not welcome at the Fair because of what we were and what we represented.

They cited that the issue of guns was too controversial for a County Fair venue and implied we were only there to market guns. Throughout the remainder of 2016 we lobbied and made a lot of noise in the press and recently reapplied for the 2017 Fair venue. As a result of our chapter's dedication, hard work and perseverance, the Fair board has relented and will permit us to participate as a vendor at the nearly week-long event.

Our treasurer, Mark Houghtaling did a wonderful job of

shepherding our application through a minefield of bureaucracy to deliver a win for our chapter and for the 2nd amendment rights of all Jefferson County residents.

A second issue of concern to Jefferson-Lewis SCOPE was a recent letter from the Rotary International Organization claiming that the International Organization could not any longer support activities involving firearms. This was a head turner for us because the Gun Show in Clayton NY, which we always participate in, is hosted by the local Clayton Rotary which is a subset of Rotary International. Mark's letter clarifies the position of the Clayton Gun Show promoters and is very welcome news for our Chapter.

So, two kudos to SCOPE's Jefferson-Lewis's Chapter and our newly elected Treasurer, Mark Houghtaling. We are lucky to have him and he serves as a model all SCOPE members should strive to be like. Mark is an action oriented guy and believes that each of us must push the limits if we want to preserve our rights. Remember, it's the squeaky wheel that gets the grease so always hold your ground and do not back down.

So here is Mark's letter to our Chapter Core group which reads as follows:

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my distinct privilege to inform you that I received an email from Jeff Wise, the Fair Concessions Manager, stating that we have been approved to attend the Fair. Furthermore, they have granted permission to conduct a firearms raffle, as long as no firearms are present. I have the contract and will get it filled out. The cost will be \$150 for the double space I requested (10'x20'). We will also need to provide a liability insurance form in the amount of \$1M.

I will get signup sheets ready and bring them to the meetings. We need a bunch of people to fill the time slots.

Additionally, I contacted the Rotary in Clayton concerning the August gun show. That show WILL go on as planned. They have thumbed their nose (so to speak) at the International Office. The man I wrote to is a life NRA member and active in 2nd Amendment activities. Respectfully, Mark Houghtaling, Treasurer Jefferson Lewis SCOPE

"There are almost 4 million gun owners in New York. Cuomo got 2.1 million votes in 2014. Do the math!"

Jury Duty

By Richard Rossi; Delaware County

In this issue of "The Firing Lines", I would like to discuss JURY DUTY. Is the *Jury Duty notice letter* you get in the mail is a curse or blessing? Is your first thought - how can I get out of this or is this my privilege to serve? Don't take Jury Duty lightly.

I would like to briefly speak about "JUROR NULLIFICATION". Never heard the term, don't be sur-

prised. It is NOT something that Judges, District Attorneys, and Prosecutors readily speak about to juries or Grand Juries for that matter.

For citizens to defend against corrupt politicians and their corrupt laws, you must get on the jury. Therefore, you need to be especially careful NOT to 'tip your hand' on your knowledge of your rights concerning 'Nullification'.

When questioned, state you do not keep track of political issues and consider variously stating that you can apply the law as instructed

by the court. Especially in gun related cases, be vague and don't readily state that you are a member of gun right groups or organizations. Use Hillary's defense - I don't recall... I get so many requests for contributions, I just can't keep track of all of them.

While on a panel, you will at times, be forced to '*stand your ground*' against other jurors - don't cave on your convictions. Jurors, for the most part, want to go home and

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get it over with. Holding your ground - might get additional jurors to vote along with you. Be polite and don't shout - speak calmly. Try to get the others to listen to your reasoning. However, if all fails, don't vote along with the rest. You have every right to vote 'NOT GUILTY' If your personal convictions say this is an unjust law.

Depending on the circumstances, at times - only one 'NOT GUILTY' can be the difference. Remember a 'HUNG JURY', IS better than a conviction!

However, at times, with grand juries, you might need to get more jurors on your side, as a majority might be all that is required for either a dismissal of the case or hold it over. However, if you preserve and hold to your convictions, you can make our democracy work for the common man.

Remember, instructions and oaths are designed to 'bully jurors' and protect political power - instructions and oaths are NOT LEGALLY BINDING. Your conscience is your best guide in the juror box and in deliberation room.

You must know your rights - Juror nullification is your right to refuse to enforce bad laws and bad prosecutions. Nullification is your personal veto against bad laws. Nullification is your right to veto corrupt laws from corrupt politicians.

Alexander Hamilton, an American Founder, said in 1804, 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."

Jurors have authority - when you are a juror, you have the right to decide both law and fact. You can protect yourself and friends and family by refusing to enforce bad laws. In our system of checks and balances, you, the juror, are the final judge of law and justice.

Jurors can use discretion. If

the law violates any human rights, you must vote *NO* against that law by voting 'NOT GUILTY'. You cannot be punished for your verdict. You need not give a reason.

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)

Juries and jurors have the power over our corrupt system of laws that are being forced down our throat by political agenda's. We can stand up for our Rights and Freedoms against our legislators and judges who dictate laws that are unjust. We can take back our justice system - We the juror have the power... JUROR NULLIFICATION.

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 true difference. You can take back our Rights and Freedoms. KNOWLEDE is POWER and JUROR NULLIFICATION is your weapon.

As a Law-abiding gun owner or Concealed Carry Permit hold ESPECIALLY in New York State where our Second Amendment Rights are constantly being attacked and regulated to the point that the 2nd Amendment is just words with NO meaning - this is your hour to shine. You can make the NYS SAFE Act just words without any POWER - just like they are doing with our Second Amendment Rights and Freedoms.

Your *FIRST* objective is to get on that jury panel. Get on that Jury or Grand Jury and vote NOT GUILTY to any and all laws that infringe our Rights & Freedoms to self-defense of our loved ones or ourselves. Self preservation is a natural instinct of human mankind no gov-

ernment has the right to take that right away from you.

Jury Nullification may be the *FINAL* peaceful barrier between Law-abiding gun owners and a tyrannical government dependent upon disarming honorable citizens.

As a side note, even IF you are not a juror, you can be active. Become a 'Court Watcher'. You have a right to attend most court trial functions. Just like the 'media' you can voice your opinions in your local papers in the letter to the editor sections. You can voice your agreement or disagreement with the results (verdict) and the actions of the court officials. We still have freedom of speech. The more individuals keeping a 'watchful eye' on our judicial process the better for all of us.

The same holds true for Town Meetings, School Board Meetings and 'Town Hall' events by our representatives. When the public does not show up, it sends a message to our various boards - they can do as they please without and consequences. NO one is watching or caring. Attend, be vocal... defend your convictions. You can make a difference.

I encourage each and everyone, to read and understand all you can concerning 'JUROR NULLIFICATION'. Go to WWW.FIJA.ORG to read much more on this very important topic.

**Help
Defeat the
politicians
trying to steal
YOUR
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PAC Page 3**

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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Adirondack Conservation Council
Alabama Hunt Club
Albion Fish & Game Club, Inc.
Alden Rod & Gun Club
Alfred Rod & Gun Club
Allegany County Federation of Sportsman
Allied Sportsmen of WNY Inc
Almond Rod & Gun Club, Inc.
American Legion Riders Post 173
American Legion Riders Post 355
A-ON-DO-WA-NUH Sportsmans Club
Argunrod Sportsman Club Inc.
Attica Rod & Gun Club, Inc
B R & G Conservation Club
Bailey Mountain Fish & Game Club, Inc.
BarreSportsmens Club
Barrington Rifle Club
Bath Rod & Gun Club, Inc.
Big Game Recovery
Black Rock Fish & Game Club of Cornwall, Inc.
Blasdell Rod & Gun Club
Bog Trotters Rifle & Pistol Club Inc
Boston Valley Conservation Society
Branchport Rod & Gun Club Inc.
Broome County Sportsmen's Assoc Inc.
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Burlington Flats Fish & Game Club, Inc.
Busti Trap Club
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Camden Rod & Gun Club
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Canandaigua Sportman's Club, Inc.
Canaseraga Conservation Club
Canisteo Rod & Gun Club, Inc.
Cattaraugus Rod & Gun Club
Cayuga County Sportsmen's Association
Central Game Preserve
Chautauqua County Federation of Sportsmen
Chemung County Rod & Gun Club, Inc.
Chestnut Ridge Rod & Gun Club
Cloverbank Sportsman's Club Inc
Community Conservation Club
Conesus Lake Sportsmen's Club, Inc.
Coxsackie Sportsmen's Club
Dalton Gang Sportsmen Club, Inc.
Dansville Fish & Game

Protective Assoc., Inc
Deer Search of WNY, Inc.
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Depew Rod & Gun Club
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Dutchess County Pistol Association
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East Hook Sportsmen
Eden-North Collins Gun Club
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Ellicottville Sportsmen's Club
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Gorham Coon Hunters
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Gowanda Rifle Club, Inc.
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Somerset Conservation Club, Inc
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South Shore Association of Onedia Lake Sportsmen's Club of Clifton Park
Springville Field & Stream Club, Inc.
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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.

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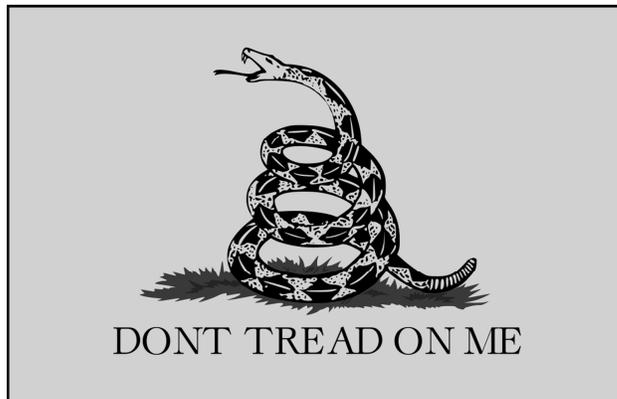
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POLITICS, PARTY, POWER, PERCEPTION, PRAGMATISM AND PATRONAGE

By Budd Schroeder

The headline presents the major prescription for the present state of politics. In this definition the words principles and performance are not present. The point being that the way government is being run the focus is away from people and centered on what is best for the political party.

It would appear that the political pundits and party participants make their decisions not for the benefit of the people, but on ways to get the people to vote for the party. Even the discussions on the repeal of Obamacare are laced with the commentary on how this will affect the balance of power in next year's elections and whether it could mean that the Republicans lose seats in the Congress.

From Charles Schumer's discussions on the subject, it is a major concern regarding his perspective on the Senate strategy. Schumer desperately wants to be the Majority Leader. More power! Enough said!

In politics, perception IS reality. If the public can be convinced that the press releases are accurate (even if they are not) that serves the politician's purpose and that is where the term "fake news" comes in. It doesn't matter if the news is biased or even a half truth. If the people believe it, the news release has done its job for the party or the individual.

Truth can actually be relative. A change of a situation caused by external conditions or forces can make yesterday's truth no longer accurate. Does that make the former statement a lie? That depends of the perception of the person reporting or believing it.

An inaccuracy someone

stated decades ago can be brought up in a recent report and depending on how the spin doctor reporter describes it. The old quote can be a reason for a negative slant to denigrate the one who said it.

This has been a common method of describing some of the key appointments to the Trump cabinet. Also, the reporters, usually in the electronic media, when interviewing a political person, will start a question with something like "people are saying....." and how do you respond to that? Actually, nobody but the interviewer is thinking that, but it gives him a bit of distance from the question.

With the party calling the shots in many political debates or interviews, the focus can shift to the philosophies and stances of the parties. The messages given can be thinly veiled to convince the viewer that it is in their best interests to vote for that party's ticket in the next election. If the listeners are convinced that it is in their best interests to vote for the party, the interview was a success.

Realizing that party politics are the prime objective for most candidates and elected officials, the most important consideration is to keep the party strong, or to increase its strength. The plasma in the life blood of a party is patronage. Those that have, gets.

For example, in Erie County and many others there are patronage pits where the faithful to the party get good jobs and perks. The Eric County water authority is a good example. It can take members of the party faithful and give them a good, well paying job. They don't have to be able to fix broken pipe lines to get on the payroll.

Practically every elected official has staff members and can be "encouraged" to place a party favorite in a position. Usually, the chosen person has been helpful during a campaign. Some are placed in those positions because they are competent and

have talent.

One of the worst conditions in politics is the selection of Supreme Court Justices. That is 100 percent political. On the higher level, they are appointments. On the local level they are pretty much selected by the County Chairmen.

Selection is done by party delegates who vote in a Judicial Convention. The delegates are party members with a slate picked by the chairman. Others can run for a seat as a delegate, and can, if lucky or works hard, win a seat. However, the chairmen have a big success in getting their people elected.

Then, comes the fun part. Those who wish to become judges become very friendly to all the party chairmen and there are stories of how money can legally change hands during this process. Some involve donations to the party. Some involve promises. Politics as usual are evident.

Every candidate hopes for a cross endorsement. That means more than one party will give the endorsement and this saves a lot of money in a campaign.

The party chairmen do some trading of "you endorse my candidate and I will endorse yours." Simply put, the public has no choice in who gets on the ballot. If there are four openings in the Supreme Court there are only four candidates. None were selected by petition as is done in the lower courts. The voting is simple. All will get elected.

There is little to no hope that this method will change. Judges are the people who rule on whether laws are constitutional. The parties like to stay in power. They will do everything they can to protect their turf, be it by manipulation, media control or gerrymandering. More grist for this columnist's mill. Stay cool and stay tuned in.





SCOPE wishes to Thank TROY Defense for their generous donation of four Pump Action Carbines.

Troy Defense is a Massachusetts Company that is doing what it can to support our fight in New York. They have donated four pump action NY SAFE compliant rifles (pictured below) to SCOPE. SCOPE appreciates the support and will use the rifles in raffles to the membership. We at SCOPE are asking the membership to support Troy Defense.

Visit their website at TROYDEFENSE.COM

Troy Defense supports SCOPE and all gun owners. They are committed to preserving our Second Amendment Rights.

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585-663-7826

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Depew NY 14043
716-407-0515

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Ballston Spa NY 12020
518-596-9900

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Victor NY 14564

Armor Risk Management
PO Box 9
Ravena NY 12143
518-756-7380

Association of Former NYS Troopers
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Hamlin NY 14464-0362
585-964-3317

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Canisteo NY 14823
607-698-2876

Beecroft's
11106 Rt 40
Schaghticoke NY 12154
518-753-4402

Bell Security & Investigations
60 Willowbend Dr
Penfield NY 14526
585-249-9191

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585-356-4992

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518-891-4680

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585-798-0048

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Penfield NY 14526-2045
585-235-0980

Cobleskill Outdoor Sports
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Cobleskill NY 12043
518-234-2400

Corning Catering
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Corning NY 14830
607-962-2106

Creekside Morgans
60529 Route 415
Avoca NY 14809-9540
631-988-6303

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409 Main St
Schoharie NY 12157
518-702-4057

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(Continued on page 15)

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Your Representatives

SCOPE defends the 2nd Amendment in many ways, one of which is by having chapters, committees and individual members contact their legislators to express our concerns and/or support. In order to provide an easy reference for you, the following is a list of the contact phone numbers for New York State Assembly members and New York State Senators and Federal Senators for

New York.

It is important that these individuals get constant feedback from SCOPE in order to strengthen their resolve on 2nd Amendment issues. I encourage you to call your local representative to encourage them when they do something right and tell them your displeasure when they do something wrong.

For a list of addresses: <http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/>
 For information on your Representative: <http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/>

Dist	NYS State Assembly	Albany #	Local #			
1	Fred Thiele, Jr.	518-455-5997	631-537-2583	46	Pamela Harris	518-455-4811 718-266-0267
2	Anthony Palumbo	518-455-5294	631-727-0204	47	William Colton	518-455-5828 718-236-1598
3	L. Dean Murray	518-455-5908	631-207-0073	48	Dov Hikind	518-455-5721 718-853-9616
4	Steven Englebright	518-455-4804	631-751-3094	49	Peter Abbate Jr	518-455-3053 718-236-1764
5	Alfred Graf	518-455-5937	631-585-0230	50	Joseph Lentol	518-455-4477 718-383-7474
6	Philip Ramos	518-455-5185	631-435-3214	51	Felix Ortiz	518-455-3821 718-492-6334
7	Andrew Garbarino	518-455-4611	631-589-0348	52	JoAnne Simon	518-455-5426 718-246-4889
8	Michael Fitzpatrick	518-455-5021	631-724-2929	53	Maritza Davila	518-455-5537 718-433-1205
9	Joseph Saladino	518-455-5305	516-541-4598	54	Erik Martin Dilan	518-455-5821 718-386-4576
10	Chad Lupinacci	518-455-5732	631-271-8025	55	Latrice Walker	518-455-4466 718-342-1256
11	Kimberly Jean-Pierre	518-455-5787	631-957-2087	56	Tremaine Wright	518-455-5474 718-399-7630
12	Andrew Raia	518-455-5952	631-261-4151	57	Walter Mosley	518-455-5325 718-596-0100
13	Charles Lavine	518-455-5456	516-676-0071	58	N. Nick Perry	518-455-4166 718-385-3336
14	David McDonough	518-455-4633	516-409-2070	59	Jaime Williams	518-455-5211 718-252-2124
15	Michael Montesano	518-455-4684	516-937-3571	60	Charles Barron	518-455-5912 718-257-5824
16	Anthony D'Urso	518-455-5192	516-482-6966	61	Matthew Titone	518-455-4677 718-442-9932
17	Tom McKeivitt	518-455-5341	516-228-4960	62	Ron Castorino Jr.	518-455-4495 718-967-5194
18	Earlene Hooper	518-455-5861	516-489-6610	63	Michael Cusick	518-455-5526 718-370-1384
19	Edward Ra	518-455-4627	516-535-4095	64	Nicole Malliotakis	518-455-5716 718-987-0197
20	Melissa Miller	518-455-3028	516-431-0500	65	Yuh-Line Niou	518-455-3640 212-312-1420
21	Brian Curran	518-455-4656	516-561-8216	66	Deborah Glick	518-455-4841 212-674-5153
22	Michaelle Solages	518-455-4465	516-59-2972	67	Linda Rosenthal	518-455-5802 212-873-6368
23	Stacey Pheffer Amato	518-455-4292	718-945-9550	68	Robert Rodriguez	518-455-4781 212-828-3953
24	David Weprin	518-455-5806	718-454-3027	69	Daniel O'Donnell	518-455-5603 212-866-3970
25	Nily Rozic	518-455-5172	718-820-0241	70	Inez Dickens	518-455-4793 212-866-5809
26	Edward Braunstein	518-455-5425	718-357-3588	71	Herman Farrell Jr	518-455-5491 212-234-1430
27	Michael Simanowitz	518-455-4404	718-969-1508	72	Carmen De La Rosa	518-455-5807 212-544-2278
28	Andrew Hevesi	518-455-4926	718-263-5595	73	Daniel Quart	518-455-4794 212-605-0937
29	Alicia Hyndman	518-455-4451	718-723-5412	74	Brian Kavanagh	518-455-5506 212-979-9696
30	Brian Barnwell	518-455-4755	718-651-3185	75	Richard Gottfried	518-455-4941 212-807-7900
31	Michele Titus	518-455-5668	718-327-1845	76	Rebecca Seawright	518-455-5676 212-288-4607
32	Vivian Cook	518-455-4203	718-322-3975	77	Latoya Joyner	518-455-5671 718-538-2000
33	Clyde Vanel	518-455-4711	718-479-2333	78	Jose Rivera	518-455-5414 718-933-2204
34	Michael DenDekker	518-455-4545	718-457-0384	79	Michael Blake	518-455-5272 718-538-3829
35	Jeffrion Aubry	518-455-4561	718-457-3615	80	Mark Gjonaj	518-455-5844 718-409-0109
36	Aravela Simotas	518-455-5014	718-545-3889	81	Jeffrey Dinowitz	518-455-5965 718-796-5345
37	Catherine Nolan	518-455-4851	718-784-3194	82	Michael Benedetto	518-455-5296 718-892-2235
38	Michael Miller	518-455-4621	718-805-0950	83	Carl Heastie	518-455-3791 718-654-6539
39	Francisco Moya	518-455-4567	718-458-5367	84	Carmen Arroyo	518-455-5402 718-292-2901
40	Ron Kim	518-455-5411	718-939-0195	85	Marcos Crespo	518-455-5514 718-893-0202
41	Helene Weinstein	518-455-5462	718-648-4700	86	Victor Pichardo	518-455-5511 718-933-6909
42	Rodneyse Bichotte	518-455-5385	718-940-0428	87	Luis Sepelveda	518-455-5102 718-931-2620
43	Diana Richardson	518-455-5262	718-771-3105	88	Amy Paulin	518-455-5585 914-723-1115
44	Robert Carroll	518-455-5377	718-788-7221	89	J. Gary Pretlow	518-455-5291 914-667-0127
45	Steven Cymbrowitz	518-455-5214	718-743-4078	90	Shelley Mayer	518-455-3662 914-779-8805
				91	Steven Otis	518-455-4897 914-939-7028

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92 Thomas Abinanti	518-455-5753	914-631-1605
93 David Buchwald	518-455-5397	914-244-4450
94 Kevin Byrne	518-455-5783	845-628-3781
95 Sandra Galef	518-455-5348	914-941-1111
96 Kenneth Zebrowski	518-455-5735	845-634-9791
97 Ellen Jaffee	518-455-5118	845-624-4601
98 Karl Brabenec	518-455-5991	845-844-7551
99 James Skoufis	518-455-5441	845-469-6929
100 Aileen Gunther	518-455-5355	845-794-5807
101 Brian Miller	518-455-5334	315-736-3879
102 Peter Lopez	518-455-5363	518-943-1371
103 Kevin Cahill	518-455-4436	845-338-9610
104 Frank Skartados	518-455-5762	845-562-0888
105 Kieran Lalor	518-455-5725	845-221-2202
106 Didi Barrett	518-455-5177	845-454-1703
107 Steven McLaughlin	518-455-5777	518-272-6149
108 John McDonald	518-455-4474	
109 Patricia Fahy	518-455-4178	
110 Phillip Steck	518-455-5931	518-377-0902
111 Angelo Santabarbara	518-455-5197	518-843-0227
112 Mary Beth Walsh	518-455-5772	518-370-2812
113 Carrie Woerner	518-455-5404	518-584-5493
114 Daniel Stec	518-455-5565	518-792-4546
115 Billy Jones	518-455-5943	518-562-1986
116 Addie Jenne	518-455-5545	315-786-0284
117 Ken Blankenbush	518-455-5797	315-493-3909
118 Marc Butler	518-455-5393	315-866-1632
119 Anthony Brindisi	518-455-5454	315-732-1055
120 Will Barclay	518-455-5841	315-598-5185
121 William Magee	518-455-4807	315-361-4125
122 Clifford Crouch	518-455-5741	607-648-6080
123 Donna Lupardo	518-455-5431	607-723-9047
124 Christopher Friend	518-455-4538	607-562-3602
125 Barbara Lifton	518-455-5444	607-277-8030
126 Gary Finch	518-455-5878	315-255-3045
127 Al Stirpe	518-455-4505	315-452-1115
128 Pamela Hunter	518-455-5383	315-449-9536
129 William Magnarelli	518-455-4826	315-428-9651
130 Robert Oaks	518-455-5655	315-946-5166
131 Brian Kolb	518-455-3751	315-781-2030
132 Phillip Palmesano	518-455-5791	607-776-9691
133 Joseph Errigo	518-455-5662	585-218-0038
134 Peter Lawrence	518-455-4664	585-225-4190
135 Mark Johns	518-455-5784	585-223-9130
136 Joseph Morelle	518-455-5373	585-467-0410
137 David Gantt	518-455-5606	585-454-3670
138 Harry Bronson	518-455-4527	585-244-5255
139 Steve Hawley	518-455-5811	585-589-5780
140 Robin Schimminger	518-455-4767	716-873-2540
141 Crystal Peoples-Stokes	518-455-5005	716-897-9714
142 Michael Kearns	518-455-4691	716-671-8291
143 Monica Wallace	518-455-5921	716-686-0080
144 Michael Norris	518-455-4601	716-839-4691
145 Angelo Morinello	518-455-5284	716-282-6062
146 Raymond Walter	518-455-4618	716-634-1895
147 David DiPietro	518-455-5314	716-655-0951
148 Joseph Giglio	518-455-5241	716-373-7103
149 Sean Ryan	518-455-4886	716-885-9630
150 Andrew Goodell	518-455-4511	716-664-7773

Dist	NY State Senate	Albany #	Local #
1	Kenneth LaValle	518-455-3121	631-473-1461
2	John Flanagan	518-455-2071	631-361-2154
3	Thomas Croci	518-445-3570	631-360-3356
4	Philip Boyle	518-455-3411	631-665-2311
5	Carl Marcellino	518-455-2390	516-922-1811
6	Kemp Hannon	518-455-2200	516-739-1700
7	Elaine Phillips	516-746-5924	
8	John Brooks	518-455-2765	518-882-0630
9	Todd Kaminski	518-455-3401	516-766-8383
10	James Sanders, Jr	518-455-5531	718-327-7017
11	Tony Avella	518-455-2210	718-357-3094
12	Michael Gianaris	518-455-3486	718-728-0963
13	Jos, Peralta	518-455-2529	718-205-3881
14	Leroy Comrie, Jr	518-455-2701	718-454-0162
15	Joseph Addabbo, Jr	518-455-2322	718-738-1111
16	Toby Ann Stavisky	518-455-3461	718-445-0004
17	Simcha Felder	518-455-2754	718-253-2015
18	Martin Malav, Dilan	518-455-2177	718-573-2407
19	Roxanne Persaud	518-455-2788	718-649-7653
20	Jesse Hamilton	518-455-2431	718-284-4700
21	Kevin Parker	518-455-2580	718-629-6401
22	Martin Golden	518-455-2730	718-238-6044
23	Diane Savino	518-455-2437	718-727-9426
24	Andrew Lanza	518-455-3215	718-984-4073
25	Velmanette Montgomery	518-455-3451	718-643-6140
26	Daniel Squadron	518-455-2625	212-298-5565
27	Brad Hoylman	518-455-2451	212-633-8052
28	Liz Krueger	518-455-2297	212-490-9535
29	Jos, Serrano	518-455-2795	212-828-5829
30	Bill Perkins	518-455-2441	212-222-7315
31	Marisol Alcantara	518-455-2041	212-544-0173
32	Ruben Diaz, Sr	518-455-2511	718-991-3161
33	J. Gustavo Rivera	518-455-3395	718-933-2825
34	Jeffrey Klein	518-455-3595	718-822-2049
35	Andrea Stewart-Cousins	518-455-2585	914-423-4031
36	Jamaal Bailey	518-455-2061	718-547-8854
37	George Latimer	518-455-2031	914-934-5250
38	David Carlucci	518-455-2991	845-623-3627
39	William Larkin, Jr	518-455-2770	845-567-1270
40	Terrance Murphy	518-455-3111	914-962-2624
41	Susan Serino	518-455-2945	845-229-0106
42	John Bonacic	518-455-3181	845-344-3311
43	Kathleen Marchione	518-455-2381	518-371-2751
44	Neil Breslin	518-455-2225	
45	Elizabeth Little	518-455-2811	518-743-0968
46	George Amadore, Jr	518-455-2350	845-331-3810
47	Joseph Griffo	518-455-3334	315-793-9072
48	Patricia Ritchie	518-455-3438	315-782-3418
49	James Tedisco	518-455-2181	518-885-1829
50	John DeFrancisco	518-455-3511	315-428-7632
51	James Seward	518-455-3131	607-432-5524
52	Frederick Akshar,II	518-455-2677	607-773-8771
53	David Valesky	518-455-2838	3150478-8745
54	Pamela Helming	518-455-2366	315-568-9816
55	Rich Funke	518-455-2215	585-223-1800
56	Joseph Robach	518-455-2909	585-225-3650

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57 Catherine Young	518-455-3563	716-372-4901
58 Thomas O'Mara	518-455-2091	607-735-9671
59 Patrick Gallivan	518-455-3471	716-656-8544
60 Chris Jacobs	518-455-3240	716-854-8705
61 Michael Ranzenhofer	518-455-3161	716-631-8695
62 Robert Ortt	518-455-2024	716-434-0680
63 Tim Kennedy	518-455-2426	716-826-2683

US Senate NY	DC #	Albany #
Charles Schumer	202-224-6542	518-431-4070
Kirsten Gillibrand	202-224-4451	518-431-0101

Dist US Congress NY	DC #	Local #
1 Lee Zeldin	202-225-3826	631-289-1097
2 Pete King	202-225-7896	516-541-4225
3 Thomas Suozzi	202-225-3335	
4 Kathleen Rice	202-225-5516	516-739-3008
5 Gregory Meeks	202-225-3461	347-230-4032
6 Grace Meng	202-225-2601	718-358-6364
7 Nydia Velazquez	202-225-2361	718-599-3658
8 Hakeem Jeffries	202-225-5936	718-237-2211
9 Yvette Clark	202-225-6231	718-287-1142

10 Jerold Nadler	202-225-5635	212-367-7350
11 Daniel Donovan	202-225-3371	718-630-5277
12 Carolyn Maloney	202-225-7944	212-860-0606
13 Adriano Espaillat	202-225-4365	
14 Joseph Crowley	202-225-3965	718-779-1400
15 Jose Serrano	202-225-4361	718-620-0084
16 Eliot Engel	202-225-2464	718-796-9700
17 Nita Lowley	202-225-6506	914-428-1707
18 Sean Patrick Maloney	202-225-5441	845-561-1259
19 John Faso	202-225-5614	
20 Paul Tonko	202-225-5076	518-465-0700
21 Elise Stefanik	202-225-4611	315-782-3150
22 Claudia Tenney	202-225-3665	
23 Tom Reed	202-225-6599	315-759-5229
24 John Katko	202-225-3701	315-423-5657
25 Louise Slaughter	202-225-3615	585-232-4850
26 Brian Higgins	202-225-3306	716-852-3501
27 Chris Collins	202-225-5910	585-519-4002



"There are almost 4 million gun owners in New York. Cuomo got 2.1 million votes in 2014. Do the math!"

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SCOPE PAC needs donations

Ken Mathison, Treasurer SCOPE PAC

You should all know that SCOPE has a Political Action Committee (PAC) whose sole purpose is to collect money to donate to deserving Second Amendment candidates and incumbents.

I have always said that if all gun owners donated one dollar a month to the SCOPE PAC we would have millions of dollars to work with. So, I'm asking all SCOPE members to donate one dollar per month (more if you can) to the SCOPE PAC. You can do that through an automatic deduction from your credit card, bank account with your debit card, or through a PayPal account if you have one. All you need to do is visit www.scopepac.com, click on the Donate button, and follow the instructions.

Money is the grease of the political machine, if we have significant money we can grease the machine in our favor.

www.scopepac.com

(Continued from page 1)

Recently, a man was stopped for a speeding violation and was given a roadside sobriety test. He claims he passed it twice and the police told him to do it again a third time. He questioned them about the need. One of the officers then said, "He is resisting. Arrest him." With the arrest, his car was impounded.

When a car is impounded, the police do an inventory check and the man had a car safe in the vehicle. The police opened it and found three 17 round magazines there. No gun was present on the driver on in the car, but he was charged with three felonies, one for each magazine.

The man, who is a veteran with two tours of duty and the sole parent of a child with special needs, was tried for the crimes. He was

found guilty of speeding, but cleared of the DWI charge. He also was found guilty of the magazine possession. He is awaiting sentencing. If sentenced to prison he is worried about the care of his son since the son's mother is "somewhere in California."

It seems ironic that two of the politicians, Sheldon Silver and Dean Skelos were convicted of corruption two years ago and were sentenced, but are still walking around free awaiting an appeal on the charges. It seems rich and powerful people who commit real crimes have a different standard when it comes to justice.

With the differences between those who have harmed people not going to jail and one who has not, facing jail time seems grossly unfair.

Especially when one of them has not caused any damage or harm to anyone.

In front of many courts there is a statue of Lady Justice holding a scale and with a blindfold over her eyes. In cases like this, it isn't a blindfold. It is a bandage because the SAFE Act and the politicians who passed it gouged out her eyes.



(Continued from page 5)

program by looking at how we might be able to add financial support. It was quickly recognized by Leigh Williams that the cost of a shooting program is very dependent on targets, ammunition, coaches safety training.

Fundraising in support of youth shooting sports has been underway with YC SCOPE for some 10 years or more. We have a history in Yates County of working with 4-H Shooting Sports. The 4-H program is run by Jen Clancey at the Cornell Cooperative Extension in Yates County. To finance the shooting program, YC SCOPE works with The Elks Lodge in Penn Yan along with the 4-H organization in putting on a Chicken and Biscuit Dinner to raise funds. The youth and families of the students receiving the funds volunteer working at the event along with SCOPE members. The success of this program has funded the 4-H program by allowing SCOPE to purchase; air rifles, 22 caliber and black powder rifles along with Shotguns as well as a Gun Safes for storage. SCOPE has also purchased Bow and Arrows for use in this part of the

Shooting program.

For funding of the Clay Trap League, YC SCOPE turned to expanding the annual Chicken and Biscuit Dinner. By reaching out to the three area High Schools, students, parents and grandparents, attendance for dinner was expanded. The community in general responded in support to the effort to finance the shooting programs. The evening of the dinner, we served some 340 dinners from 4 to 7 pm. Everyone, students were very busy serving, bussing and doing dishes. The dinner was very successful and a big hit with the community.

Two organizations came up big at this event. The Penn Yan Elks Lodge donated all of the food for the dinner. The Elks provided the location, purchased and prepared the food, then donated the cost of all of this to the youth of Yates County. How great is that.

The Whitetail Unlimited Inc. of New York contacted Leigh Williams and stated that they heard about the YC SCOPE support of the Clay Trap League. The local chapter from Dundee, NY, Mr. Mike VanZile

attended the event, brought a rifle to raffle off at the event, handled the raffle and at the end of the evening wound up donating \$600.00 in support of the youth. A big thank you goes out to Mike and the Whitetail Unlimited organization.

Leigh Williams has met, or is meeting with the three high schools in Yates County. The YC SCOPE Board voted to donate \$1000.00 to each shooting club at the schools to help them with the shooting sports expenses. Leigh is presenting these funds to the schools along with the request that the YC SCOPE Board requests a receipt at the end of the year showing how and where the funds have been expended.

YC SCOPE encourages each County in the state to undertake the support of a similar program. We will be more than willing to work with you to develop such an undertaking.



Yates County SCOPE reaches out to the Community

By John Prendergast –Yates County Chairman

The Yates County SCOPE Chapter (YC SCOPE) has been proactive in working in the local community. Given the fact that SCOPE's charter is to educate the public on the Second Amendment, to protect this Keystone Amendment from being infringed upon, the Yates County Chapter has developed programs to promote its activities and integrate itself within the community.

In the Firing Lines May/June 2016 edition, Tom Rood, Board Member promoted a very successful endeavor undertaken in Yates County; "Handgun Training Seminar". Statistics show that over the last 8 years of President Obama's administration the populace has shown great interest in the acquisition of a firearm for self-preservation. Sales of all types of firearms has spiked and continues to this day.

YC SCOPE recognized that with the increased activity of obtaining a Conceal Carry Permit in our county that there was a need for individualized training. The Sheriff of Yates County, Ron Spike and YC SCOPE were quick to recognize that new applicants for Conceal Carry Permits were in need of training or education on firearms. Many of the applicants were thought to be novice firearms owners with a high percentage of the applicants being females.

Sheriff Ron Spike and YC SCOPE teamed with Yates County Cornell Cooperative Extension and organized a three hour training program to introduce firearms to the community. The program is designed as an entry level seminar that goes over the basics of owning a firearm; safety, nomenclature of pistols, revolvers, ammunition, shooting fundamentals, cleaning, storage and secu-

rity along with an introduction to the owners responsibility under the law. To date we have held 5 classes having served some 200 plus participants.

For 10 years or more YC SCOPE has been working with and supporting 4-H Youth Shooting Programs. Working in concert with the Yates County Cornell Cooperative Extension we have been funding shooting and archery with the YC County 4-H Club. Over this time frame, YC SCOPE hosts fundraisers to raise money for this activity. With these funds YC SCOPE has purchased air, 22 and black powder rifles. Also purchased are shotguns and archery equipment along with gun safes to store the equipment. The funds supplied above go beyond the purchase of the hardware to the purchase of ammunition, cost of entry for shooting meets and instructor training.

SCOPE is a member of the Yates County Federation of Conservation Clubs. The Federation in turn represents some 1500 members in organizations made of 11 Trap, Skeet, Sporting Clays, Rifle, Pistol and Conservation organizations. Working together, we were able to get a great start with the initiation of three area Schools in Yates County engaging in the New York State Clay Target League. Yates County Schools from Dundee, Penn Yan and Marcus Whitman are well into their first year of competition in the New York State League. Participating students at the schools number around 50 shooters. The response from students, families and the administration of the schools has been very positive. YC SCOPE support for each of the three school shooting teams has been raised through a fund raising dinner. This year we are presenting each team with a check for \$1,000.00 to offset their expenses for the students. The money will go for Coaches Safety Training and shooting supplies to support the team.

Reaching out to youth and

families of young children and educating them on Fire Arms is important. Once again our Yates County Sheriff Ron Spike and his team cooperate with YC SCOPE to put on the Eddie Eagle Program, training early grade students on the importance of knowing and identifying a firearm along with whom to contact upon discovery. The support for this program has been ongoing for over 15 years here in Yates County.

Education of the electorate has always been a focus for YC SCOPE. Each election year, from national, state and local elections, YC SCOPE takes the lead in the County to host open meetings for the community to introduce candidates from all parties to the public. Coordinating Federal and State meetings where the public can interface with candidates at a debate has been successful. As an organization we are bipartisan and only serve as the host and moderate these events. This year here in our county we have local elections for our District Attorney, County Legislators and Town Officials. Plans are set, or in the works to host three events for the interface of the constituents and candidate that will fill these positions.

Yates County SCOPE is active in the community. If we can be of service to any other County SCOPE Chapter, please feel free to call upon us for help. The more informed our citizens are the smarter the choices they make for their future.

**“There are almost
4 million gun owners
in New York.
Cuomo got 2.1 million
votes in 2014.
Do the math!”**

How to register to be able to vote in a primary election

By Tom Reynolds

We hear constantly that it is important to register and vote. In New York State, if you want to vote in a Primary, you must be registered in a specific party: Republican, Democrat, Conservative, Independence, etc. You can only vote in the Primary of the party in which you are registered. For instance, Conservatives CANNOT vote in Republican Primaries; only Republicans can vote in Republican Primaries and only Democrats can vote in Democratic Primaries.

The Independence Party is an established party, like the Republicans and Democrats. You may call yourself an "Independent" but you are NOT in the Independence Party unless you register as a member of the Independence Party. Only if registered in the Independence Party could you vote in an Independence Party Primary. (Candidates like to pick up the Independence Party endorsement as it gives them an additional line on a ballot.)

Since many districts are heavily weighted for one party or the

other, the real contest is the Primary of the party with the majority in that district. If you want a voice in these one-sided districts, you need to be registered as a member of the majority party. This is especially important if you are dissatisfied with an elected official of that majority party and would like to see him / her ousted in a Primary.

In New York State, there is a difference between the effective date of the "voter registration" and the effective date of the "party registration". A registration to vote in the general election takes place immediately but a "party registration" does not take place until AFTER the coming November's 2017 election. Anyone who registers for a specific party between now and November 2017 will not be able to vote in a PRIMARY this year (in 2017) but they will be able to vote in a Primary in 2018. If one registers for a specific party the day AFTER this November's election (November 8, 2017) they will NOT be able to vote in any 2018 primaries as they will not be eligible to vote in a primary until after the November 2018 elections.

Elected officials in New York like this under-publicized and complicated process as it creates a cooling-off period for potential Pri-

mary voters who are dissatisfied with the incumbent. A dissatisfied person who is NOT registered in a party may get upset with an incumbent, this year, and show up to vote in the primary but will not get to vote even if they registered in that party this year.

This lengthy period for party registration does prevent people from hopping between parties in order to influence more than one primary.

Many New Yorkers - especially in Upstate - are dissatisfied with the political ruling class and view their only option is moving to another state. But gun owners, by themselves, could be a powerful weapon of change if they would vote. There are about 4 million gun owners in New York State and Cuomo won the last election with 2.1 million votes while Astorino had 1.5 million votes. Somewhere between 2.5 and 3 million gun owners did not vote; more than enough to change the election and change the future of Upstate New York.

In 2018, the New York State Governorship as well as all NY Assembly and NY Senate seats will be on the ballot. If you want to vote in a primary, you need to get registered in a party, this year, before November 2017.

You can help change history by registering for a party, voting in the primaries and general elections and by contributing to SCOPE PAC. Votes and money are the two things that politicians need. SCOPE PAC is a separate organization from SCOPE and, as such, it can spend money in support of candidates or causes while SCOPE has limits on what it can do. Candidates are already starting to surface and if SCOPE PAC is to have an impact it comes through money. Please consider a donation to SCOPE PAC. (See our ad in Firing Lines for details.)

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The State Constitutional Convention: Part 2

By Harold Moskowitz

As was indicated in Part 1 of the last issue, a referendum will be used on November 7, 2017 to potentially authorize revisions of the New York State Constitution. This article will explore some of the issues and motives which are in play in this high stakes political game. Although the process is supposed to be controlled by the people, that promise could well become a manipulated illusion.

In 2008, Presidential candidate Obama successfully used "Hope" and "Change" as his slogan. Each potential voter was left to imagine that the "Hope" was what he was

hoping for and the "Change" would be the change he would like to see occur. To many, the idea that a state constitutional convention could bring about the types of changes they might be hoping for is an attractive lure.

Groups, individuals, the state government and local governments all see revision of the state constitution as a means to further their agendas. Political reformers hope for ethics reforms in a state where political corruption has gotten national exposure. Many would like to see term limits for elected officials. Elections, they say, are not a substitute for term limits considering the advantages held by incumbents for reelection.

Others would want "Initiative" and "Recall" added to our state constitution. In the former, sufficient numbers of petition signatures of registered voters could force the

legislature to take action on an issue it has been avoiding. In the latter, a sufficient number of valid petition signatures would force an elected official to step down before the end of his term of office.

One particular group hopes to have delegates elected to the convention who would propose dividing the state into "upstate" and "downstate" autonomous districts. Each district would have the power to repeal "disadvantageous" laws previously passed by the legislature such as the SAFE Act.

Self-described "fiscal conservatives" seek budget reforms, including spending limits and transparency in the budgeting process. They seek an end to defined benefit pension plans for public sector employees which they consider to be an unsustainable fiscal burden. Associated with this goal of reducing pension costs is a potential motive for a convention by the state and local governments to revise the clause in Article 5, Section 7 which protects public employee pensions. Basically, it states that public employee pensions are of a contractual nature and cannot be "diminished or impaired." Presently, monthly retirement amounts cannot be reduced regardless of pension system investment results.

Lack of this protective clause in a state's constitution makes it increasingly tempting for governors, county executives, and mayors to underfund or not fund their employee retirement systems. Withheld pension fund contributions can then be diverted for budget balancing. They make exaggerated predictions of investment results to make up for the underfunding of the retirement system.

Progressive liberal agenda goals such as "social engineering" and elimination of "income inequality" related issues would likely be proposed. In particular, they would look to expand Article 17 Section 2

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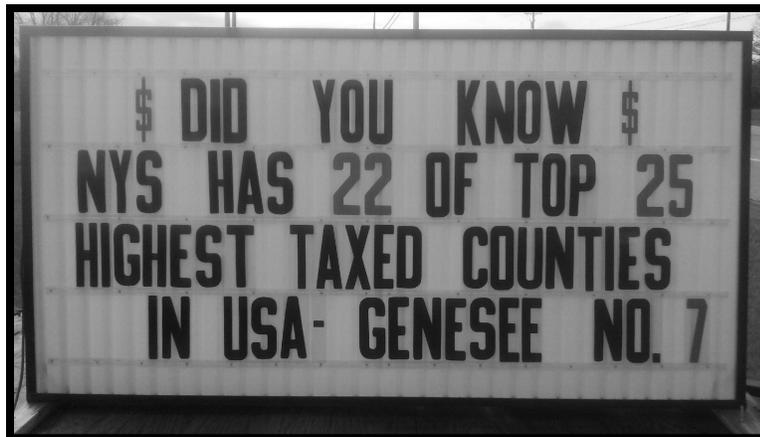
(Continued from page 22)

of the state constitution which guarantees the “aid, care and support of the needy.” This could be expanded to create new programs to remedy perceived “economic inequality” based upon economic data from the 2010 census compiled by zip code. New York could be declared a “sanctuary state” in which those here illegally could be guaranteed full protections, entitlements including college tuition, driver’s licenses and the right to vote.

Second Amendment supporters would hope for the “Castle Doctrine,” concealed carry, or a “stand your ground” proposal. However, delegates must be elected and some will be currently elected politicians. Delegates are not penalized for misrepresenting their true views. One could reasonably count on prominent anti-Second Amendment billionaires gladly spending millions of dollars to fund the campaigns of hand-picked potential delegates who, if elected with or without misrepresentation, would propose even more stringent “common sense” gun control restrictions and measures to hasten the day when the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms in New York State would be almost non-existent. Although any proposed amendments have to be approved by the voters in November, 2019, fewer people vote in off-year elections and of those who do vote even fewer take the time to indicate their choice on propositions. Thus, a very small percentage of the state’s population could unleash huge impacts upon the state’s residents. Publicly, Governor Cuomo does not promote a convention but close aides have indicated his support. If he is in favor, that should give all Second Amendment supporters pause to stop before voting to give life to a constitutional convention.

“There are almost 4 million gun owners in New York. Cuomo got 2.1 million votes in 2014. Do the math!”

Sign of the times



For the past year or so, Genesee County has been implementing the use of a Lit 4' x 8' sign. Our Chapter voted to buy the sign, not only to address Second Amendment issues but Constitutional and Tax issues as well.

The sign is currently in a fixed location until the ground dries and firms up; then it will travel around Genesee County with volunteers who can place it in high traffic areas.

Please feel free to reach out to us here in Genesee County if anyone would like help getting a program like this started in your area.

Bill Fox
Genesee County Chapter Chairman
Tim Grooms
Genesee County SCOPE Sign & Advertising Chairman
Slouder1956@hotmail.com

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