

Why this election is important

By Ralph Esposito

No! Please, not another article on the upcoming election. If you're like me you're shaking your head at the shenanigans this election cycle. The name calling, the endless waiting for Hillary to be or not to be indicted, the pundits trying to explain why this or that primary defied their predictions as well as their best attempts to tear down candidates is wearing thin. We haven't hit the conventions yet. So I promise this will be a short one.

One of the biggest reasons this election is important is the Supreme Court. The death of Anton Scalia, Supreme Court Justice has left a serious threat to the balance of the court's ideology. Replacing Scalia with an equally conservative or constitutionalist justice would keep the balance of the court slightly conservative barring the president's desire to have his nominee, Chief Judge Merrick Garland being put to a vote.

If Hillary becomes president we will likely see her nominee tip the court over to the progressive side. Add to that there will likely be retirements during the next president's term it could well make the court solidly left leaning.

If Trump is elected there is a good

chance his nominees would be conservative or lean that way. With Hillary we know what we will get.

Another important reason is that the leading democrat candidate, Hillary Clinton has pledged to close gun stores as well as firearms manufacturers. I will remind you Bill Clinton shut down about two thirds of the legal gun dealers during his presidency. By the way Bill did it without the consent of Congress, he did it by changing property zoning and regulations specific to firearms dealers.

Hillary's plan is to remove any immunity from lawsuits generally given manufacturers and allow gun manufacturers and sellers to be sued for all damages, injuries and casualties from the misuse of their products. It would be as if Ford or Chevy were sued every time one of their cars was in an accident or driven in an illegal manor (any traffic offenses). With her as president thousands will lose their jobs and their businesses.

Hillary has also embraced a Federal gun registry as well as a gun owner license. Of course banning so called "assault weapons" is also high on her list. Rounding out

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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. 2016 is an election year for the state senate and assembly.

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.

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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 4th Monday Little
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(Continued from page 1)

the major part of her anti-gun wish list is smart gun technology and mandated separate locked storage for both guns and ammo.

Trump has said he is pro-gun, in addition several of his children are enthusiastic shooters. He is not going to go after gun manufacturers or gun shops.

There is much at stake. I am not saying Donald Trump is the best candidate in the world, I am saying he is the best candidate when the other choice is Hillary Clinton.

There are a number of "never Trump" talk show hosts. Each claims this or that candidate can win if... In my book it will be a face off between Trump and most likely Hillary, unless the FBI recommends incitement for her.

Should it happen it will get even more interesting. Will Bernie Sanders be drafted, perhaps VP Joe Biden? Andrew Cuomo's name has even been whispered.

Of course president Obama could just pardon her or have any incitements buried. On Fox News, Rudy Giuliani gave odds of 60/40 on incitement. We shall see.

This November is coming up fast. If you not registered, please register. Encourage others to register and vote.



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S.C.O.P.E.-P.A.C.'s Mission is to replace the politicians in Albany that voted for this hideous, intrusive law with politicians who will vote to REPEAL this so-called "S.A.F.E." Act and support our rights going forward!

The SCOPE Legal Defense Foundation is Launched!

By Paloma A. Capanna,
Attorney & Policy Analyst
Executive Director

On May 7, 2016, the Genesee and Wyoming County SCOPE Chapters hosted a launch party and legal briefing for the "SCOPE Legal Defense Foundation, Inc." More than 100 people attended this much anticipated event. The formation of the SCOPE LDF has been more than two years in the making, and is finally here. A special shout out of thanks is extended to everyone who made the launch party a huge success!

The SCOPE LDF has been designed to respond to the needs of SCOPE members, persons facing the loss of their Second Amendment and other civil rights, and the voting public. It will cover six essential project areas in the upcoming year, including the White Paper series of cutting edge research and issue identification, the "Legal in 15" Webinar series of the hottest legal news of the day, public programs highlighting legal issues of concern to activists and voters, alike, attorney training, particularly in the area of defense in license hearings, speaking at public events, and scholarships.

The SCOPE LDF has a founding Board of Directors in place, headed by Chairman Robert McNally. Opportunities to get involved with the SCOPE LDF include participation on the Fundraising and Capital Campaigns Committee and on the Scholarship and Post-Graduate Fellowship Committee. It is being formed as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and its application for IRS approval of this status is pending.

Volunteers are also needed

to help to develop coalition partners across the state at rod and gun clubs, conservation councils, law enforcement organizations, and Federal Firearms Licensees such as dealers, manufacturers, and gunsmiths. Volunteers are needed to assist with press relations, including local publications and radio stations.

Fundraising will be critical during this first year. If you can make a donation, you will find a full-page ad in this issue of Firing Lines that describes several donations levels, from White Paper subscriptions and t-shirts, to becoming a coalition partner. Additional donation opportunities are available from program sponsorship to becoming one of three "Founding Donors" with lifetime benefits.

Anyone interested in helping out with LDF development and/or becoming a donor should contact me at (585) 377-7260 or via e-mail through paloma@law-policy.com.

YATES COUNTY OFFERS FREE HANDGUN SAFETY TRAINING SEMINAR

By Tom Rood

Yates County Sheriff's Office, Yates County SCOPE Chapter, and Yates Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) have teamed to provide a three hour basic handgun safety training seminar at the Penn Yan county office building. These seminars are free to the adult public.

The Handgun Safety Training Seminar is for adults already licensed owners of handguns or those interested in owning a handgun and want to become familiar with safety, security, and legal responsibilities of handgun ownership. Yates County does not require this training prior to

obtaining a concealed carry permit.

"Knowing your responsibilities with safe handgun ownership is paramount," said Sheriff Ron Spike, "to have familiarity with types of handguns, their safety features, security on and off the person, especially when in storage, and understanding the use of force laws is important."

Sheriff Spike and Firearms Instructor Deputy Sheriff John Warner are the handgun safety instructors covering six lessons in (1) Safety, (2) Nomenclature of pistols and revolvers, (3) Ammunition, (4) Shooting fundamentals, (5) Cleaning, Storage, Security, and (6) Responsibility to the law. Certificates of completion will be issued. Yates SCOPE and CCE provide logistical support for the seminars.

SCOPE member Jason Cook, former Yates County District Attorney and presently an Assistant District Attorney with Chemung County will answer questions on legal accountability and justification. At the conclusion of the seminar, NRA pistol instructor Patti Brace gives a sales pitch to the attendees recommending they complete their training by attending the NRA's Handgun Training course. The NRA course allows actual handgun firing instruction.

To date, two seminars have been held with nearly a total of 150 attendees. Approximately thirty-five percent of the attendees have been women. For more information please email tomandkathy@rcagan.com or call 315-694-0123.





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Prisoner of New York

By Timothy Swedenhjelm

I'm sharing this story as to show how the insanity of the New York State SAFE Act has lowered the quality of life for not only myself, but all New York residents.

I enter many competition matches throughout New York, and was recently invited by a good friend to go along on a trip to the CMP store at Camp Perry, Ohio, to be part of the CMP program to buy rifles recently released by the Federal Government. These rifles are for sale to the active members of the Civilian Match Programs (CMP). There were thirty M1A Carbine surplus rifles to be released the next morning on a first come, first served basis. So there we go, on a 315 mile journey, to the free state of Ohio

to take our chances, to try to get one of these pieces of our history to add to our private collection, and to compete in the M1A Carbine Matches.

We arrived at 4:30pm to find the store closed. People were already in line for the 8:30 am opening and a chance to get one of these beauties. It's 30° outside, and only getting colder off the lake as the night goes on, but these folks don't care. They were ready in their cold weather sleeping bags and layers of thermal underwear, ready for the morning to come. Everyone put their name on the sign-up sheet to keep the order, and to avoid confusion come 8:30am. At 3:00am, a young, but very helpful and friendly State Highway Patrol Officer stopped over to see what we were up to. He became our hero as he had knowledge of the only place within 30 miles that was serving fresh, hot coffee. Off I go to get 20 cups of hot coffee, leaving my partner behind to keep my #10 spot locked up as up to

30 more people had arrived by this time. The 20 cups of coffee instantly disappeared as it was now 28°.

Finally the sun comes up, and the now new band of friends pack up their cold weather gear and prepare for the store to open. At 8:30am the doors open and there is now 138 people in line trying to get a chance at one of these beautiful rifles. I'm thinking about how lucky I am to be #10 in line, not only do I have the chance for one of these rifles, but I'm one of the first to get inside and get warm again. We were outdoors for 12 hours at 28-32 degree temperatures.

Nuts? Yes. Fun? Absolutely, as I met a bunch of folks from all over the country, just like me. This is where the story gets better.

I stand in line with the first thirty others and get called into the pre-processing area. We all scramble in and pick as quickly as possible, the rifle of our dreams. I pulled a beautiful IBM M1A well cared for piece then started for the counter where the processing starts. After being checked for every type of ID and proof of current memberships of all the clubs and organizations, we tag the rifle and hand it over the counter and proceed to get our background check, and start waiting, and waiting, and waiting. Then I get the news that my background check has been delayed. It's now 9:00am and I wait, nothing...

Finally at 11:30 I get called to the counter, and in front of all these people I had just gotten to know, a lady says, "I CAN'T SELL YOU THE RIFLE. YOU'RE FROM NEW YORK. The rifle has a bayonet lug, a removable magazine, and they just sent us a text not to sell this rifle to you."

She held up my paperwork and said, "There's nothing we can do folks, he's from New York, we get our rifles from the government and we have to follow their rules." They took the tag off my chosen rifle and returned it to the rack where a very lucky guy from Illinois ran over and grabbed it up declaring that he felt like he just won the lottery; you see, he was #86.

I have never been so ashamed to be from the state of New York as I was then, and am now. I ended up buying some ammo and leaving in disgrace, feeling ashamed of my state the entire 315 mile return

(Continued on page 14)

Look to OutdoorsAgencyUSA

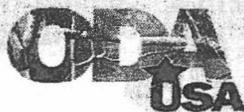
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THE LAND OF THE FREE AND THE HOME OF THE BRAVE. FOR HOW LONG?

By Budd Schroeder

Independence Day is approaching and it is designed to celebrate the birth of our Republic. Many good people fought and died to give America a new kind of government that was different from monarchies and dictatorships. This government was constructed to be "of the people, by the people and for the people."

It was designed to give freedoms to the citizens who were supposed to be in charge of who would govern. They wanted representatives, not rulers. Yet, there were weaknesses in the origin of the country. The Declaration of Independence stated that "all men are created equal" yet they had a century of slavery. It took a Civil War to end that horrible practice.

The end of this war created the professional politician who took advantage of the reconstruction of the country. They were the Carpetbaggers and Scallywags and made a lucrative business out of politics. President Lincoln may have freed the slaves, but the politicians did their best to keep African Americans under strict controls in the South.

They politicians in the southern states enacted the Jim Crow Laws which prevented, or at least controlled the freed slaves by discriminatory practices and racism.

Voting was restricted by poll taxes and requirements that were difficult for black people to pass. There were separate rest rooms and even drinking fountains in public places below the Mason-Dixon Line. Justice came in two different systems, one for blacks and one for whites. The schools were segregated and the manner of educating children was not

equal. The politicians created the myth that the schools were "separate, but equal." That was a political myth used as a slogan by politicians.

It was discriminatory and totally unfair. It took another century for the Jim Crow Laws to be abolished. The laws were introduced by politicians and signed into law by governors and law enforcement was eager to enforce these laws. Brutality was common. Justice was subjective depending on what side of the tracks a person lived.

Two world wars came in the Twentieth Century and even the military was segregated. Racism was condoned by the government. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt had Japanese Americans placed in prison camps because of the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the negative feelings about Japan. Yet, there were companies of Japanese-American soldiers who served with honor in the European campaign.

It started out that African Americans who served in the military before the Pearl Harbor attack were relegated to kitchen duties as cooks or servers. It was highly unusual for any to become involved in regular military duty until the war in Europe and the Pacific was underway. Even then, many of the units were segregated. The African American troops served with honor and the military relaxed their segregated ways. At least they said they did.

By the 1960's the military had integrated forces, but the military posts below the Mason-Dixon Line still had a problem. The post was integrated, but the cities and towns outside the post were not. White and black soldiers could not go outside the post and have a meal or a drink with a buddy in the local establishments. This columnist had a very unpleasant discussion with the owner of a drive-in carhop restaurant when not served and kicked out of the parking lot because his friend was an African American. It was a valuable lesson learned.

Even with a Constitution and a shifting in laws, the residue of discrimination still pollutes our society. However, fixing a problem can lead to other ones. One of the biggest problems we face is the one of being "politically correct." This is a situation where confusion abounds. For example, the Second Amendment has been eroded since 1934 and crooked politicians have been trying to destroy it since then. Gun control was born in the South and grew up in the north.

Talking about the Jim Crow Laws brings up the unpleasant subject of the New York State SAFE act. It was passed literally in the middle of the night with a "message of necessity." This is difficult to justify considering that some of the provisions took a year to implement and some are still not being enabled. It even has a provision that, when enforced, deprives a person of four amendments in the Bill of Rights without due process. Due process is a keystone of the democratic process, yet the inept politicians passed the bill and it was signed into law by the governor.

The Fourth of July is a day for celebration of the freedoms we should be able to enjoy and they are our constitutional right. We should use this day to reflect, praise the veterans who gave their service to protect those rights and freedoms. We should look to change the political makeup of the state and federal governments by removing the corrupt politicians who are eroding and infringing on our freedoms.

The freedoms are ours to cherish and keep, or to lose. It is up to us to determine whether we are going to be content with the status quo that is robbing us of values and quality of life. This is America. Let's keep it the land of the free and the home of the brave.



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 President Stephen Aldstadt a call or drop us an E-mail.

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 Adirondack Federation of Sports Clubs, Inc.
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 American Legion Riders Post 355
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 Athens Sportsmans Club
 Attica Rod & Gun Club, Inc.
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 Barre Sportsmens Club
 Barrington Rifle Club
 Batavia Rod & Gun Club
 Bath Rod & Gun Club, Inc.
 Bergen Rod & Gun Club
 Big Game Recovery
 Bison City Rod & Gun Club Inc
 Black Rock Fish & Game Club of Cornwall, Inc.
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 Clay Sportsmans Club
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Application on page 16

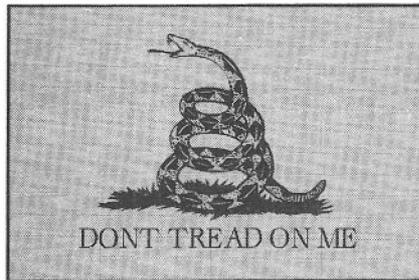
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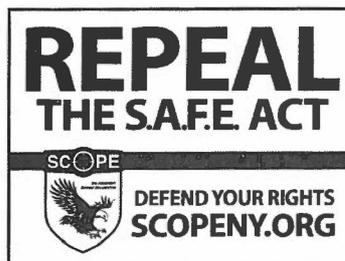
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(Continued from page 10)

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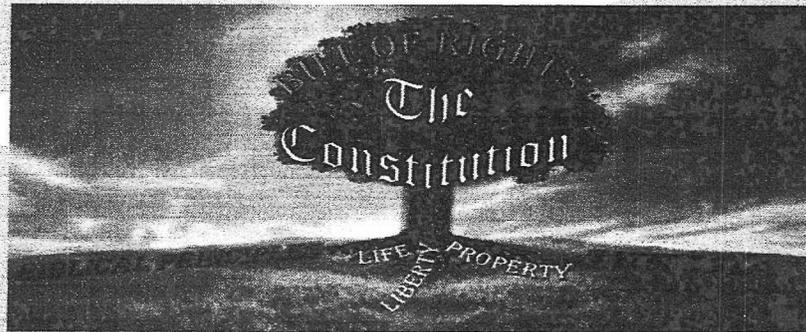
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Our hope and prayer is that once again the fires of Patriotism will be ignited in the hearts of Americans who love this country, love their freedom and desire to worship the God of creation that drove our forefathers to sacrifice life, honor and fortune for our future. People who will stand up and be heard, people that will be moved to action, a people who will make a difference! May we, the silent patriots, be aroused and in turn burn with a heartfelt fire to give that same measure of sacrifice for the future of this once, and maybe yet again, great nation for future generations.

We look forward to sharing our message with churches, organizations, colleges, etc. . . .

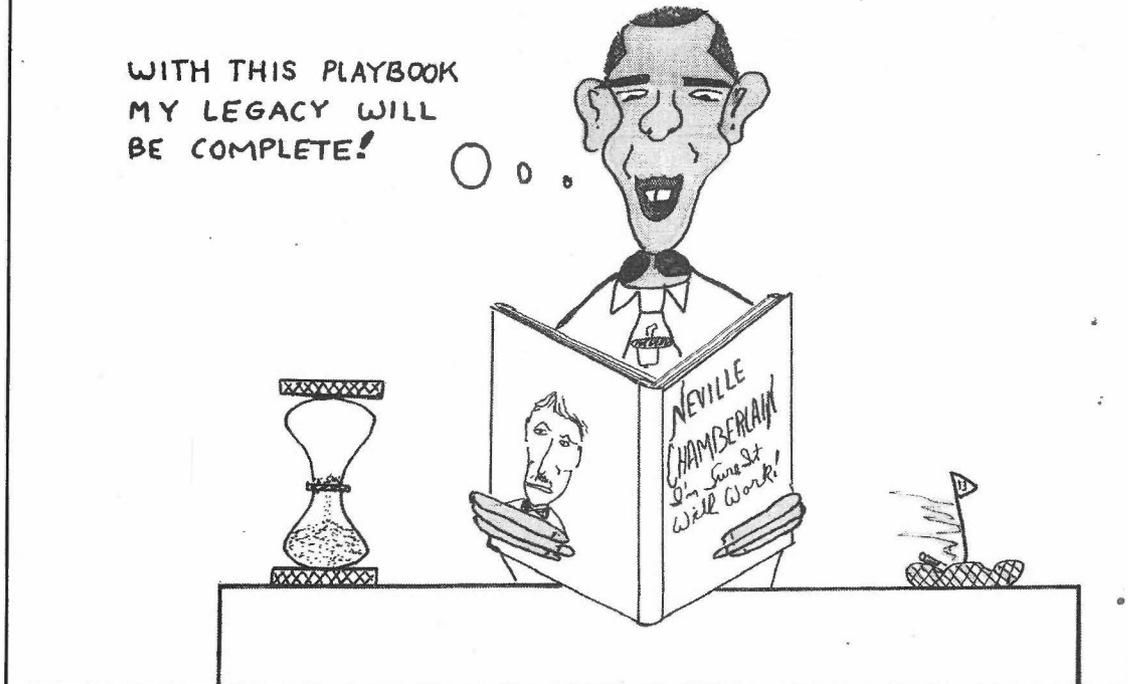
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WILL THE ELECTION BE FOR THE STATUS QUO OR IMPROVEMENT?

By Budd Schroeder

The real problem with politics is politicians. To define the problem let us better define the term "politicians." We have good people and corrupt people serving in government. So "politicians" has become the generic term for the elected officials. However, there is a big difference in attitude between politicians and statesmen.

One definition for each is that a statesman looks forward to the next generation when making decisions and voting. A politician looks forward to the next election and bases his decisions and voting on "what's in it for me?" To be fair, we must realize that there are some serving in office who are somewhere in the middle of the pack. However our lives are determined by the majority of those who serve in office.

When the country was founded, the men (yes, it was pretty sexist then) of influence and vision "did their duty" and served for a term or two and then returned to productive work like farming and business. It didn't take long before the serpent called Power raised its head and started striking. Political parties formed and the power of corruption became evident.

The Civil War was a big influence on how power became so profitable when the Carpetbaggers and Scalpywags made fortunes during the Reconstruction. The roots of the tree of corruption spread wide and deep. It continues to this day with the advent of the establishment lobbyists and special interests. Many people of modest means enter politics and end their careers with substantial resources.

A politician can make a good living on a political salary, but can really reap the golden harvest by becoming a lobbyist. Money not only talks, but it shouts above the murmur of the crowd, and there is where most of the corruption gets its huge base. Anything from financial favors to outright

bribes are evident. The recent convictions of Sheldon Silver and Dean Skelos are good examples of the temptations and lack of resistance regarding those involved.

Those who get caught and prosecuted are just the tip of the political iceberg. Some have enough power and influence to stall or override investigations. A presidential candidate has a problem that the power brokers keep trying to suppress. However, the investigation is ongoing and we will have to see how that works out.

Money is a huge driver in political campaigns. This quest for the nomination for president is drawing huge amounts of money in political war chests and hundreds of millions of dollars have been thrown away on failed campaigns. The media, pollsters, consultants and advertising agencies have benefitted greatly by the generosity of the process. What a stimulus it makes to the power broker economy!

The donations come from various sources and some even in modest donations from the people, but the big bucks come from those who benefit from having influence in the political process and what laws get passed, and even which judges get appointed to the federal courts. What should be a fair and productive process can end up pretty slimy and pungent. The biggest tragedy is that the electorate is a part of that process.

We have seen so many elections where apathy is the winner when it comes to the power brokers keeping the status quo. People are easily conned or discouraged from voting. Both are assets to those who make a living with corrupt politics. They can keep their toadies in office with things like laws that allow gerrymandering to protect the party vote. Some politicians keep their jobs by their ability to follow the orders of the party leaders.

Every now and then a candidate can rise above the cesspool of dirty politics and be a voice for the people. He or she, if talented enough, can actually stimulate people to become active and at least point out the deficiencies in the governmental structure. Unfortunately, they are in a

minority in New York where the power structure runs rampant. There are not enough statesmen to get rid of the "three men in a room" who rule like dictators. It is the most fertile field for the back room deals and opportunities for pocket padding by those who "go along to get along."

The only thing that can change corrupt government is to get rid of the corrupt politicians and elect statesmen. One saving grace that can shift the power are the grass roots organizations who care enough about the next generation to get rid of the cancerous money sucking politicians and elect people who stand up for freedom and constitutional rights. There are organizations in the state, and more popping up, who are dedicated to this cause.

If they can become effective in inspiring or even shaming people to go to the polls and voting the politician incumbents out and voting in statesmen, the country can be saved. Otherwise the saying "if you keep doing what you have been doing, you will keep getting what you got" will prevail. November is coming. We shall see if enough people will become true American citizens and vote for freedom and real representation of the people.

(Continued from page 8)
trip home, that doesn't feel like home anymore.

So tell me again how the SAFE Act is such a good thing. Tell me how it won't affect legal NYS gun owners.

My statement:

If you own guns, hunt, and/or belong to any club or organization in New York State, and you didn't vote; It's your fault this has happened. If you didn't vote against Cuomo, you are an enemy of freedom. These freedoms and rights were paid for by the blood of Good Men.

If you couldn't be bothered to vote, shame on you Cupcake. Go have another beer.



New York State's "SAFE" Act Eliminates Due Process for Firearms Owners; Passed with No Public Participation, Confiscation Underway

By Mike Benard

Dave Kaplan's accurate description of challenges in obtaining a pistol permit (permit to own, really) in New York City illustrates why citizens in every state must stand watch against the massive assault underway on constitutional liberties like the Second Amendment (not to mention 4th, 5th, 6th and 14th amendments). *Buying Your New York City Gun Rights*, by Dave Kaplan *American Handgunner*, March/April 2016.

Do not sigh in relief because you don't live here. The anti-rights folks are not just coming for firearms in New York State -- or California, or Maryland, or Connecticut. While Donald Trump brandishes his New York City carry permit to cheering crowds, few realize that celebrities like Trump and Robert DeNiro will get their carry permits -- unlike the average citizen.

As a resident of New York State for 30 years, I can testify that the broader situation is even worse than the specifics Mr. Kaplan cites about New York City. Firearms confiscation has already begun in New York State -- with no due process permitted. We are now in the third year of Governor Cuomo's SAFE Act which was rammed through the legislature overnight (via a "message of necessity" device) with *no public hearings or public participation permitted*. SAFE stands for Secure Ammunition and Firearms Enforcement Act of 2013; and it politically redefines hundreds of semi-auto firearms (rifles, handguns, shotguns) as "assault weapons" using what lawyers call a "one-feature" test. So if a *semi-automatic* rifle with a *detachable magazine* has a thumbhole stock (passing the one feature test!) -- presto, it is now an "assault weapon." unbelievable.

"Grandfather Claws"

If you registered your "assault" firearm with the New York State Police as required by the SAFE

Act, you can legally keep it until your death, when your property must be turned over to the state. It cannot be passed on to family. And while state authorities are in your house to confiscate the registered "assault" firearms, they want a written inventory of all firearms owned by the deceased.

Additional provisions of the so-called SAFE Act (we call it unSAFE) only get worse. As State Police information systems evolve, it will require background checks on *every* ammunition purchase (registration by a different name). By 2018, all holders of a New York State pistol permit must be recertified. For those of us who live here, we suspect that means more restrictions and probable revocation of some number of permits to own handguns.

Remember, New York State requires a permit to *own* a handgun. Forget what you think you know about "carry" permits. If you do not have what is usually referred to as a pistol permit, you cannot legally possess a handgun in New York State -- period. It doesn't matter if you promise never to take it out of your house. You cannot purchase or own a handgun without this permit. And every handgun you buy is listed on your permit.

The law also intrudes on mental health privacy, according to the New York Civil Liberties Union; and it violates federal HIPPA laws (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996), according to the New York State Psychiatric Association.

Why does this matter? These provisions of the unSAFE Act are the tools for firearms confiscation. My friends and I personally know of three people who have had their firearms confiscated. The police show up at the door, seize the firearms, and deliver the owner to a nearby hospital for two hours of "observation." There is no trial, no hearing, no right to confront accusers, no due process. In other words, it is a violation of the 2nd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 14th amendments.

This is why the 2nd Amendment is about more than firearms. It is not a "single issue." It is the canary in the coal mine -- an early warning

system that liberty is dying and it is not limited to 2nd Amendment freedom. Think of your constitutional rights as an ecological system -- a delicate balance -- an infringement on one freedom inevitably invites transgressions on others.

Is this too much conspiracy theory for you? Read about the legal case of Donald Montgomery, a retired, decorated police detective and Navy veteran, who had his firearms confiscated at the insistence of New York State Police after he voluntarily sought treatment for insomnia. Reference link: *American Thinker* -- http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2015/01/guns_confiscated_after_man_seeks_in_somnia_treatment.html Mr. Montgomery is now suing to recover his constitutional rights. As his lawsuit against Governor Cuomo makes clear: New York State has "amassed the confidential, personal health information of tens of thousands of people into a database shared by various State agencies."

In addition, news accounts report that police in Buffalo, NY, track obituaries against pistol permit holders in order to confiscate firearms. If the surviving spouse does not also have a permit to own handguns in the state of New York, he or she cannot keep those firearms.

Membership is Not Enough

Do not ask for whom the bell tolls, it tolls for all of us. Unfortunately, not enough of us are doing what needs to be done. I am a Life Member of the National Rifle Association, the New York State Rifle & Pistol Association and SCOPE -- Shooters Committee On Political Education. All three organizations are vital; but so is our own skin-in-the game. For example, SCOPE is a true grassroots organization focused on the ground game in New York State. Among other goals, it is actively engaged in getting out the vote; and here is the great conundrum as we hear the toll of the bell: Voter participation is trending in the wrong direction. Out of 15 million eligible voters in New York State, less than one third vote; and par-

(Continued on page 17)

SCOPE Position Paper

A 9673 Sepulveda

Same as S 6912 Hamilton

An act to amend the mental hygiene law and the education law, in relation to establishing the urban youth gun violence reduction pilot program.

PURPOSE:

The bill adopts the hypothesis that "the proliferation of gun violence" is often related to mental health issues. The purpose of the bill is to significantly reduce gun violence by providing additional resources to participating schools in participating districts to identify mental health issues and establish appropriate curriculums for various age groups.

POSITION

SCOPE opposes characterizing this legislative proposal as a "gun violence" reduction measure. If the

sponsors wish to address the improvement of mental health and chemical dependency programs in the school system, that is an issue to be debated elsewhere. But to label this as a "gun violence reduction" measure is blatant misdirection and it becomes an issue with which we are very much concerned.

This proposal, as is often the case in firearms issues, attempts to segregate violence involving the use of firearms from violent assaults by other means. This is a causal fallacy. If the problem of "gun violence" is to be addressed, the underlying generic problem of gratuitous violence itself must be confronted. The instrument employed may affect the severity of an injury but it is not the root cause of the act itself.

We believe that the central point of this bill is founded on a flawed premise and that it would result in a misapplication of resources on a small segment of a much larger problem. We believe that the root cause of the violence in question is societal and not medical. The establishment of "mental health first aid training" and age appropriate "mental health curriculums" may be a good idea, (neither term is explicitly defined here) but it is clearly a response to only one symptom of a more fundamental problem.

Children growing up in dysfunctional households with one to zero parents do not develop the social fabric and communicative skills that come with family life. They do not learn discipline, problem resolution and respect for authority. Their life then gravitates to the street and it is here that they find the structure they have been missing. Unfortunately, the problem resolution alternatives learned here do not include binding arbitration.

If this problem is to be effectively addressed, it must be recognized that the core issue is the acceptance of violence as a response to any perceived slight and that it is a societal issue, not a "gun issue."

We have all witnessed the horrific damage that can be done by individuals with severe mental illness when it is left untreated. While they represent a minute fraction of the population with mental health issues, they are the very people that should be the focus of our most comprehensive mental health efforts. These people need serious psychiatric care, not "mental health first aid."

Unfortunately, these are the very people that are being ignored. The state continues to reduce psychiatric hospital beds, devotes scarce resources to identifying the marginally symptomatic and promotes anti-stigma advertising campaigns with a tax return check off box. The result is that the individuals with severe mental illness wind up in correctional facilities that are ill equipped to treat them or cemeteries and not in psychiatric hospitals.

It should be noted that the low number of homicides committed by the seriously mentally ill in Europe is less likely a result of firearms laws than an outcome of the fact that these countries have ten to fifteen times the number of psychiatric hospital beds per capita than are extant in the United States.

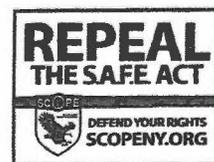
We believe that it is a mistake to focus on full spectrum of individuals with mental health issues as a systemic cause of violence involving the use of firearms. Devoting resources to the identification and treatment of the vast majority of people with mild illnesses requiring little or no treatment may be a good thing. But to promote it as an effective response to serious violence, gun related or not, is a diversion of attention and resources from the real problem.

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An Open Letter to Gun Owners

By Todd Strelow

I hear many gun owners *saying* we need to do something to affect the outcome of the next election, but I don't see any of them actually *doing* anything. Case in point: I recently attended a gun auction that is periodically held at an auction house in my home county. There was a representative from a gun rights group and a representative from a local gun club there, each had a table set up to sell raffle tickets. Neither of them had voter registration forms at their tables. With the auction house's permission and assistance, I set up a table and registered five new pro-gun voters. At the next gun auction, both of those organizations were there again; neither had voter registration forms at their tables. I registered three more pro-gun voters. Selling raffle tickets is fine, but it doesn't get pro-gun people to the polls.

The time has come to stop talking and start acting. There shouldn't be a single gun related

event where there isn't a table to register voters. If your pro-gun organization is setting up a table to take donations (remember selling raffle tickets is illegal in NYS), make sure you have a stack of voter registration forms on the table. Take a book of stamps, and offer to mail in the completed forms. Don't assume people will register on their own, many of them won't. Some people, especially those who haven't voted yet, don't understand how easy it is to register. Don't assume someone else is working on registering pro-gun voters, my experience has shown me they aren't. If you belong to a gun club, get your club involved. If not, act on your own. Get a stack of voter registration forms from your county Board of Elections office (they're free). Visit every gun store in your county and ensure they have a stack of voter registration forms on their countertop. Don't forget the archery stores, they're on our side too! A friend and I did this in our home county, it took only two hours to visit six stores, and all of them agreed to let us put out voter registration forms at their locations. By

sticking to the gun/archery stores, we ensured we were only registering likely pro-gun voters. We were invited to two upcoming outdoor events sponsored by two of the archery shops in our county, to set up a voter registration table.

If you teach a sportsmen's education class, devote 10 or 15 minutes to the importance of being politically active. While many of the students are too young to vote, they won't be forever. And these folks are our future! I put a stack of voter registration forms out in the back of the classroom, with the other course materials.

Two key points to keep in mind, and to point out to people. 1- If someone has moved since the last time they voted, they need to re-register. 2- If someone is 17, but will be 18 before the next general election (this November 8th), they can and should register to vote *now*.

Even if you don't like the current candidates, I encourage you to vote and to get your friends and family to do so too. A vote for the "lesser of two evils" is better than allowing the candidate who is the most opposed to the Second Amendment to be elected. And keep in mind that you will also have the opportunity to vote for pro-gun politicians at all levels of government (town, county, state, and federal), as well as ballot initiatives, not just the presidency is at stake this election cycle.

We should continue to encourage our elected representatives to vote in a pro-gun manner. We should continue to ensure our voices are heard. We should continue to endeavor to elect only pro-gun people at every level of government. But we should also take action to ensure that as many pro-gun voters as possible are registered to vote, and actually do so. Registering new pro-gun voters takes a little effort, but isn't it worth a little bit of effort to retain your Second Amendment rights?

(Continued from page 15)

participation in 2014 was lower than 2010. What is the voter participation in your state? I and SCOPE colleagues have helped individuals fill out voter registration forms; talked to audiences across multiple counties to energize the vote; and lobbied legislators.

Should Liberty Depend on Conduct of the Lawless?

If citizens opt out of their right to vote, our liberty depends on an ever-shrinking pool of active voters. As that voter pool shrinks, so do our liberties. The result is more laws like unSAFE -- and less freedom. A friend-of-the-court brief submitted *in opposition* to Mr. Cuomo's SAFE Act says it well. It was filed by the Pink Pistols, the national organization of gay and lesbian firearms owners who support the Second Amendment. It states (emphasis added): "But to ban firearms

because criminals use them is to *tell law-abiding citizens that their liberties depend not on their own conduct, but on the conduct of the lawless....*"

In a positive way, our freedom *does* depend on our conduct: Join a 2nd Amendment Rights organization, but do more than be a member. Register to vote and/or help others to register -- then vote and get family, friends and neighbors to vote. Get involved in the political ground game -- meet with local and state legislators; support primary challenges; be visible, be vocal.

Take the initiative, don't wait for the order. In other words, take the initiative where your freedom is concerned. Don't wait for the restrictive order from government.



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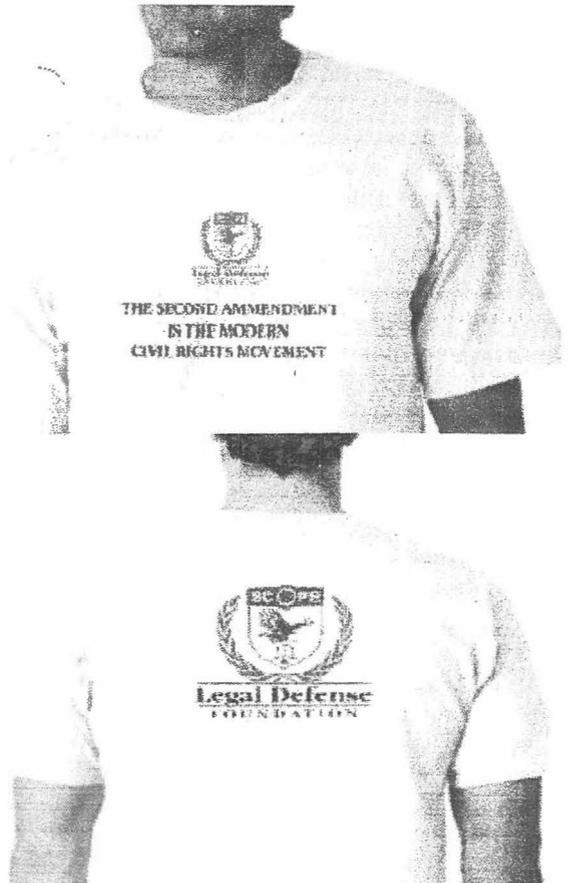
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**GUN OWNERS AND TERRORISTS:
THE NICS-TO-TSDB CONNECTION**

*by Paloma A. Capanna,
Attorney & Policy Analyst
Executive Director*

SCOPE Legal Defense Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 45
Marathon, New York 13803
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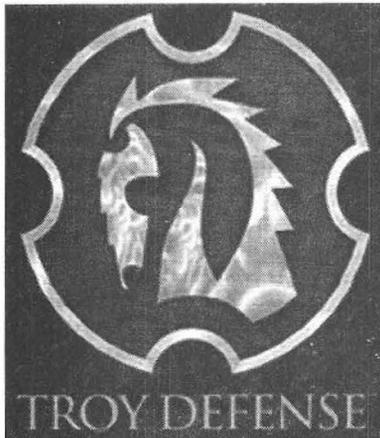
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SCOPE wishes to Thank TROY Defense for their generous donation of four Pump Action Carbines.

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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(Continued on page 21)

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Doctors Kill 23 Times More People Than Guns Kill!

Timothy Wheeler, MD by DRGO

Behold this leading-bleeding scream piece from *BMJ*, formerly the *British Medical Journal* and formerly a respected source of scientific information for your doctor. *Medical error—the third leading cause of death in the US.*

The journal has a history of free-wheeling condemnation of American gun owners, going so far as to advocate attacking their very culture. Throwing fuel on their own fire, *BMJ* editors evidently have now resorted to an old if not exactly honorable practice of hack journalism—printing the shocking and the scandalous, even if the truth gets roughed up in the process.

Is there some truth to this article? Probably. Is truth its main mission? Not if this gleeful “report” in the *Washington Post* is any indication. Note the *Post*’s helpful insertion of *Consumer Report*’s own lurid May issue cover about the harm doctors do. Join us for a celebration of Bash Your Doctor month.

The article by a couple of researchers from Johns Hopkins claims that a much-cited 1999 Institute of Medicine review of hospital mortality undercounted the number of doctor and hospital-caused patient deaths at 98,000 per year. The true number, these authors deduce from reviewing more recent studies, is about 251,000. And they claim that’s an underestimate caused by the limited data available from medical records.

No one likes to think that hospital professionals, including doctors, are human and therefore make mistakes. The 1999 IOM study, titled “To Err Is Human,” launched a frenzy of soul-searching, regulation crackdowns, and even heavier burdens for doctors and hospitals in their ever-present efforts to prevent errors. Some of these efforts were needed and proved to be effective, for example, the surgical time-out, which I rigorously enforced in my operating room.

Others, including the attempt to apply air travel safety routines to medical care, only hamper an understanding of the far more complex challenges of health care. But we’re not debating the problem

of medical errors today, nor offering solutions. The goal of today’s blog entry is to shine a bright light on the medical establishment’s dishonesty as it hammers away at a presumed “epidemic” of deaths caused by “gun violence,” (a fabrication on several levels) while its star professionals kill many more.

Because as gruesomely sensational as the *BMJ* article is, there is some truth to it. We may debate the authors’ horrifying claim that doctors and hospitals kill a quarter million Americans every year, but there is no doubt that they do kill a substantial number. And that number is almost certainly far in excess of the number killed by gun-wielding criminals.

The talking-point number thrown around by public health gun prohibitionists is 30,000 deaths per year caused by “gun violence.” By using this figure they deliberately conflate criminal homicides with justifiable homicides, police shootings, suicides, and a small number of accidents.

Here’s the real breakdown according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Numbers are for 2014, the most recent data available, with a U.S. population of 318,857,056, counting all ages, races, and both sexes:

| | |
|------------------------------|--------|
| Homicide firearm deaths | 10,945 |
| (33% of total 32,865 deaths) | |
| Suicide firearm deaths | 21,334 |
| (65% of total 32,865 deaths) | |
| Unintentional firearm deaths | 586 |
| (2% of total 32,865 deaths) | |

Total firearm deaths from these three causes were 32,865. We exclude the small fraction of deaths due to what the CDC calls “legal intervention” and “undetermined intent” because they are not relevant to this discussion.

Suicides account for two thirds of what public health gun prohibition activists deceptively call “gun violence.” For most Americans the term means criminal shootings and not suicide. Suicide remains a serious problem, but solutions come from treating its underlying cause in most cases, which is mental illness. DRGO supports measures to reduce access of dangerously mentally ill people to guns, considering this a normal part of prudent gun safety measures. But the public health tactic of parading gun suicides as a justification to target all gun

owners is as useless as it is dishonest.

We don’t have room today to discuss the amazingly low 2% fraction of firearm deaths attributed to accidents, a continuation of a decades-long downward trend. Nor can we devote many words to the astonishing mendacity of public health anti-gunners who cite media reports of the rare case of a toddler shooting someone to inflate the scope of this minimal problem in uninformed minds.

What then, can we make of this report in the context of the public health culture war on gun owners?

Medical journal editors increasingly run with controversial stories because, human nature being what it is, blood, fear, and scandal fascinate readers.

This trend seems to have started with George Lundberg, MD, the disgraced former editor of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. Right before President Bill Clinton’s 1999 impeachment trial involving sexual misconduct, Lundberg scandalously rushed into publication an article claiming that college students didn’t consider oral sex to be “real sex.” Lundberg was fired for having, in the words of AMA chief Dr. E. Ratcliffe Anderson, Jr., “threatened the historic tradition and integrity of the Journal of the American Medical Association by inappropriately and inexcusably interjecting JAMA into a major political debate that has nothing to do with science or medicine.”

Medical journal editors consider their role to include not only organizing and presenting quality research results to doctors, but using their publications to promote their personal political beliefs.

They become quite indignant when challenged, brandishing lofty ideals about academic freedom and freedom of speech even as they labor to deprive Americans of their freedom to own firearms.

Any medical journal articles addressing politically sensitive subjects—e.g. guns, sex, or race—can be assumed to be propaganda until proven otherwise.

Timothy Wheeler, MD is director of Doctors for Responsible Gun Ownership, a project of the Second Amendment Foundation.



Doctors for Responsible Gun Ownership

A project of the Second Amendment Foundation

Physicians and health care professionals advocating for Americans' gun rights.

Because firearms are *not* a public health issue

Gun control is, at its heart, people control. While the public health assault on our fundamental human right of gun ownership is not a military assault by jackbooted thugs, it is an assault nevertheless. America has been unique in preserving, and through recent high court decisions affirming, the natural right of self defense. In the 21 years since DRGO began exposing the false scholarship of the public health gun banners we have seen a remarkable shift in public opinion. All states now have right-to-carry laws, and crime levels have dropped instead of rising. Join us in the struggle to bring honesty to the gun debate!

OUR HISTORY: Doctors for Responsible Gun Ownership (DRGO) was launched in 1994 by Dr. Timothy Wheeler, a southern California surgeon. DRGO is now a nationwide network of physicians, allied health professionals, and others who support the safe and lawful use of firearms.

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

SOME OF OUR ACHIEVEMENTS: DRGO has participated as an amicus on several important higher court decisions that have determined the course of gun policy. Dr. Wheeler's 1996 testimony to the House's Labor, Health, Human Services, and Education Appropriations Subcommittee led to the ban on funding for gun control advocacy at the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).



DRGO leadership team at the 2015 Gun Rights Policy Conference. (L - R: Dr. Prizabinda, Social Media Editor; Dr. Young, Media Contributor; Dr. Brodale, Membership & Public Engagement; Dr. Wheeler, Founder & Director; Dr. Edeen, Membership.)

MEDIA APPEARANCES:

The DRGO team has appeared on many pro-gun media and in mainstream media. We have published in numerous national media outlets and have represented our pro-rights position at medical specialty meetings as well as in the courts.

CALL TO ACTION: We are growing membership and building leadership teams and task forces. We are looking for health care professionals with demonstrated experience in:

- Published writing
- Analyzing research publications
- Interacting with the public on social media (Twitter, Facebook, etc.)
- Interfacing with news media
- Testifying about firearms before policy makers
- Other team building and leadership experience

We invite you to explore our website at DRGO.us and join us.
Your \$35 membership is tax deductible and is voluntary.



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