

Firing Lines

Fighting for your Second Amendment Rights since 1965

Volume XXVI, Issue V

September/October 2017

The Second Amendment Guarantee Act

By Tim Andrews
SCOPE President

On July 29, 2017, SCOPE joined Congressman Chris Collins at press conferences in Buffalo and Rochester, to announce that he has introduced the Second Amendment Guarantee Act (SAGA) H.R. 3576. SAGA would repeal the portion of the unSAFE Act pertaining to semiautomatic rifles and shotguns. The unSAFE Act broadens the definition of what an assault weapon is under New York law, and introduces gun confiscation to New York State.

The unSAFE Act is groundbreaking in the sense that it brings us something that most gun grabbers told us they would never do, confiscate your rifles and shotguns. I guess confiscation is their new idea of a "sensible gun safety" law. If you own one of these firearms you are required under the Act to register it with the state police. You cannot transfer the firearm to any New York resident, with the exception of an FFL dealer. This includes, your spouse and your children. You have a favorite rifle or shotgun, maybe a sentimental piece, you would like to leave to your son or daughter, Andy Cuomo says NO!

SAGA would repeal this egregious section of the unSAFE Act. For SAGA to pass we need all on board, you, me and of course congress. I am very disappointed to report that as of this writing, New York Congressmen John Faso (202) 225-5614, and John Katko (202) 225-3701, both who have claimed to oppose the unSAFE Act, have not signed on as cosponsors of SAGA H.R. 3576. Please call them and urge them to cosponsor SAGA, they need to hear your voice.

There is good news, New York Congresswomen Elise Stefanik, Claudia Tenney and Congressman Tom Reed have joined Congressman Chris Collins as cosponsors of SAGA. Please let these leaders know you are grateful for their support. SAGA is also picking up support from congressman from Cali-

fornia and Pennsylvania. One more thing we need from you, if you have friends and family living in other states, tell them about SAGA, ask them to contact their friends and families in their states and to contact their congressional representatives to support SAGA. We're creating our own little pyramid scheme, you are our greatest ambassadors keep spreading the word.

Finally, this November's elections are local, you'll be electing town boards, mayors, city councils and many other locally elected officials. These local elections, referred to as off year elections, are often viewed erroneously by many, as not important, voter participation is often the lowest of any election cycle. For us who are advocates for the Second Amendment, this presents a great opportunity, during low turnout elections your vote becomes magnified, it carries more weight and can turn an election, so register and vote. Gun owners have a terrible history when it comes to voting, many of us complain a lot, but for whatever reason, many don't vote, that must change. Let me be blunt, the gun owners who stay home and don't vote and support pro-gun candidates are as responsible for the passage of the unSAFE Act as anyone.

One more point on local elections, many of those local candidates will one day be running for state assembly, senate and congress, your local elections are the best place to weed out the good from the bad now, so register, vote and ask others to do the same. Someone much wiser than me once said, you get the government you deserve.

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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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**Newsletter Deadline for the Next Issue
November 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.

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Hall Carlisle, NY. Meetings
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FIRING LINES

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



SCOPE-PAC

Political Action Committee

Effectively defending the 2nd Amend-
ment 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 radi-
cal 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 pro-
vide direct financial support to candidates and
promote legislation safeguarding the 2nd Amend-
ment. 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 be-
fore that election to begin preparing. In addi-
tion, if we can help a genuine 2A supporter in a
primary, that will occur months before the elec-
tion. The time to begin building up cash re-
serves for that election cycle is now, when
smaller donations given over time can mount up
into a significant amount and will make a differ-
ence. 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



Back To Basics

By Don Hey
Chairman of the Board

From time to time when things seem to get blurred and confusing it is important to step back and review why we are here and what are our goals. The latter is very clear. To stop any and all forms of infringement on The Second Amendment. Why we are here is a little more difficult and can be answered a bit differently in one's mind. It is for this reason SCOPE as an organization has a mission statement. It is constructed in a manner to offer guidelines as to how we operate. There have been those as of late that have chosen to isolate themselves within a small segment of our political arena. To vilify those that do not emulate the perfect conservative and shun support from those that may have different views on issues not related to The 2nd Amendment. SCOPE has always been a bipartisan organization and this philosophy has served us well through the years. I offer below, for your review, the official SCOPE Mission Statement as listed on our website.

SCOPE Mission Statement:

The Shooter's Committee on Political Education was founded in 1965 by a group of firearms owners in Western New York. SCOPE is a civil

rights organization focused on the protection and preservation of the right of firearms ownership as guaranteed by the Second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. The founding of SCOPE and its subsequent growth were in response to the attacks on the Second Amendment as being outmoded in modern times or not being applicable to the rights of individuals. In other words, firearms ownership, much less use, was no longer considered by some to be politically correct.

While SCOPE's role is focused primarily on the political process, it is an issues oriented organization. It does not align itself with any political party nor does it endorse any candidates for elective office. Our function is to counter assaults on the right of firearms ownership. This entails providing legislators and executives with timely and accurate information to support sound decisions.

In a free society, it is inevitable that the needs of the public will come into conflict with the rights of the individual. The SCOPE legislative team reviews all proposed firearms legislation for its impact on the legitimate firearms owner, its economic cost to the state, and its potential for achieving its stated objective. In developing our position on a

specific piece of legislation or regulatory proposal, SCOPE goes through an extensive review process. All proposals are examined in light of their relationship to legitimate state interests and their potential for achieving objectives substantially related to satisfying those interests.

SCOPE's purpose is to maintain the right of individuals to own and use firearms for lawful purposes. The Supreme Court in its landmark 2008 decision in *District of Columbia v. Heller* clearly upheld this right. We do recognize that we live in a real world where individual rights may conflict and the state has a legitimate interest in resolving those conflicts. Any regulation by the state, however, must serve an important governmental objective and must be closely related to the achievement of that objective. SCOPE will oppose, with all its resources, any proposal that is not based on sound technical grounds or that infringes on the rights of firearms owners for the purpose of promoting a political philosophy, advancing a social theory, or as an emotional response and is not based on clear Constitutional grounds.

SCOPE's mission has always been to keep legislators informed and educated on pending and proposed bills af-

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fecting gun owners and sportsmen. We have been successful for 40 plus years. And for 40 years SCOPE has been educating the voting public on the importance of their involvement and vote. In 2013 the efforts and successes of 40 years of advocacy for gun owners all changed in the dead of night with a midnight vote. SCOPE will not stop and is now expanding to litigation efforts as well as education of our legislators and voters.

Thank you for your continued support!

The Second Amendment Radio Show

**On WYSL 1040 AM,
92.1 FM**

Wednesdays at 8 pm and every Saturday at noon and 6:00 pm, also on the Internet 24/7 at:

**2ndamendmentshow.com,
SCOPEny.org &
WYSL1040.com**

**Each week hear guests from
Gun Owners of America and
SCOPE on the show.**



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Defeat the
politicians
trying to steal
YOUR
Second**

Amendment Rights!

**Donate to SCOPE
PAC Page 3**

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**REPEAL
THE S.A.F.E. ACT**

SCOPE



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HOW TO DISCUSS THE SAFE ACT

By Budd Schroeder

The SAFE Act is still a topic of discussion, especially now that Chris Collins is sponsoring the Second Amendment Guarantee Act (SAGA, HR 3576) which, if passed, would negate several of the most objectionable provisions of the law.

People may want to discuss the SAFE Act, and it is up to members like us to educate them on the uselessness of the law when it comes to diminishing "gun violence." The discussion starts at the beginning of how it was passed, literally in the middle of the night with no three day waiting period for adequate debate or input.

Governor Cuomo and corrupt politicians (Sheldon Silver and Dean Skelos) pushed it through the Assembly and Senate. The two legislative leaders were convicted and sentenced for corruption on other matters, Silver's conviction was overturned and he may face another trial, but neither is serving their sentences. The point is that the origin of the law was passed in a dishonorable way by dishonorable people.

It was called a "message of necessity" although some of the provisions didn't go into effect for a year, and others are not in effect now. What it did was focus on ways for the state to deny honest gun owners four constitutional and civil rights without due process. Governor Cuomo and his toadies thought, and still think, that is necessary.

It banned many semiautomatic rifles and shotguns. It started out banning any rifle or shotgun that had a magazine that could hold more than seven rounds. It was so badly written that it didn't exempt law enforcement officers from that provision. Needless to say, that was

quickly corrected and also because of the uproar that many handguns came with ten round magazines, ten round magazines became the limit for civilians.

Then some of the idiots in the legislature decided that it would be legal to have ten round magazines, but the owner could load only seven rounds in it. A couple of people were arrested for that, but a federal judge negated that provision. However, it is only in that judge's district that it is positively legal. It could be illegal to have more than seven rounds in a magazine in the other parts of the state. Whatever happened to "equal protection under the law?"

Nothing has been litigated on that aspect so far. Perhaps there are prosecutors smart enough to realize that bringing stupid cases to a trial can make them look stupid. Ridicule is not something politicians and bureaucrats like.

The law also says any semi-automatic firearm with a detachable magazine would be illegal if it had a "military" look, having such features as a collapsible or folding stock or one with a thumbhole in it. It also banned guns with a bayonet lug or a threaded barrel. All of the banned features are cosmetic. When debating a politician or anti-gun dimwit it is a good idea to ask them how those features makes the gun "more deadly."

Their answers could usually be met with laughter from the audience which again, can cause the anti-gunners to be ridiculed. However, the politicians told people who owned these types of guns that they could be made legal if the gun was registered. Obviously, if the bureaucrats know you have the gun that makes it "less deadly."

Add some more ridiculous provisions of the SAFE Act. It still has the provision that the state can make people have a background check when they buy ammunition. This has not been put into effect yet because the State Police don't have the equipment to run the state equiva-

lent of the NICS check. "Stupid is as stupid does," said Forrest Gump. This whole law serves as a good example of that saying.

Then, the law requires a background check for any private sale or transfer of all guns. So, if Joe up in the North country wants to legally sell his Winchester 94 to his close friend and the nearest FFL dealer is forty miles away, they have to drive the eighty miles, pay ten bucks for the NICS check (if the dealer will do it) before the sale is legal. There are rumors that in some places guns are exchanged with cash and a handshake without going through the legal process.

The question hasn't come up and been publicized about how do you prove a bill of sale dated before 2013 wasn't involved in a gun purchase? That could be problematic in some jurisdictions.

The other problem with that law is it prevents the Amish from legally buying a gun. In order to perform a NICS check, the FFL dealer needs a photo ID. The Amish, by their religion, don't have photo IDs so they cannot get the background check. That is also a good question to use in the debate or discussion. "Why do you think the Amish are such a dangerous society that they shouldn't be able to legally purchase a firearm?"

Getting a stupid look from the person who has to think of a logical reason for that is worth the time and effort to ask. As you keep asking and interjecting these questions for which there is no logical answer, you are making the opponent crumble. How does he defend the indefensible?

Now, you are getting warmed up and finding the chinks in the SAFE Act defender's armor. You have showne the stupidity of the law on the cosmetic restrictions of the guns. You always have the undeniable truth that THE ONLY THING

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THAT MAKES ANY WEAPON DANGEROUS IS THE PERSON HOLDING IT.

A hammer can be used to build a house. What do you call that? The obvious answer is that it is a tool. What do you call the same hammer if it is used to smash a person's skull? The obvious answer to that is "a weapon." Again undeniable logic!

This is the "weapon" you should use in the debate or discussion. Truthful statements that can't be refuted or rebuffed are winners. So, in desperation, your opponent may counter with, "The background check will make it more difficult to buy a gun." And the answer to that is the degree of difficulty is not a factor.

Many drugs are totally illegal and there is no place to buy them legally. The addicts don't seem to have a big problem getting their supply. The same thing is true for firearms. If there is a buyer for a product, you will soon find a seller. That is a law of commerce.

The anti-gun debater might come up with "most guns involved in crimes come from out of state." The answer could be, "Most illegal drugs come from out of the country." State or federal borders don't stop criminal commerce.

Another argument comes up on the subject of limited capacity magazines. The opponent might say "If it wasn't for the high capacity magazines you wouldn't have mass murders." Then you discuss the ease and speed of changing magazines to reload.

Let them think a moment about this thought. The atrocity caused at Sandy Hook by Adam Lanza is a good example of that fallacy. He could have committed all those murders with an old fashioned double barrel shotgun. He was murdering little children. Who could stop him from reloading? Again the danger comes from the criminal not the weapon.

Another point comes from a

mass murderer in Virginia. He murdered many carrying a bunch of seven round magazines. The mass murderers are cowards. They select places to commit their murders where they don't have much, if any, opposition. How many mass murders have been committed at gun clubs? The vast majority of the mass murders were committed in "gun free zones."

You can bring up a response by relating to drunk driving deaths and that more than half of the homicides involve drugs or alcohol. Drugs are illegal, but if we use the "logic" of the SAFE Act in this vein, we can argue that they also are inert until a person uses them.

So, if we make the purchase of alcohol more difficult, that will cut down on drunk drivers. Prohibition was one of the greatest failures in our history. Difficult to get alcohol? The people who wanted to drink were not significantly inconvenienced. Criminals made fortunes during the Roaring Twenties. Finally, the stupid law was repealed, as the SAFE Act should be.

Using this analogy, maybe we could reduce drunk driving and alcohol abuse if the bottles were smaller. How about a law that would forbid any alcoholic beverage to be in anything larger than a pint bottle? How about limiting alcoholic beverages to no more than 20 percent alcohol content? Limiting magazine capacity makes as much sense.

Speaking about the analogy using cars, try this one. There is no place in NY where a person can legally go faster than 65 MPH. Therefore to make our roadways safer, wouldn't it make sense to pass a law to make all cars sold in this state have a governor on it that would not allow the car to go faster than the legal limit?

Speed kills and how many lives could this save? The only reason a person could want to have an automobile that can exceed the speed limit, is because he WANTS to exceed the speed limit.

Andrew Cuomo grinned as he declared that "Nobody needs 20 rounds to kill a deer." Well, nobody needs a car that will go faster than 65 MPH. Of course police and emergency vehicles (and probably the governor's car would be exempt).

Of course, being New York and the fact that fines for speeding is a good source of revenue for governments makes it acceptable in Albany to have these dangerous cars on the road. (A bit of sarcasm here)

The biggest problem for honest gun owners is that they can lose four constitutional and civil rights without due process. No law-abiding gun owner wants criminals or mentally impaired people to possess firearms. Felons are forbidden to have guns. However, the issue of mental impairment is causing a big problem.

People who have been falsely reported by a hospital or certain people in the medical or social services for "being a danger to themselves or others" can cause the loss of the right to keep and bear arms. There is the case of *Montgomery v. Cuomo* still sitting on a judges desk because he won't bring it to trial. Whatever happened to "justice delayed is justice denied?"

The case involves a retired law enforcement officer who was having a problem with insomnia and went to a hospital for treatment. He was released and a couple of days later the police came to his door and confiscated his guns and pistol permit.

Others are part of this action. One is a woman who voluntarily went to a hospital because of a medication problem. She was falsely reported as an involuntary admission. Same thing happened to her. Some people (not a part of this case) lost the four constitutional and civil rights because of the medication they were taking.

All got notices of the confiscation and the removal of gun ownership and their guns. There was no

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How a Bill in the NYS Senate becomes Law

By Richard Rossi
Delaware County SCOPE

This is an overview of the process in the NYS Senate; a similar process is also followed in the NYS Assembly.

Getting your legislator to either draft or co-sponsor a bill is the first critical step in the process. However, once a bill is referred to the committee - the hard part begins. Committees have tremendous power in this process and a few individuals on the committee can mean the 'death' of a bill - by NOT moving it to the floor for discussion/vote. Based on the committee make-up (Dem or Rep.), could mean its 'death'. It can be 'stalled' in the committee and never see the 'light of day' on the floor.

This is where you must make your wishes known - *loud and clear*. You need to flood the appropriate committee chairman and members with your phone calls, letters and e-mails demanding that this is put on the docket and passed along to the 'floor' for debate and a vote. What gives these 'few' individuals the 'right and power' to prevent our democratic process? Please carefully read *step 3*.

Unfortunately, the Committee's and especially their Chairman have 'the power'. This is why it is critical to have **Term Limits** or at least some limit on the chairmanship of these various committees' and their membership.

Career politicians, with their personal and political biased agendas, in these important roles CAN BE the down-fall of our democratic process and we have seen this happen time and time again with the REPEAL of the NYS SAFE Act - as one example.

I hope this overview sheds some insight into how Albany works.

How a bill becomes a law

The job of the Senate is to work with the Assembly and the Governor to enact, amend or repeal statutes which make up the body of laws by which we are governed. This involves drafting, discussing and approving bills and resolutions. The text shows the process in a simplified progression from "Idea" to "Law." At any step in the process, citizens can make their views known to NY State Senators through this platform.

Step 1: Someone has a new policy idea

The legislative process begins with a new policy idea. Senators often come up with those ideas. However they come from many other places such as a senator's constituents, an organization calling for a new law, or a State official. Regard-

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hearing and we found out that the government is exempt from HIPAA laws. They can do what they choose to do.

So far, the woman involved in the Montgomery Case had her permit reinstated because of the involvement of a good lawyer and investment of money. But, there is a big glitch for the possession of her guns. Being charged is enough for the state to notify the FBI and she, and the others now can't pass a NICS check. There is no easy way to get the stain of the report off the list.

So why cannot those who are falsely accused possess firearms? The state has no interest in rectifying their mistake. They refuse to rectify their mistake. They refuse to contact the FBI to get the names of the wrongly accused persons removed

from the list. Where is the justice here?

The other abomination is when a pistol permit is suspended and the handguns are confiscated the owner's long guns are confiscated too. When the pistol permit is reinstated the police have to return the handguns, but not the long guns.

In order to get the rifles and shotguns returned, a Supreme Court Judge has to be served with an Article 78 to return the confiscated property. The filing fee is close to \$400 and the average lawyer's fee is more than a thousand dollars. The legal costs may be more than the gun is worth and not be in the budget of many people who are affected. Perhaps this is another ploy to deny gun ownership. The power to tax is the power to destroy. So are expensive processes to regain constitutional

rights.

So, if you are debating, arguing or writing letters about the SAFE Act, this article may give you some good talking points to prove that New York has corrupt politicians running Albany and the laws are strictly to limit the Second Amendment rights for honest citizens. It is up to us to convince the corrupt politicians that the law is a dismal failure and does nothing to reduce "gun violence" because CRIMINALS DON'T OBEY LAWS.

Go forth and preach the gospel of logic and reason.

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

(Continued from page 8)

less of the source, this idea serves as the starting point for any new bill or law.

Step 2: Idea is drafted into a Bill

Once an idea for a new law has been settled on, it must be drafted as a bill before it can be considered by the Senate. A bill is a set of instructions for changing the language of the laws of New York. Bill drafting requires a specialized legal training, and it is usually carried out by the staff of New York State's Legislative Bill Drafting Commission. Sometimes, an interest group may have its own attorneys draft a bill, and lawyers working in state agencies and the executive branch often submit their ideas for legislation in bill form.

Step 3: Bill undergoes committee process

Introduction

The first step in the committee process is to introduce a bill into a committee. Bills are generally only introduced only by legislators or by standing committees of the Senate and Assembly. The only exception is the Executive Budget, which is submitted directly by the Governor.

On introduction in the Senate, a bill goes to the Introduction and Revision Office, given a number, and sent to the appropriate standing committee.

Committee Action

Members of Standing Committees evaluate bills and decide whether to "report" them (send them) to the Senate floor for a final decision by the full membership. A committee agenda is issued each week listing the bills and issues each Senate committee will handle the following week.

Committees often hold public hearings on bills to gather the widest possible range of opinion. Citizens can share their opinion on a proposed bill with their Senate representative for relay to the committee members.

Have you Moved?

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

Have you changed your Email?

Sending us your email address does two things:
It allows us to get information to you quickly
It saves on mailing costs

Please email updates to:

admin@scopeny.org

- or mail to -

PO Box 165

East Aurora, NY 14052

The committee system acts as a funnel through which the large number of bills introduced each session must pass before they can be considered. The system also acts as a sieve to sift out undesirable or unworkable ideas.

After consideration, the committee may report the bill to the full Senate for consideration, it may amend the bill, or it may reject it.

Step 4: Senate and Assembly Pass Bill

After explanation, discussion or debate, a vote is taken. If a majority of the Senators approves, the bill is sent to the Assembly. It is referred to a committee for discussion, and if approved there, it goes to the full membership for a vote.

If the bill is approved in the Assembly without amendment, it goes on to the Governor. However, if it is changed, it is returned to the Senate for concurrence in the amendments.

(The reverse procedure is followed if the Assembly first passes a bill identical to a Senate measure or if the Senate amends an Assembly bill.)

Step 5: Bill is signed by Governor

While the Legislature is in session, the Governor has 10 days (not counting Sundays) to sign or veto bills passed by both houses. Signed bills become law; vetoed bills do not. However, the Governor's failure to sign or veto a bill within the 10-day period means that it becomes law automatically. Vetoed bills are returned to the house that first passed them, together with a statement of the reason for their disapproval. A vetoed bill can become law if two-thirds of the members of each house vote to override the Governor's veto.

If a bill is sent to the Governor when the Legislature is out of session, the rules are a bit different. At such times, the Governor has 30 days in which to make a decision, and failure to act ("pocket veto") has the same effect as a veto.

<https://www.nysenate.gov/how-bill-becomes-law>



SCOPE Member Clubs

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

5 Point Rod & Gun Club
Adirondack Conservation Council
Adirondack Federation of Sports Clubs
Alabama Hunt Club
Albion Fish & Game Club, Inc.
Alfred Rod & Gun Club
Allegany County
Federation of Sportsman
Allied Sportsmen of WNY Inc
Almond Rod & Gun Club, Inc.
A-ON-DO-WA-NUH Sportsmans Club
Argunrod Sportsman Club Inc.
Athens Sportsmans Club
Attica Rod & Gun Club, Inc
B R & G Conservation Club
Bailey Mountain Fish & Game Club, Inc.
Baldwinsville Rod & Gun Club, Inc.
Barre Sportsmens Club
Barrington Rifle Club
Bath Rod & Gun Club, Inc.
Big Game Recovery
Big M Game Club
Bison City Rod & Gun Club Inc
Black Rock Fish & Game
Club of Cornwall
Bog Trotters Rifle & Pistol Club Inc
Boston Valley Conservation Society
Branchport Rod & Gun Club Inc.
Bridgeport Rod & Gun Club, Inc.
Broome County Sportsmen's Assoc Inc.
Brunswick Sportsman Club, Inc.
Buckhorn Sportsmen's Club, Inc.
Buffalo Revolver & Rifle Club, Inc.
Busti Trap Club
Camden Rod & Gun Club
Canandaigua Lake Duck Hunters, Inc.
Cattaraugus Rod & Gun Club
Cayuga County Sportsmen's Association
Chautauqua County
Federation of Sportsmen
Chemung County Rod & Gun Club, Inc.
Chestnut Ridge Rod & Gun Club
Community Conservation Club
Conesus Lake Sportsmen's Club, Inc.
Dalton Gang Sportsmen Club, Inc.
Dansville Fish & Game Protective Assoc.
Deer Search of WNY, Inc.
Deerfield Fish & Game Club
Depew Rod & Gun Club
Dorie Miller Rifle and Pistol Club
Dunham's Bay Fish & Game Club
Dutchess County Sportsmen's
Association

East Branch Club
Eden-North Collins Gun Club
Elbridge Rod & Gun Club, Inc.
Ellicottville Sportsmen's Club
Elma Conservation Club
Erie County Conservation Society Inc
Essex County Fish & Game League, Inc.
Evans Rod & Gun Club, Inc
Federated Sportsmens Clubs
of Cattaraugus Cty
Four Point Rod & Gun Club, Inc.
Franklinville Conservation Club
Freeport Junior Club
Genesee/Wyoming Pheasants Forever
Chapter 843
Glen-Coe Conservation Society Inc
Gorham Coon Hunters
Gouverneur Rod & Gun Club, Inc.
Gowanda Rifle Club, Inc.
Grand Island Rod & Gun Club, Inc.
Grape Country Coon Hunters Assoc.
Greenway Verona Mills
Fish & Game Club
Hamburg Rod & Gun Club Inc
Harder O'Donnell Post 734
American Legion
Hawkeye Bowman, Inc.
Hendrick Hudson Fish & Game Club
Hidden Valley Lodge
Hoisingtons NY Ranging Co. 1776
Hol-Field Rod & Gun Club
Holland Rod & Gun Club
Holley Rod & Gun Club
Hornell Sportsman Club
Hudson Valley Sportsmen's Association
Ilion Fish & Game Club
Indian Lake/Blue Mountain
Fish & Game Assoc.
Irondequoit Fish & Game Club
Iroquois Rod & Gun Club, Inc.
Junior Wilson Sportsmen Club, Inc.
Lackawanna Conservation Inc
Lake Keuka Chapter,
Izaak Walton League
Lake Luzerne Conservation
Rod & Gun Club
Lima Gun Club, Inc.
Little Beard Club Inc
Lockport Conservation Club
Lodi Rod & Gun Club, Inc.
Long Lake Fish & Game Club
Lowville Fish & Game Club
Lyons Rod & Gun Club
Mendon Conservation League
Mohawk Rifle & Pistol Club Inc
Mt Morris Sportsman's Club, Inc
New Paltz Rod and Gun Club, Inc.
New York Houndsmen
Conservation Association
Newfield Rod & Gun Club
North Forest Rod & Gun Club, Inc.

North Star Sportsman's Club
North Woods Sportsmens Association
Norton Hill Wildlife Club, Inc
Oatka Fish & Game Club, Inc.
Olean Rod & Gun Club Inc
Ontario Rod & Gun Club, Inc.
Outlet Rod & Gun Club, Inc
Oxford Rod & Gun Club, Inc.
Painted Post Field & Stream Club
Pine City Sportsmen's Club, Inc.
Randolph Rod & Gun Club, Inc.
Red Creek Conservation Club, Inc.
Ripley Rod & Gun Club
Rochester Brooks Gun Club
Rochester Rifle Club
Rushford Lake Conservation Club
Safari Club International WNY Chapter
Sara Spa Rod & Gun Club
Schroon Lake Fish & Game Club, Inc.
Scio Rod & Gun Club
Seneca County Federation
of Sportsmen's Clubs
Shawangunk Fish & Game Association
Shortsville Rod & Gun Club, Inc
Sodus Bay Sportmans Club
Somerset Conservation Club, Inc
Sons of American Legion Squadron 734
South Shore Association of Onedia Lake
Sportsmen's Club of Clifton Park
Springville Field & Stream Club, Inc.
Square Deal Sportsmen
Stamford Rod & Gun Club, Inc.
Tonawandas Sportsmen's Club
Tri States Rod and Gun Club, Inc.
Tupper Lake Sportsmens Club
Twin City Shooting Club, Inc.
Valley Cottage Sportsman's Club
Veterans of America Gun Club
Victor Rod & Gun Club
Walker Valley Sportsman's Club, Inc.
Walworth Sportman's Club, Inc.
Waterloo Rifle & Pistol Club, Inc.
Wayne County Federation
of Sportmen's Clubs
West Falls Conservation Society, Inc.
Westfield Fish & Game Club, Inc
Whortlekill Rod & Gun Club, Inc
Williamson Conservation
& Sporting Club
Williamson Conservation
& Sporting Club
Wolcottsville Sportsman's Club
Wood & Brook Sportsman's Club
Wyoming Conservation Association
Wyoming County
Wildlife Federation
Yates Carlton Lakeshore
Sportsman's Club
Yates County Federation
of Conservation Clubs
Yates County Sportsmen's Assoc.

Contact the White House

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>

This link will take you to an e-mail format to send a message to the President at the White House. It allows up to 2,500 characters, which is about 3+ paragraphs or so of about 4 or 5 sentences each.

Everyone should send a message on this format and express the following:

As a citizen of New York State, your Second Amendment rights have been denied by Governor Andrew Cuomo by the passage of the Safe Act, pushed through by the Governor in a quiet, midnight vote.

The legislature and Cuomo have acted in a deceitful manor and are now preventing the people from regaining their rights.

No relief can be obtained in the Cuomo-influenced courts of New York.

Respectfully remind the President of his numerous campaign promises to protect the Second Amend-

ment and tell him we need Federal action to restore our rights in New York State.

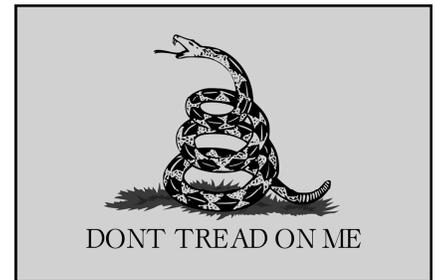
Mention Governor Cuomo by name as the individual who has taken away our Civil Rights under the Second Amendment.

This only takes a couple of minutes to do. These messages are read and reported to the President. They know that the subject is important to the person writing and it does get your voice heard. Please take a moment to do this and forward it to anyone else you think may be interested. It is a strong tool for us to use.

Forward this article to the gun owners on your email list and discuss it with all those in your gun clubs and other organizations where freedom and good government is an issue. In politics, numbers count and politicians respect power.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>

★
★ **Help** ★
★
★ **Defeat** ★
★ **the politicians** ★
★ **trying to steal** ★
★ **YOUR** ★
★ **Second Amendment** ★
★ **Rights!** ★
★
★ **Donate to SCOPE -** ★
★ **PAC Page 3** ★
★



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



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.**

www.troydefense.com/

Troy Sporting Rifle – Pump Action



TROY SPORTING RIFLE

SCOPE Business Associate Members

The following are business members of SCOPE. If your business would like to become a SCOPE business member please fill out the application below.

A.R. Pierrepoint Co., Inc.
154 Berkeley St
Rochester NY 14607-3003
585-473-3225

Accuracy Performance & Function, Inc.
PO Box 410
Walworth NY 14568
315-986-1717

Ambrose Mechanical Services, Corp.
71 Lake Meadow Dr
Rochester NY 14612
585-663-7826

American Freedom Apparel
116 University Blvd
Depew NY 14043
716-407-0515

Any Time Ammo
8 Larkspur Rd
Ballston Spa NY 12020
518-596-9900

Apparel Printers Plus
67 East Main St
Victor NY 14564

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

Association of Former NYS Troopers, Inc.
PO Box 362
Hamlin NY 14464-0362
585-964-3317

B & B Repair Service Inc.
14 Second St
Canisteo NY 14823
607-698-2876

B & E Electric
4466 Kipp Rd
Canandaigua NY 14424

Batavia Marine & Sporting Supplies
411 W Main St
Batavia NY 14020
585-343-4131

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

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

Bill Fox & Son Construction & Remodeling, LLC
9346 South St Rd
LeRoy NY 14482
585-356-4992

Bonded Collection Services
PO Box 305
Fairport NY 14450
585-223-2089

Brightside Communications
PO Box 2404
Binghamton NY 13902
607-768-7088

Bullseye Shooters Supply
453 S Hamilton St
Painted Post NY 14870
607-962-1100

Cannioto Builders
33 Hunt Rd
Rockstream NY 14878
585-216-5626

Cast Away Charters & Guide Service
12 Hummingbird Rd
Coudersport PA 16915
716-560-9216

Champs Mini Mart
11279 Ridge Rd
Medina NY 14103
585-798-0048

Ciminelli & Ciminelli PPLC
421 Penbrooke Dr, Ste 2
Penfield NY 14526-2045
585-235-0980

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

D&J Construction West, LLC
7562 McCarriger Rd
Ovid NY 14521
607-869-9466

DD's Ranch, LLC
12120 Westwood Rd
Alden NY 14004
716-937-7779

Dick Ferraioli/Guilderland Pump
6230 Hawes Rd
Altamont NY 12009
518-861-8733

Dick's Country Store Gun City & Music Oasis
7429 US Rt 11
Churubusco NY 12923
518-497-3253

Diversified Dairy Products, Inc.
496 Kennedy Rd
Buffalo NY 14227
716-864-1760

(Continued on page 15)

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

PO Box 165, East Aurora, NY 14052

Business Associate Membership Application

Date of Application _____ Donation, Annual \$50 _____ Annual Sponsor \$250 _____

Business Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Fax _____

Mailing address if different _____

Contact Name & Title _____

Secondary Contact _____

Website _____ Email _____

Type of business (gun shop, sporting goods, etc.) _____

(Donations to SCOPE are not refundable or tax deductible)

Durham Valley Liquor Store
395 Rt 20B
E Durham NY 12423
518-634-7132

Fire and Ice HVAC, LLC
PO Box 257
Canandaigua NY 14424
315-760-4822

G. Chipman Insurance
Agency, Inc.
360 Grant Ave Rd
Auburn NY 13021
315-252-8541

Harold's Welding Shop
1164 E Swamp Rd
Penn Yan NY 14527
585-554-5178

Harv's Harley Davidson, Inc
3120 Kittering Rd
Macedon NY 14502
585-377-0711

Hunters Landing
8348 Lewiston Rd
Batavia NY 14020
585-343-1474

Interstate Concealed Carry,
LLC
PO Box 2563
Kingston NY 12402
845-478-6604

JC Guns
90 Honorine Dr
Depew NY 14043
716-868-6328

Laughlin Electric Corp
182 Furlong Rd
Rochester NY 14623
585-424-1800

Legal Shield / ID Shield
PO Box 364
Ransomville NY 14131
716-863-6577

Lincoln Electro Mechanic
2908 State Rt 209
Kingston NY 12401
845-339-5686

Lucarellis Banquet Center
1830 Abbott Rd
Lackawanna NY 14218
716-824-1029

New York Security Training
Center LLC
215 South Main Street
Newark NY 14513
585-520-4880

Oneida Electric
5630 Horatio St
Utica NY 13502
315-733-1311

Oyster Bay Insurance
27 Pine Hollow Rd
Oyster Bay NY 11771
516-922-9131

Precision Armament Div of
PM Research Inc
4110 Niles Hill Rd
Wellsville NY 14895
585-593-4975

Rick's Septic Services
PO Box 2
Canandaigua NY 14424
585-797-8346

RJK Guns & Stuff
868 Hyde St
Whitney Point NY 13862
607-692-3346

S&S Auto Body, Ken-Ton
321 Englewood Ave
Buffalo NY 14223-2819
716-834-0183

Sardinia Mini Storage
PO Box 158
Sardinia NY 14134
716-807-9963

Seneca Gun Sports
4705 Ste Rt 14
Rock Stream NY 14878
607-243-7243

Strong Side Defensive
Firearms Training
5316 Franklin Rd
Marion NY 14505
585-506-2978

Take Aim Firearms
3586 Connie Trail
Blasdell NY 14219
716-939-0101

TCS Manufacturing
PO Box 410
Walworth NY 14568
315-986-1717

The Custom Shop Gun Shop
PO Box 410
Walworth NY 14568
315-986-1717

The Firing Pin LLC
8240 Buffalo Rd
Bergen NY 14416
585-494-0333

The Valley Gun Shop, LLC
1600 Davis Rd
W Falls NY 14170
716-652-7499

Thunderbird Arms
7461 Peavy Rd
Angelica NY 14709
585-466-3090

True American Signs &
Vehicle Specialties
678 E. Main St
Cobleskill NY 12043
518-234-1400

Turnbull Mfg. Co., Inc.
6680 Rt 5 and 20
Bloomfield NY 14469
585-657-6338

Walton's Service Center, Inc.
1634 Rt 54
Penn Yan NY 14527
315-536-6928

Williamson Hardware, Inc.
PO Box 163
Williamson NY 14589
315-589-4011

WNY Insurance Agency, LLC
2477 Union Rd
Cheektowaga NY 14224
716-771-0012

www.GoldRushEnergy-
526.com
390 Lykers Rd
Central Bridge NY 12035
518-470-6079

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that support your Rights**

**Please use a SCOPE
member business
whenever you can. Don't
forget to tell them you
found their business in
the SCOPE newsletter.**

**Want to annoy Governor
Cuomo? Get Your
Repeal The SAFE Act
sign on page 24 or go to
SCOPEny.org .**



★ **Advertising in FIRING LINES** ★

If you would like to advertise,
please call or e-mail SCOPE
We will be happy to assist you in
composing and placing an ad

**PO Box 165
East Aurora, NY 14052
(315) 27SCOPE
admin@scopeny.org**

Your Representatives

NYS Assembly E-mail list

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/>

State Assembly	Dist	E-Mail		
Fred Thiele, Jr.	1	thielef@nyassembly.gov	Pamela Harris	46 harris@nyassembly.gov
Anthony Palumbo	2	palumboa@nyassembly.gov	William Colton	47 coltonw@nyassembly.gov
L. Dean Murray	3	murrayd@nyassembly.gov	DovHikind	48 hikindd@nyassembly.gov
Steven Englebright	4	engles@nyassembly.gov	Peter AbbateJr	49 abbatep@nyassembly.gov
Alfred Graf	5	grafa@nyassembly.gov	Joseph Lentol	50 lentolj@nyassembly.gov
Philip Ramos	6	ramosp@nyassembly.gov	Felix Ortiz	51 ortizf@nyassembly.gov
Andrew Garbarino	7	garbarinoa@nyassembly.gov	JoAnne Simon	52 simonj@nyassembly.gov
Michael Fitzpatrick	8	fitzpatrickm@nyassembly.gov	Maritza Davila	53 davilam@nyassembly.gov
Christine Pallegrino	9	518-455-5305	Erik Martin Dilan	54 dilane@nyassembly.gov
Chad Lupinacci	10	lupinaccic@nyassembly.gov	Latrice Walker	55 walkerl@nyassembly.gov
Kimberly Jean-Pierre	11	jeanpierrek@nyassembly.gov	Tremaine Wright	56 wrightt@nyassembly.gov
Andrew Raia	12	raiaa@nyassembly.gov	Walter Mosley	57 mosleyw@nyassembly.gov
Charles Lavine	13	lavinec@nyassembly.gov	N. Nick Perry	58 perryn@nyassembly.gov
David McDonough	14	mcdonoughd@nyassembly.gov	Jaime Williams	59 518-455-5211
Michael Montesano	15	montesanom@nyassembly.gov	Charles Barron	60 barronc@nyassembly.gov
Anthony D'Urso	16	adurso@nyassembly.gov	Matthew Titone	61 titonem@nyassembly.gov
Tom McKeivitt	17	mckevit@nyassembly.gov	Ron Castorina Jr.	62 castorina@nyassembly.gov
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Melissa Miller	20	millerm@nyassembly.gov	Yuh-Line Niou	65 rilouy@nyassembly.gov
Brian Curran	21	curranb@nyassembly.gov	Deborah Glick	66 glickd@nysa.us
Michaëlle Solages	22	solagesm@nyassembly.gov	Linda Rosenthal	67 rosenthall@nyassembly.gov
Stacey Pheffer Amato	23	amatos@nyassembly.gov	Robert Rodriguez	68 rodriguezrj@nyassembly.gov
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Michael Simanowitz	27	simanowitzm@nyassembly.gov	Carmen De La Rosa	72 delarosa@nyassembly.gov
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Michele Titus	31	titusm@nyassembly.gov	Rebecca Seawright	76 seawrir@nyassembly.gov
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Clyde Vanel	33	vanelc@nyassembly.gov	José Rivera	78 riveraj@nyassembly.gov
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JeffrionAubry	35	aubryj@nyassembly.gov	Mark Gjonaj	80 gjonajm@nyassembly.gov
AravelaSimotas	36	simotasa@nyassembly.gov	Jeffrey Dinowitz	81 dinowij@nyassembly.gov
Catherine Nolan	37	nolanc@nyassembly.gov	Michael Benedetto	82 benedem@nyassembly.gov
Michael Miller	38	millermg@nyassembly.gov	Carl Heastie	83 speaker@nyassembly.gov
Francisco Moya	39	moyaf@nyassembly.gov	Carmen Arroyo	84 arroyoc@nyassembly.gov
Ron Kim	40	kimr@nyassembly.gov	Marcos Crespo	85 crespom@nyassembly.gov
Helene Weinstein	41	weinsth@nyassembly.gov	Victor Pichardo	86 pichardov@nyassembly.gov
RodneyseBichotte	42	bichotter@nyassembly.gov	Luis Sepúlveda	87 sepulvedal@nyassembly.gov
Diana Richardson	43	district43@nyassembly.gov	Amy Paulin	88 paulina@nyassembly.gov
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Steven Cymbrowitz	45	cymbros@nyassembly.gov	Shelley Mayer	90 mayers@nyassembly.gov
			Steven Otis	91 otiss@nyassembly.gov

(Continued on page 17)

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Karl Brabenec	98	brabeneck@nyassembly.gov
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Aileen Gunther	100	gunthea@nyassembly.gov
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Daniel Stec	114	stedd@nyassembly.gov
Billy Jones	115	jones@nyassembly.gov
Addie Jenne	116	russella@nyassembly.gov
Ken Blankenbush	117	blankenbushk@nyassembly.gov
Marc Butler	118	butlerm@nyassembly.gov
Anthony Brindisi	119	brindisia@nyassembly.gov
Will Barclay	120	barclaw@nyassembly.gov
William Magee	121	mageew@nyassembly.gov
Clifford Crouch	122	crouchc@nyassembly.gov
Donna Lupardo	123	lupardod@nyassembly.gov
Christopher Friend	124	friendc@nyassembly.gov
Barbara Lifton	125	liftomb@nyassembly.gov
Gary Finch	126	finchg@nyassembly.gov
Al Stirpe	127	stirpea@nyassembly.gov
Pamela Hunter	128	hunterp@nyassembly.gov
William Magnarelli	129	magnarw@nyassembly.gov
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4	Philip Boyle	518-455-3411	631-665-2311
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8	John Brooks	518-455-2765	518-882-0630
9	Todd Kaminski	518-455-3401	516-766-8383
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13	Jos, Peralta	518-455-2529	718-205-3881
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60 Chris Jacobs	518-455-3240	716-854-8705
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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.

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Voting is important, register now!

By Tom Reynolds

When I was SCOPE President, members would occasionally ask me if SCOPE was working on or endorsing a particular anti-SAFE Act proposal. I usually responded something like, “What is the plan to get the bill passed by the NYS Assembly which is overwhelmingly Democratic and then signed by Cuomo”? (*The NYS Assembly has about 108 of 150 members who are Democrats and about 75 of the 108 are from the NY City area. Cuomo is the father of the Safe Act. That’s not very fertile ground for building an anti-Safe Act coalition, since Democrats have made gun control a major pillar of their party’s platform*). I asked, why should SCOPE waste time and money on something that has no chance of becoming law?

To repeal the Safe Act – or to get any anti-progressive bill passed – the bill must be coupled with something that the NY City Democrats must have. Two years ago it was NY City Rent Control and last year it was renewal of the 421-A program as Affordable New York. In both instances the Senate Republicans, who sometimes claim to be pro-gun, waffled and refused to force any coupling of proposed bills. They got nothing done for us and nothing substantial for anywhere outside of NY City.

Since NY City always has its hand out, in this coming year (2018) it will be seeking the \$1 billion that Cuomo promised it for the city’s subway system. It is especially important for Cuomo to fulfill this promise as he will be running for reelection in 2018 and needs to secure his base, which is overwhelmingly in NY City. Opportunity for 2A success abounds! But will the Senate Republicans fail us again? Probably - unless we do

something different.

Putting effective pressure on politicians requires either MONEY or VOTES. Let’s look at some voter statistics as to why 2A defenders have not been successful in our anti-SAFE Act efforts. The answer is in the numbers.

New York State United Teachers (NYSUT) is a major political force in NYS. It has 600,000 members and many are not teachers. The **Civil Service Employees Association** (CSEA) is another major political force in NYS. It has about 300,000 members. Combined, they have 900,000 members and it is not too extreme to say that they among the major political forces in NY State. It is estimated there are between 4 and 6 MILLION gun owners in NYS. Half of that lowest estimate would be 1 MILLION MORE VOTES THAN THESE OTHER TWO POLITICAL GIANTS! But gun owners won’t vote.

New York City has 4.997 million registered voters but only 1.035 million voted in 2014. Again, compare that to the estimates of 4 to 6 million gun owners in NYS. If half of the lowest number of estimated gun owners would vote that would be 1 MILLION MORE VOTES THAN NY CITY cast! The higher estimate of gun owners is more than the total registered voters in NY City. But gun owners won’t vote.

In the last election, Cuomo won with about 2.1 million votes out of less than 4 million that were cast. You do the comparison this time.

We hear gun owners say that their vote won’t make any difference. Actually, it’s their non-vote that makes the difference.

I recently spoke with the aide to a state legislator and I said something about gun owners not voting. He replied with frustration, “We know”! What he did not add was the obvious follow up that gun owners are not a force to be reckoned with in New York since they don’t vote.

I realize that all of the above

groups, including gun owners, won’t vote the same. But people do vote their personal interests. The potential voting numbers of gun owners is too great to ignore.

While we would like to see gun owners join SCOPE or other 2A organizations. In reality, most people who join 2A organizations are not active in them. But if they only voted, that would dramatically change the political environment in NY State.

The other major factor in politics is money. As individuals, very few if any of us have enough money to make a difference. But, again, the numbers are easy to calculate. If only 1 million gun owners joined a 2A organization, that would make \$25 to \$30 million in dues available to defend the 2A. Those are numbers that spur politicians to action.

It’s a two-step process: first register and then vote. We need to couple with other 2A organizations and make voter registrations the number one priority. Then, on Election Day, we need to ensure that they vote. Those that say their vote will not make a difference simply are wrong.

I said in an earlier article that it is important to register in a political party before this November’s election in order to be able to participate in party primaries. I don’t enjoy voting for the lesser of two evils and primaries give us the chance to really make our voices heard.

The opportunity is there. The numbers are there. We have the time if we get started.



Electrical Dependence: A Society at Risk (Part II)

By Harold Moskowitz

The greatest threat to a nation's existence is a man-made EMP attack. It would transport us instantly back to the pre-industrial era. Currently, there are two announced enemies of our nation who continue to advance in both ICBM technology and the ability to miniaturize a nuclear device to the size necessary for insertion into a missile nose cone. One of these nations is Iran, the other is North Korea. They have been collaborating for almost twenty years on developing the technology necessary to bring our nation to its knees through an EMP attack. They have participated in fruitless negotiations to buy time for continuing their progress.

North Korea currently has two satellites in orbit. Each passes directly over the center of our nation in a south to north orbit. The U.S. has no missile defense system or early warning system pointed in a southerly direction. All such systems were built facing north to detect and intercept missiles from the former U.S.S.R. coming over the North Pole. EMP-causing devices can be camouflaged as communication satellites. Missiles and even weather balloons could lift nuclear devices to appropriate altitudes from a freighter in the Gulf of Mexico.

China and Russia have hardened their electrical grids to

prevent mass disruption and destruction from an EMP attack. Our national government has protected crucial military equipment. In addition, one of six electrically hardened planes is always aloft for military communication in case of an EMP attack. Presidential jets are similarly protected. However, nothing meaningful has been done to protect the civilian population.

At its start, EMP power disruption would appear to be another temporary local outage. There is no radioactive fallout. Although initially no one is hurt except for those in airplanes crashing to the ground, it is estimated that up to ninety percent of the U.S. population could die within the first year following the attack. Most of the enormous generators are not made in the nation and replacing them could take years. Without power, moving replacement equipment might not be possible. Estimated recovery time could take as long as a decade.

Death over the next weeks and months would come from many causes. The average city has about three days of food in stores. Much of that and food in home refrigerators will immediately begin to spoil. Hungry, desperate people will attack each other for food as anarchy replaces the civil society. Medicines will begin to spoil. Life-preserving medical equipment will stop working.

Without power there is no: water for drinking, toilet flushing, or personal hygiene; fuel for vehicles; heating oil or natural gas; medicine refills for chronic medical conditions; surgery or medical help beyond "first aid;"

air conditioning; removal of human waste or garbage; ability to deal with inevitable epidemics caused by drinking untreated water; banking; or effective government communication to a panicked population. On top of these, add the release of radiation from one hundred or more nuclear reactors which have meltdowns due to inability to circulate cooling water.

City dwellers will head for the surrounding suburbs. Anyone within a five day walk of a city should expect the roads to be clogged with desperate people who will try to take whatever they need for survival. Only old vehicles without computer circuits and fuel injectors might still operate. Rural people would have the best chance of survival, urban residents almost none.

Firearm owners should expect attempts at confiscation of registered weapons. Those individuals who have only practiced pistol competition target skills may find themselves at a disadvantage when confronting foragers. Proficiency in tactical pistol and carbine skills would be beneficial. In addition, no individual can protect all sides of a structure 24/7. Only those who have formed dependable community protection groups will successfully defend their resources.

The government has known for decades what an EMP could do to our nation and to its population. Why then has nothing been done to harden our three electric grids? The answer is that electricity in the U.S. is mostly generated by utility corporations which make dividend payments to

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shareholders. Any time an appropriate bill such as Representative Trent Franks' "SHIELD Act" is introduced into the House, it passes but gets stalled in the Senate. Senators, perhaps are listening to the paid lobbyists who represent the electric-generating utility corporations. The industry members would become responsible for hardening the electric grids and would not want to collectively spend the estimated seventy-two billion dollars necessary to protect the nation's electrical power, an amount about equal to one year's military aid to Pakistan.

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A GREAT COUNTRY WITH DIFFERENT KINDS OF PEOPLE

By Budd Schroeder

America is a great country, but we all know that. Every now and then, it really shows. It also shows that there are problems within the country as well. The horrendous storms that hit our southern states of Texas and Florida were a good example of the strength, courage and generosity of our citizens.

The massive storm Harvey did more devastation than any other of recent memory. Lives were lost and property ruined beyond repair. There will be a lot of building and restoration for months to come. Losses are in the double to triple billions. But the spirit is great and so is generosity.

People from all over the country are collecting food, clothing and money to help those who lost property and possessions. For many areas there was no choice but to relocate in order to survive. Some, at the edges of the storm were able to shore up their homes, use generators and were stocked up with supplies that enabled them to survive.

Those in other areas were

beset by an excess of water. If four feet of rain drops down there is no way to protect you from the devastation. When the whole first floor of a house is flooded along with a basement and it stays there for a week, you can expect little recovery. Most of the interior is ruined.

Even the walls must be replaced and then there is the tragedy that is caused by the danger of mold. That can kill people or at the lesser end cause severe lung damage if it isn't dealt with quickly. But, people will return, clean up the mess, repair and replace and eventually go on with their lives. Such is spirit and courage.

With disasters of this magnitude the effects can also be emotional. How many people will look at the nightmare caused by rain and wind, and wonder about "next time?" Will they try to recover what they can and decide to move to areas that are less prone to the effects of natural causes? Most will start over.

We people in New York have a good history of survival. We can have cold weather and a blizzard or two in the winter, but generally, it is very survivable. We do have some flooding, but it seldom affects more than the cellar. Heavy snow can crush some roofs, but those are relatively easy to repair.

We can have heavy winds and even tornadoes, but usually the paths are narrow and not nearly as devastating as those in the mid-west and prairie states. We even make jokes about out weather. We can say "if you don't like the weather, wait a min-

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(Continued from page 22)

ute.” We grin and know that it can be bright and sunny in the morning and a rainstorm in the afternoon. We are used to it and most people will carry an umbrella in their car during even the dry summer months “just in case.”

We don’t suffer any serious draughts because we are on the shore of Lake Erie. We might have a ban on watering our lawn, but we always have enough water to drink, cook and bathe. There are states that don’t have that luxury.

For the most part, our lives are what we make of them. It is pretty much up to the individual how well they live. Usually those who work the hardest and show the most talent live the most comfortable lives. And most of those who live those comfortable lives are willing to help those who can’t help themselves.

The New York Social

Services makes sure that there is a safety net for the young, old and disabled. There are programs to help those who are sick and those who have addictions. If there is a need, usually New York has a program to fill it. For the most part, we are darn good people and lucky too.

That is the good part and a compensation for natural disasters. We can adjust to adversity and keep moving on. We have good educational opportunities with the colleges and public schools and a relatively safe society. Some of our areas in the county have some challenges regarding public safety, but for the most part, we are pretty safe in our daily lives.

When we look at the news we see other areas that are not so lucky. Several comparable cities have higher crime and murder rates. We are making big strides to improve on that situation. Recently St. Louis experienced demonstrations that turned into riots. There are groups of people who actually go to cities for that purpose.

They figure an excuse to demonstrate and draw other malcontents with some really evil people to participate. Both ends of the political spectrum get involved. From the Nazis on the far right and the Antifa on the extreme left they will find a cause and then show up. Some are less destructive than others.

Some will just march and be a nuisance by blocking traffic and making noise and a mess. Others come to actually riot and cause destruction. Rioting usually is associated with looting and the broken doors and windows discounts.

A cable news program showed a segment of a Florida incident where they called it saving Nike sneakers from the flood. People broke into shoe stores and came out with boxes of Nike premium shoes so “they would not be damaged by the flood.”

In some places the police hindered those “helpful citizens” and interrupted their efforts to “save the shoes” by arresting them. Some cops just don’t recognize and appreciate people who are willing to go through a foot or two of water to be helpful.

So there we have a sample of the cross section of our country with examples of our people who run the gamut of those who will risk their lives to help people in need during a traumatic disaster to those who are focused on saving expensive shoes from water damage. What a great country.

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