THE DEFENDER
A publication of
Virginia Citizens Defense League
Defending Your Right To Defend Yourself

Fall 2018

VCDL Public Meeting Dates

Thursday, Dec 20 — Annandale
Monday, Jan 21 — LOBBY DAY, RICHMOND
Thursday, Jan 24 — Annandale

Additional meetings held throughout the state are announced in VA-ALERT and posted on the calendar at www.vcdl.org/calendar
Annandale meetings are held at the Mason Governmental Center, Annandale Fellowship 7:30 PM; Meeting 8:00 PM

LOBBY DAY
KEYNOTE SPEAKER MARK ROBINSON
#IAMTHEMAJORITY

Perhaps you saw it. Greensboro NC city officials were doing everything they could to cancel and permanently eliminate gun shows held in the city’s coliseum. At a council meeting, Mark Robinson asked when his elected officials were going to do something for us—the majority—the people who have never committed a felony, who don’t break laws, who are law-abiding citizens. Video of his comments went viral, sparking #IAMTHEMAJORITY. You can see the video at https://tinyurl.com/ydx2hz54

The follow-up to this meeting reveals that the City Council hasn’t the authority to ban guns, so they chose to give the proceeds to a police-run program that will pay citizens to report neighbors.

Mark Robinson understands us. The majority of Americans. Mark Robinson got the attention of his city officials. Whether they were swayed or not, he got their attention. And he’ll capture yours. On Lobby Day, January 21, Mark Robinson will address VCDL members at the rally on the Capitol Grounds.

Other speakers will be announced in the VA-ALERT as they are confirmed.

As they did last year, Team Leaders will assemble their teams near the Bell Tower (9th and East Franklin Sts). Teams will then make their way to the corner of 10th and East Main Streets, and the main entrance to the Pocohantas Building. This is the temporary home of the legislature while the General Assembly Building is remodeled. Some will remember from last year that the hallways can get quite crowded.

More logistics details are found on pages xxxxxxx, but the general schedule is:

08:00—08:30 Teams form and enter the building
08:00—10:00 Teams meet with legislators and/or their legislative aides
10:00—11:00 Individuals are encouraged to meet one-on-one with their representatives.
11:00 — Rally at the Bell Tower

IN MEMORIAM

Long-time VCDL Executive member, volunteer registered lobbyist, and former Board of Directors Member Dale Welch passed away in October. Dale was a true force for gun rights, always soft-spoken but covering an iron will with a velvet—some would say gravelly—voice. The only thing that took priority over 2A rights for Dale was his family. We’ll miss him.
First let me congratulate some pro-gun candidates on their November wins:

Congressman-elect Denver Riggleman handily beat his opponent to win Congressional House District 5! Leslie Cockburn, who was running on a strong gun-control platform, refused to return her VCDL Candidate Survey. Riggleman returned a "pro-gun" survey to VCDL.

Congressman-elect Ben Cline crushed his opponent, Jennifer Lynn Lewis, to win Congressional House District 6! Ben Cline headed the Militia, Police, and Public Safety committee this year and helped VCDL stop the plethora of gun-control bills that were introduced. He will be missed at the General Assembly next year.

Delegate-elect Joe McNamara demolished his opponent, E. Carter Turner, in the Virginia House of Delegates District 8. Joe McNamara returned a perfect VCDL survey, while Carter Turner refused to return his survey.

Congressman Rob Wittman trounced Vangie A. Williams to retain his seat.

Congressman Morgan Griffith effortlessly beat Anthony Flaccavento to retain his seat.

And we must say goodbye to some of our friends:

Congressman Dave Brat, who was my representative, lost a hard-fought battle as his opponent, Abigail Spanberger, squeaked out a win. Dave Bratt is a class act and great to work with. I really hope he runs for office again.

Congressman Scott Taylor lost in a very close race to Elaine Luria.

Corey Stewart lost to Senator Tim Kaine.

If Trump had to lose either the House or the Senate, which would I have chosen?

The House, hands down.

With a larger majority of Republicans in the Senate, Trump can continue the all-important task of filling federal judicial vacancies without a major fight over each one. I really hope the President can fill a lot of seats in the Federal 4th Circuit Court of Appeals as well. The Court has made some really bad rulings recently that rival California's 9th Circuit. There is a real need to get some better judges in place.

And don't forget there are two Supreme Court justices over the age of 80 who could need to be replaced in the next year or two as well. One of those is Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who is no friend of the Second Amendment.

One more observation on this. It is been the rule that the midterms after a newly elected president go badly for the president's party. Barack Obama lost sixty-three House seats and six Senate seats! Bill Clinton lost fifty-four House seats and nine Senate seats. And they had an adoring press.

Trump has been under unrelenting, vicious attacks by most of the press, yet he is going to gain at least 2 seats in the Senate and will lose only between thirty and forty seats in the House. That's pretty impressive.

Politics in America is a pendulum that swings slowly back-and-forth and that's

(Continued on page 9)
### Upcoming Gun Shows and Events

If you’d like to work a show, email the coordinator and ask to be put on the mailing list used for volunteers. Volunteers get free admission to the show, and some vendors offer discounts to other vendors, including our volunteers.

*Verify all schedules; this list is correct as of press time.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Coordinator</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chantilly</td>
<td>Dec 28-30</td>
<td>Dulles Expo Center</td>
<td>Chantilly—Danny Paulson (<a href="mailto:gunshows.chantilly@vcdl.org">gunshows.chantilly@vcdl.org</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dale City</td>
<td>Dec 1-2</td>
<td>VFW Post 1503</td>
<td>Dale City—Richard Kroh (<a href="mailto:gunshows.dalecity@vcdl.org">gunshows.dalecity@vcdl.org</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doswell</td>
<td>Dec 15-16</td>
<td>Farm Bureau Center at Meadow Event Park</td>
<td>Doswell—Rowley Molina (<a href="mailto:gunshows.doswell@vcdl.org">gunshows.doswell@vcdl.org</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fredericksburg</td>
<td>Dec 8-9</td>
<td>Fredericksburg Expo &amp; Conference Center</td>
<td>Fredericksburg—Mike Clark (<a href="mailto:gunshows.fredericksburg@vcdl.org">gunshows.fredericksburg@vcdl.org</a>)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manassas</td>
<td>Jan 19-20</td>
<td>PWC Fairgrounds</td>
<td>Manassas—VACANT (<a href="mailto:gunshows.manassas@vcdl.org">gunshows.manassas@vcdl.org</a>)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Norfolk</td>
<td>Dec 26-27</td>
<td>Norfolk Scope</td>
<td>Norfolk Scope—VACANT (<a href="mailto:gunshows.norfolk@vcdl.org">gunshows.norfolk@vcdl.org</a>)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richmond</td>
<td>Jan 5-6</td>
<td>Richmond Raceway Complex</td>
<td>Richmond—Old Kmart on Midlothian</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roanoke</td>
<td>Feb 2-3</td>
<td>Roanoke Civic Center</td>
<td>Roanoke Civic Center—VACANT (<a href="mailto:gunshows.roanoke@vcdl.org">gunshows.roanoke@vcdl.org</a>)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salem</td>
<td>Dec 22-23</td>
<td>Salem Civic Center</td>
<td>Salem Civic Center—VACANT (<a href="mailto:gunshows.salem@vcdl.org">gunshows.salem@vcdl.org</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia Beach</td>
<td>Feb 2-3</td>
<td>Convention Center</td>
<td>Virginia Beach—VACANT (<a href="mailto:gunshows.vb@vcdl.org">gunshows.vb@vcdl.org</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winchester</td>
<td>Mar 2-3</td>
<td>Body Renew Fitness and Family Sports Center</td>
<td>Winchester—Mark Lintz (<a href="mailto:gunshows.winchester@vcdl.org">gunshows.winchester@vcdl.org</a>)</td>
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</tbody>
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*If you might be willing to act as coordinator, let’s talk—with no obligation at first—about responsibilities and possibilities. Contact gunshowcoord@vcdl.org.

### Coordinators

- **Chantilly**—Danny Paulson—gunshows.chantilly@vcdl.org
- **Dale City**—Richard Kroh—gunshows.dalecity@vcdl.org
- **Doswell**—Rowley Molina—gunshows.doswell@vcdl.org
- **Fishersville**—Ed Martin—gunshows.fishersville@vcdl.org
- **Fredericksburg**—Mike Clark—gunshows.fredericksburg@vcdl.org
- **Manassas**—VACANT—gunshows.manassas@vcdl.org
- **Norfolk Scope**—John Ward—gunshows.norfolk@vcdl.org
- **Richmond**—Mike Wilburt—gunshows.centralva@vcdl.org
- **Southwest Virginia**—Al Steed, Jr.—gunshows.swva@vcdl.org
- **Tidewater/Peninsula**—Ron Lilly—gunshows.hamptonroads@vcdl.org
- **Tidewater/Virginia Beach**—Brendan Mooney—gunshows.vb@vcdl.org
- **Winchester**—Mark Lintz—gunshows.winchester@vcdl.org
- **State Gun Show Coordinator**—Tess Ailshire—gunshowcoord@vcdl.org

### Thank You

A special thanks to those members who used their time to help spread the VCDL word.

- **Richmond** Aug 24-25
  - William Carr, David Crosby, Dave Eckhart, John Gosney, Craig Jones, Jack Jordan, Leyla Meyers, Alan Penn, Brian Risley, Jim Shelton, Bob Welch
- **Doswell** Sep 8-9
  - Bob Charlton, Rowley Molina, Janine Woods
- **Hampton** Sep 23-24
  - John Fenter, Bob Gass, Brandon Gilbert, Bryan Gilbert, Clem Morse-Tuttle, Roberta Morse-Tuttle, Monte Oakes, Jessy Simmons, and Tim Waters
- **Chantilly** Sep 28-30
  - Keith Bailey, Kevin Boland, Debra Casey, Dwin Craig, Skip Dobrin, Robert Eufemia, Glen Foster, Kelly Foster, Thomas Fuller, Paul Gwyther, Troy Haynes, John Kamin, Margaret Marcus, Michael Oakes, Danny Paulson, Alexander Rogge, Craig Shelton, Russell Slater, Jim Snyder, David Warren, Sherry Warren, Keith Webster, Robert Wilson
- **Salems** Oct 13-14
- **Glen Allen Day** 20 Oct
  - Chuck Batteau, Bob Charlton, Kiefer Clay, Dave Eckart, John Flynn, Leonard Harris, Scott Hood, Bruce Jenkins, Alan Penn, David Schroen
- **Roanoke** Oct 20-21
  - Don Beheler, Brien Dyer, Missy Dyer, Dave Evans, Connie French, Ed French, Danny Holdren, Sam Hollingsworth, Dan Johnson, Heather Meikle (age 11), Lilly Meikle (age 2½), Stephen Meikle, Tyr Meikle, Ken Modica, Dave Nalantowski, Kathy Smith, Al Steed, Jr.,
- **Virginia Beach** Oct 20-21
  - Carl Bruno, Mike Ferris, John Greene, Brent Hodgins, Dave Hodgson, Richard Johnson, Dana Larkin, Steele McGonegal, Joh Miller, Gary Moeller, Brendan Mooney, Bill Rearick, Lisa Rearick
- **Fredericksburg** Oct 27-28
  - Mike Clark, John Dittamo, Dave Eckart, Mickey Feeley, Theron Keller, Wayne Robinson, Alexander Strugatsky
Does this sound familiar to you? You head to the range a couple times a year with a couple boxes of ammunition and proceed to blast a bunch of holes into your paper targets. That’s okay, you say, as your groups are improving and you’re shooting at longer distances than when you started out. Familiar?

Now, how many of you think that sort of practice, in and of itself, adequately prepares you for protecting your and your family’s safety when you’re out in public? After all, you’re able to hit a target, right?

No, I’d like to think most of us in VCDL know that scenario simply doesn’t cut it. We seek training. We know real targets don’t stand still. We know it’s even quite possible our “target” will one day be shooting back at us if we’re ever placed into the unfortunate situation of having to defend ourselves.

On the other hand, training is expensive. Ammunition is expensive. Our time is valuable to us. That means we’re probably not out there shooting moving targets on a weekly basis, right?

Perhaps some of you are, but that’s not been my own experience.

So, the question becomes this: How do we get the most actual value out of our range time? What if our only option is an indoor or outdoor range with shooter lanes laid out and little or no room for us to move around much, engage moving targets, and so on?

Well, together, we’ll step through some practical guidance on how to maximize the effectiveness of our practice sessions. I intend to publish here a series of columns, starting with this one, that will explore different techniques for practicing under a range of different circumstances.

I’ll lay out a plan of action below, and I want to invite you all to chime in with ideas, suggestions, and so on, if you’re so inclined.

My roadmap, as of today, includes the following topics:

- Distance shooting
- Precision shooting
- Draw from OWB holster
- Draw from IWB concealed holster
- Defensive shooting from behind cover or concealment
- Weak side shooting
- Rapid multiple target acquisition
- New firearm break-in and testing
- Speed shooting
- Shooting games for multiple people

Dry-fire drills at home
Elevated stress shooting
Competition shooting
Malfunction drills
Reloading drills
Shooting while wounded
Low light drills

That’s a pretty formidable list, and I’ll plan on hitting one or two of these topics per column here in the VCDL Defender. What important practice drills have I missed? Please reach out to me and chime in. I can be reached by email at ken.vanwyk@vcdl.org, and I’d love to hear from you.

I’ll also address practice frequency. How often are you able to get to the range? If you go once a month, your drill options are different than for someone who can get out once a week (or more).

The bottom line is that we all owe it to ourselves to be as proficient as we can in handling our firearms. We need to be safe, of course, but we also want to stack the odds in our favor as much as we can. Should we ever really need our firearms, we need to be prepared to use them swiftly and confidently.

To get there, I’m a huge believer in practicing and drilling that pushes our abilities to their limits and beyond. I believe training should be difficult, not easy. I work hard in my own training to push myself every time I go to the range, and with every shot I fire. Shooting a bunch of holes in a piece of paper just isn’t enough.

So please come join me. Send me your ideas. Try the drills we’ll cover here, and let me know how well they work for you. Share with us your own tips to improve even further. I’ll share the best tips and ideas here, with full credit to the contributors, of course.

I look forward to our journey. I hope you do too.

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**YES, VOTING IS IMPORTANT**

“Based on House voting records tracked by the National Rifle Association, more than two dozen gun rights proponents won’t be returning to Congress."

“At least 17 newly elected House Democrats back stricter gun laws, including Jennifer Wexton, Abigail Spanberger and Elaine Luria in Virginia, who defeated incumbents …."

*Source: CNBC Nov 9, 2018*
Every year I hear reasons why people can’t...or don’t...attend Lobby Day. Now is the time to look at reasons why you should make time to attend! (NB: This is written *before* Election Day.)

Obviously, you care about your right to keep and bear arms. If you didn’t, you wouldn’t be a member of VCDL. And while being a member is an important step in defending that right, it is just the first step.

Strength in numbers makes an impact, especially on Lobby Day. In some years we’ve had such high attendance that you simply couldn’t go anywhere in the General Assembly (GA) building without seeing scores of blaze orange Guns Save Lives stickers in every direction. Sadly, there have also been years when the attendance was anemic. Every single person counts. So don’t let the weather keep you away (we spend most of the day inside!). Don’t let the fact that you have to get up early on what would otherwise be a holiday keep you from coming either.

This is our Superbowl. While VCDL is busy all year working with the GA and with local governments, this is the one time each year when YOU, the individual faces of VCDL, can be seen and heard. And you don’t have to be a member to participate, so bring your friends, neighbors, coworkers and family. I’ve had children in my group every year I’ve been a Team Lead, and it is an excellent learning experience for them.

On a previous Lobby Day I asked one of the Delegates just how many contacts it takes to get one’s attention? The answer was staggering. If they get 10 or so emails on a specific topic, they take notice. If they get 5 or more phone calls it gets attention. If they get ONE or TWO visits, they put more weight on this than any phone call or email. When VCDL holds Lobby Day and they see hundreds of Guns Save Lives sticker-wearing people swarming the corridors, they can’t help but take notice.

What really gets their attention is when their constituents are in those groups. In fact, you can make an appointment with your Delegate and Senator to guarantee you’ll get some face time. But even if you don’t do this, go by their office and sign your Delegate and Senator to guarantee you’ll get some face time. (NB: This is written *before* Election Day.)

The Greater Alexandria Patch newspaper reported recently on an Alexandria man who forgot to check his carry-on bags and attempted to fly through Baltimore-Washington Thurgood Marshall International Airport (BWI).

TSA reminds residents that a gun found at a checkpoint could not only delay checkpoint lines but result in possible criminal charges. TSA can assess fines up to $13,000 for weapons violations with a first time offense for carrying a handgun into a checkpoint typically being $3,900.'

It could be worse, of course. In New York, “possession of a loaded firearm is an extremely serious charge. It is a Class C Violent Felony with a maximum sentence of 15 years and, more importantly, a minimum sentence of three and one-half years.” Further, “New York has its own unique way of defining a loaded handgun. Our highest court, in its wisdom, holds that a handgun is loaded when "the ammunition is in close proximity." That’s right — if the handgun and the ammunition are near each other, that’s a loaded firearm. (Source: Law office of Martin D. Kane)

We’ve run several articles in The Defender over the years about how to travel safely with your firearm. The subject has been discussed and debated, with different people describing their various experiences. What all have in common, though, is that they were also very careful to check their carry-on bags before arriving at the airport.

By Patricia Webb, VCDL Board of Directors Member

By EM Tess Ailshire
LOBBY DAY LOGISTICS

Getting There

Driving. The Bell Tower—for team formation and for the rally, is located at 9th and Franklin Streets in Richmond, Virginia. The entrance to the Pocahontas Building is at 10th and Main.

Buses. Buses will be leaving from Fairfax, Fredericksburg, Roanoke, Lynchburg, Hampton, and Virginia Beach. Specific times are listed in the VA-ALERT of 27 November, which can be found in the VA-ALERT archives at vcdl.org. To reserve a spot on the bus, send an email to bus@vcdl.org with the names of riders in your party, and a cell phone number where they can be reached for last-minute information. We request a $30 contribution to help offset the cost of the buses (about $1,500 each). However, it is more important that we have plenty of people at Lobby Day, so if you can't make a full contribution or can't contribute at all, that is not a problem. Anyone wishing to contribute more, we'll gratefully accept that, too. Proof of a contribution is not required to get on the bus.

Parking There

Lobby Day falls on a national and state holiday, so on-street parking is free. Additionally, Public Parking: A limited number of metered public parking spaces (2 hours) are located on the west side of 10th Street, between Main and Bank Streets, on Bank Street, between Governor and 14th Streets, on the south side of Main Street, between 9th and 12th Streets and on 12th Street between Main and Bank Streets. On the holiday, fees are not charged at metered spaces. According to the GAB web site, Handicap Parking: Private vehicles with handicap plates are able to unload passengers on Bank Street near the new public entrance at 10th Street. Four parking spaces zoned for handicapped drivers are located on the north side of Bank Street, between 9th and 10th Streets. Pay parking lots and decks are nearby on 8th and Grace Streets and 7th and Marshall Streets.”

Staying There

You may want staying over night in Richmond, at least the evening before Lobby Day. The activities get launched pretty early in the morning. The good news is that, from simple bed-and-breakfast inns through five-star stately hotels, Richmond has much to offer. Among the nearest options to the GAB are the Commonwealth Park Suites (901 Bank St), the Omni Richmond (100 S 12th St.), a Marriott Courtyard (1320 E Cary St), and a Marriott Residence Inn (14 S 14th St). For a five-star experience, check out The Jefferson Hotel (101 W Franklin St). Popular search sites like TripAdvisor and others offer up their lists, as does http://visitrichmondva.com and other locally run sites.

Eating There

The cafeteria formerly on the 6th floor of the General Assembly Building will be in a new location in the SunTrust Building (919 East Main Street, 3rdFloor – across the street from the Pocahontas Building). The Capitol Café in the Capitol Extension will be open each weekday between 8:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. for breakfast and lunch. Additionally, within a five-block radius of the Capitol are: Cafe Ole, Citizen Jojo’s, Famous Pizza, Pop’s Market on Grace, Richmond on Broad Café, SunTrust Cafeteria, Cafe Rustica, Mama J’s Kitchen, Pasture, Rappahannock, Sam Miller’s, Capital Ale House, Penny Lane Pub, Sine Irish Pub, and others. We encourage you to seek out your favorites prior to arriving, but you may just strike up a friendship with someone who already has a favorite, and enjoy some fellowship as well!

Finding a Team

Team Leaders will start forming their teams around 8 AM. They will be wearing neck signs identifying them as Team Leaders, and will probably each be carrying an armload of information packets to hand to their assigned legislators. You can ask the Team Leader if s/he is visiting one of your legislators or you can simply join a group, talk to the assigned individuals, and then seek out your own legislators as well.

If you are willing to lead a team, assembling and leading a team to visit about 10 legislators, contact ken.vanwyk@vcdl.org. Leadership skills are helpful, but willingness is more helpful.

Inside the Building

Individuals and groups visiting the Pocahontas Building may enter through the doors marked public entrance on the south side of the building. Visitors with special needs may use the wheelchair accessible entrance on Main St.

All non-credentialed visitors must pass through a security screening and have their personal items screened by an x-ray machine prior to entry. All packages and bags are subject to physical search.

In some previous years, there has been a separate door for CHP-holders who are carrying firearms. It will be clearly marked. If you carry into the building, have your CHP and your photo ID readily available.

Scheduling Individual Visits

To schedule a visit with your representatives, find contact info on the General Assembly web site. Scheduling in advance is best, but there are telephone and room-assignment lists at the information desk in the building. Individual visits with legislators tell the representative that it is their own constituents who expect them to vote freedom, and it allows you to speak about other issues not necessarily related to firearms ownership.
News to Use  
By Executive Member Tess Ailshire

Many of our members have a difficult time talking to others about VCDL because they don’t really know the organization. Sure, we all know that VCDL is a force in Richmond, that legislators listen to us, that we are a group of committed gun owners who are determined that no legislator will take away natural rights guaranteed by our Constitution. But is that enough to make you knowledgeable to talk to others?

The following information was put together to help volunteers who man our tables at gun shows and community events. It may help you, by answering your questions but, more importantly, by providing you with the information you need to explain our organization to others.

Who are we

We are a grassroots organization of Virginia gun owners who recognize that an organized effort to let legislators at all levels of the state’s bureaucracy know our position and our expectation.

What differentiates us from NRA, JPFO, GOA, SAF, CCRKBA, NAGR, etc. is that we are strictly state and below. Those other organizations cannot afford the time or the manpower to focus on the issues of all states, or to concern themselves with county or city issues. We do that effectively, though we focus on statewide issues during the legislative session (usually Jan-Mar)

We are primarily a volunteer organization. During the legislative session, we have someone at every session, committee meeting, and subcommittee meeting where bills are discussed that could affect a gun-owner’s rights. We have two registered lobbyists, and thousands of grassroots supporters.

We stand for the gun owner’s rights. While our legislative priorities vary from year to year and with practical considerations, we believe that each individual has a right to carry a firearm for self-defense. In general, we support:

- Campus carry – any person who is not prohibited from carrying a firearm off campus should not be prohibited from carrying one on campus
- Statewide preemption – no state locality or organization should be able to ban guns arbitrarily (right now, localities are fully preempted, but organizations and agencies are not)
- Constitutional carry – a person who is not a prohibited person should not need a permission slip to carry a firearm either openly or concealed.
- Elimination of gun-free zones–a person does not become violent by virtue of stepping over a line into, say, a church, park, school, building, or vehicle.
- Nationwide reciprocity

In general, we oppose:
- Universal transaction (background) checks. They cannot work without registration, and the government need not register our constitutionally guaranteed private property.
- Special exemptions – whether for judges, off-duty police, Commonwealth’s Attorneys, or any other. No citizen should be exempt from firearms laws (except law enforcement while on duty)
- Bans on firearms, particularly bans based solely on cosmetic features
- One-gun-a-month laws
- Efforts to restrict firearms ownership from law-abiding citizens in a misguided attempt to regulate criminal behavior. Criminals do not obey current laws’ additional restrictions make a difference to the law-abiding.

What is Lobby Day

Lobby Day, traditionally held on the Martin Luther King, Jr. federal holiday, is a time when Virginia citizens visit their legislators to impress upon them the importance of citizen feeling on issues to be debated and legislated.

We encourage every gun owner to attend.

We will break into teams, each of which has a volunteer leader, and thus we can visit every legislator in the building. We present a list of the bills we are watching, and indicate whether we support or oppose the legislation, and why.

We also sponsor a one-hour rally at the Bell Tower on the Capitol grounds. This rally will provide guest speakers and inspirational moments in a show of solidarity.

Lobbying efforts begin at 8:00 AM. We encourage attendees to arrive around 7:30 and find a team. There will be people handing out stickers, directing people to teams, and answering questions.

What do my dues get me

Power. It’s all well and good for a lobbyist to visit a legislator and state he represents xx thousand gun owners of Virginia. It’s even more impressive when he can say he represents xx members who pay dues, who pay attention, who contact legislators with persuasive arguments, and who VOTE.

A paper newsletter, The Defender, published quarterly. While members may opt out of receipt, it contains articles and information that are not published by VCDL elsewhere.

Dues, as in most organizations, are used to pay for legal advice, to cover administrative costs including membership processing and treasurer services, for printing costs, and for an occasional event such as a potluck dinner or picnic.

How many members does VCDL have

About 6500 paid members, and over 28,000 on the VA-ALERT.

(Continued on page 9)
The more training I have, the more I appreciate having a higher-capacity handgun. I don’t believe anyone has ever said, “Darn. I had way too much ammunition!,” after a life-and-death defense situation!

I’ve been a fan of Sig Sauer’s P320 series of handguns for years. The P320 subcompact is indeed easy to conceal, but it is not a pocket pistol by any means. So when Sig announced the P365 with a capacity of 10 + 1 9x19mm +P (or 12 + 1 with an extended magazine), it got my attention.

A student let me shoot his P365 while I was teaching an Illinois concealed carry class. I really liked it, put it on my short list, and bought one and headed to the range with 300 rounds of ammunition.

While my normal carry cartridge is .40 S&W, this isn’t the first time I’ve purchased a particular pistol in 9mm simply because it was not offered in anything but 9mm (my tack-driving Sig P320 RX, with its red dot sight, is another recent example). In reality, all the major carry calibers (9mm, .40 S&W, and .45 ACP) are not far apart in stopping power, thanks to improvements in ammunition over the last 20 years or so.

SIZE AND WEIGHT (LOADED)

Before the P365, I had two choices in my gun collection for pocket carry: the Kahr Arms PM40 and the Kahr Arms P380. The P380 is ridiculously small and light, but is only chambered in .380 ACP and holds a mere 6 + 1 rounds. If discretion is an absolute priority, the P380 is hard to beat and I carry it on the rare occasion, often forgetting I even have it on me.

The PM40, which holds 5 + 1 rounds of .40 S&W, or the PM9, which holds 6 + 1 rounds of 9mm, is slightly smaller and lighter than the P365. The loaded PM40 weighs around 22 ounces and the loaded P365 comes in right at 24 ounces. (I don’t care what a gun’s empty weight is, as I never carry it empty!) Both have 3.1" barrels.

The PM40’s dimensions are (L, H, W): 5.47" x 4.0" x .94"

The P365’s dimensions are (L, H, W): 5.8" x 4.3" x 1.0"

TRIGGER

The PM40’s trigger reminds me of a tuned revolver: a little long, but smooth and consistent.

The P365 is very much like Sig’s P320: around 5 pounds, smooth with a small amount of slack, a little stacking, and then a nice, crisp break with just a touch of overtravel and a distinct and short reset. The P365’s trigger, being similar to my P320’s trigger, was a plus for me, especially when carrying the P365 as a backup gun.

SLIDE SERRATIONS, SIGHTS, AND TAKE DOWN

The slide has serrations on both ends for those who like to do a press check. The P365 comes with front and rear night sights, with the front sight (called an XRay3) having a larger dot. While the sights are lower profile to prevent snagging, they are easy to acquire.

To take down the P365, unload the gun, remove the magazine, lock the slide back, turn the take-down lever to the down position, and pull the slide off the gun (no need to pull the trigger during take down).

Putting the gun back together has one oddity. You must push up on the slide lock lever to allow the take down lever to move back into the downward position. Assembly then is simply placing the slide back on the gun, locking the slide back, and then returning the take-down lever to its horizontal position.

The trigger group comes out of the frame (a la the P320) with the removal of a single pin. I’m betting that Sig will either offer replacement or alternative frames at some point.

RANGE RESULTS

I headed to the range with my universal sight pusher and some paper plates, each having a single line drawn on it using a straight edge.

To adjust a gun’s windage, I put the paper plate on the target backer with the line on the plate in a vertical orientation. I then place that line in the middle of the front sight, with the front and rear sights properly aligned, and slowly pull the trigger. Since I am not worried about sight elevation, this arrangement keeps me focused on the windage.

My first shot cut that line in half! Additional shots showed that the factory sights were already dead-on. No need for a sight pusher!

I proceeded to see how the gun did at 25 and 50 yards, which are real tests of sight alignment! I had no problem hitting a 6” round steel plate at 25 yards or a 9” round steel plate at 50 yards. Not bad for a pocket gun!

The magazines were initially a little tight getting in the last round, but putting the fully loaded magazine in the gun for an hour or so fixed that problem. I found the slide easy to rack. I was also impressed with how mild the felt recoil was on that gun. Shooting 300 rounds through it in a single shooting session did not lead to the slightest discomfort.

The gun (made on September 5, 2018) had a few hiccups during the first 100 rounds. Mostly a hesitation to go into battery and one failure to extract (which could have been the (Continued on page 9)
ammunition). After 100 rounds, the sluggishness was gone and I’ve had no failures of any kind since, with an additional 500 rounds or so through it.

Having decided that the P365 was going to be added to my “stable” of carry guns, a couple of weeks later I bought a second gun (made on October 4, 2018). I’m very picky about getting my guns sighted dead on and this gun required that I push the font sight over to the left ever so slightly (most people, I’m sure, would have said it was dead on as it was). For the first hundred rounds there was an issue with the gun not quite going into battery about one-third of the time. This ironed itself out and with another 600 rounds through the gun, no other failures have occurred.

BTW, I bought the first P365 at Green Top in Richmond for $519, which included a box of 50 rounds of Sig 9mm ball ammo. I also bought a pocket holster at Green Top which I really like a lot. It is made by Blue Force Gear, is actually made for the Glock 43, but fits like a glove, and is super thin (part number M-HOLSTER-G43-01-BK): https://www.blueforcegear.com/gear/pocket-holster

The second gun I bought through Osage County Guns for $499 with free shipping (but no free box of ammo). We are lucky in Virginia to have a plethora of excellent gun stores/shooting ranges across the state. This time I did the FFL transfer through the Smoking Gun in Colonial Heights. It is a family run gun store and shooting range, run by a long time VCDL supporter, Jeff Picchi.

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How do we stand legislatively at the Federal level?

There will be special elections to fill seats vacated by Ben Cline in the Virginia House and Jennifer Wexton in the Virginia Senate. It’s unlikely that either seat will change parties, so the Republicans should maintain their razor-thin margins in both the House and Senate. That said, those of you in either district should definitely show up to cast your vote when the time comes. We will advise as things move forward.

Was the election a referendum on gun control, as Michael Bloomberg claims?

I was asked that very question by a reporter. I told him that guns didn’t seem to be much of an issue in the mid-terms. Nationally, with a few exceptions, the Democrats focused on healthcare. In Virginia, gun-rights candidates did well overall, most winning by decent margins.

I also pointed out that Justice Kavanaugh was feared by the Democrats because he understood and appreciated the Second Amendment. Every Democrat Senator who voted against Kavanaugh in a red-leaning state lost their reelection. West Virginia Democrat Senator Joe Manchin held his seat because, in the end, he broke with his party and voted to confirm Kavanaugh.

THE FIGHT CONTINUES. LOBBY DAY IS MONDAY, JANUARY 21

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How do we stand legislatively at the State level?

why all of us must remain engaged. Nothing ever remains the same and nothing can be taken for granted.

How do we stand legislatively at the Federal level?

The Republicans losing the House will probably mean not much headway on National Reciprocity or the Hearing Protection Act. Sadly, the Republicans characteristically didn’t take full advantage of the control of both bodies and the presidency to do something good for gun owners. Their leadership squandered some key opportunities.

That said, gun controllers are not in a great position either. Any gun control bill from the House would require all the Democrats and probably at least 3 Republicans in the Senate to join them. And even if that happened, the bill would face a likely veto from President Trump.

That does not mean we shouldn’t worry about gun-control bills. Any gun-control bills that look like a serious threat will require that we contact our federal legislators. VCDL will keep you apprised of such a situation.

What is the VA-ALERT

It’s an electronic newsletter published roughly once a week – except during the legislative session, when it may arrive as much as 3-5 times per week – that keeps you informed of what’s going on in Virginia regarding your gun rights.

It’s a way to let people know what’s going on at the local level. Is a locality trying to ban guns in libraries, parks, etc? We’ll let you know (and we’ll try to find a member to start the ball rolling, to contact the locality or assist the member in doing so, to clarify the issue, cite the law, and ask for correction). If necessary, we’ll announce the need for a presence at a council meeting or other locality meeting to demonstrate commitment.

It’s a schedule of upcoming gun shows.

It’s a wealth of interesting stories, and a way to learn from others’ successes and mistakes.

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(President’s Pen: Continued from page 2)

It’s a schedule of upcoming gun shows.

It’s a wealth of interesting stories, and a way to learn from others’ successes and mistakes.
Your text is already in a natural plain text format. No changes are needed.
VCDL Membership Application

RECRUITER MEMBER # ________________________

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_____ 1 VCDL membership: $ 25.00

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VCDL-PAC donations of over $100 per year require additional information needed by the State Board of Elections. If you are in this category, VCDL’s PayPal system is better for donations; it compiles the required information.

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Or save postage and use credit card or PayPal at vcdl.org/join

Contributions, gifts, or membership dues are not deductible for Federal income tax purposes.

Food For Thought

If society is honest and historically accurate, the only question that has any relevance to the gun control debate is, “Do you trust those in government, now and in the future, to not take your life, liberty, or property through the force of government?” If the answer to that question is “no,” the gun control debate is over.

KrisAnne Hall, JD  www.KrisAnneHall.com

“If society is honest and historically accurate, the only question that has any relevance to the gun control debate is, “Do you trust those in government, now and in the future, to not take your life, liberty, or property through the force of government?” If the answer to that question is “no,” the gun control debate is over.

KrisAnne Hall, JD  www.KrisAnneHall.com

“Rifles. They’re more powerful and cause more carnage when used with a pistol-grip [sic]. See @ScottPelley @60Minutes piece. To reduce semi-auto pistol deaths I’d have universal backgound checks and mandatory reporting on mental health.”

Rep Eric Swalwell (D-CA)

“That’s why we need to ban civilian firearms and make illegal possession a capital crime. Publicly execute a few hundred thousand illegal gun owners and the rest will get the message.” —Twitter user @AlvardoMitchell for “Vote Blue November 6”

The problem with any magazine capacity ban is that the average person who knows nothing about firearms, believes this to be a reasonable solution to a perceived problem. Many times I’ve tried to answer that question by giving logical and technical explanations. But it would never sink in past their lack of knowledge, prejudice and fear of firearms. Then one day at work during a lunchtime discussion about golf, it suddenly struck me how to best answer the question; frame the answer in terms THEY understand.

One of my friends at the table was an anti-gun liberal who loved to play golf. He also was one of the people who had asked me the question. When I had the opportunity to jump into the golf conversation I asked him: “Do you ever go to a driving range to practice your swing?” He said that he did; and that he would spend at least a couple hours every weekend during the summer at the driving range. I then asked “So you must go through several buckets of balls every outing?” He confirmed that. I continued “How many balls do you get in a bucket?” When he said “about 100” I knew I had him. That’s when I asked “What if you were restricted and could only buy a 10 ball bucket? Wouldn’t you have to go back to the clubhouse and buy another bucket each time you emptied one?” That’s when he and everyone else at the lunch table had an epiphany on THE QUESTION, and the stupidity of magazine capacity bans...

Bigshooterist - Military Firearms T&E
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P.O. Box 513  
Newington, VA 22122  
(804) 639-0600 (703) 372-3285  
(757) 271-3705 (540) 446-5783

The Premier Firearms-Rights  
and  
Pro-Liberty Organization in  
Virginia

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Virginia Citizens Defense League  
Board of Directors  
As of 28 July 2018

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All Directors and Officers  
leadership@vcdl.org

Please feel free to contact any of the Officers or Directors should you have any questions or if you would like to volunteer your services in VCDL.

CHP RENEWALS  
Virginia law provides that you can get the full five years of your Concealed Handgun Permit if you apply for renewal at least 90, but no more than 180, days prior to expiration of your current permit.  
(Section 18.2-308.010)

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