



Firing Lines

Fighting for your Second Amendment Rights since 1965

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

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May/June 2025

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Taking It Any More?

The 1976 movie Network featured the saying, "I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take it anymore." What will it take for gun owners to say that - and really mean it by getting involved?

Many gun owners think their gun is safe behind the 2nd Amendment because the anti-gun left has not come for their weapon.

Yet!

Look at some of the current attempts to terminate the 2nd Amendment. And remember, if the left is not initially successful, like "The Terminator" will be back.

The anti-2nd Amendment group's strategies to neuter the 2nd Amendment are subtle but will have the impact of a sledge hammer. They include:

Make gun ownership too expensive for the average person; bury the gun purchasing process in delays and bureaucratic red tape to discourage people from even trying to buy a gun; drive Federal Firearm Licensees (FFL's) out of business so there are few places (or better yet, no place) to buy a gun in NY State.

These are a few proposed laws that add both expense and bureaucracy to gun ownership:

NY State has proposed bills to require a safety certificate renewed every two years (S0658 and A4085). The bills require both classroom and firing range instruction every two years.

NY State has proposed bills requiring everyone to have a

hunting license to purchase a firearm, (even if you don't hunt) including training, testing, a drug test, mental health evaluation and safe storage (A0360).

NY State's misnamed Concealed Carry Improvement Act (CCIA) already added a \$2.50 ammo tax and a \$9 gun tax, both related to a background check for every purchase. As you can see from the above and below, CCIA was only a start.

These are a few proposed bills that will raise the cost of owning a firearm:

NY State wants to impose an 11% excise tax on sales of firearms and ammo (S5813).

NY State has proposed bills to require \$1 million dollars of liability insurance coverage (A5611 and S5974).

Child proofing firearms will require new technology in manufacturing (S1358).

These proposed bills will add to the bureaucracy:

NY State proposes a 10 day waiting period to purchase a firearm (A3233 and S0362)

NY State proposes that only one firearm could be purchased in every 30 day period (S0418 and A1774).

NY State proposes that only one rifle or shotgun can be purchased in a 90 day period (S4807).

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Join SCOPE Today!
SCOPEny2A.org

"Guns are our friends because in a country without guns, I'm what's known as "prey." All females are."

Ann Coulter

The mission of S.C.O.P.E. is to Protect, Restore and Expand the gun rights of all New Yorkers.



www.SCOPEny2A.org

SCOPE Board Members
SCOPE Chapter Chairs are
also Board Members

To contact SCOPE, E-mail:
sue.scopeny@gmail.com

President
At Large Director
John Elwood
jrelwood1355@gmail.com
315.767.7782

1st Vice President
Bohdan Rabarsky
bohdan1@roadrunner.com
315.327.5148

2nd Vice President
Jim Krywalski
scope.allegany.chair@gmail.com
716.913.8176

Treasurer
At Large Director
Tom Reynolds
tkjl9@yahoo.com
607.215.0612

Chairman of the Board
John Prendergast
jpr3nder66@outlook.com
315.694.0481

Secretary
Gary Zielinski
cdga157@aol.com

At Large Director
Joseph Atkinson III
bigvisionary@proton.me

At Large Director
Carrie M. Christman
carriemchristman@frontier.com

Newsletter Deadline for the *Firing Lines*

Firing Lines is printed every two months. The deadlines are **January 15, March 15, May 15, July 15, September 15 and November 15.**

We do take articles from you, our members. They are subject to editing for spelling and grammar. We also reserve the right not to print the article.

Articles should be emailed as a file. Text or basic Word document formats are preferred. Please pictures in JPG format. NO PDF files. Thank You

FIRING LINES

Editor - Ralph Esposito

To contact SCOPE
and FIRING LINES

Write to:
SCOPE

PO Box 165
East Aurora, NY 14052-0165

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Firing Lines allows S.C.O.P.E. to keep members informed on issues in regards to defense of the 2nd Amendment, in particular, and the Constitution in general. It is also an opportunity for members to voice their opinions and concerns on those subjects; as such, it contains a variety of personal opinions. It should not be taken as representing the official position of S.C.O.P.E. or its officers and members unless so stated. Readers should remember that it is not meant to constitute legal advice

RC PRODUCTIONS



S.C.O.P.E Shooters Committee On Political Education

SCOPE



Since 1965

JOIN YOUR LOCAL SCOPE CHAPTER TODAY!

Are you looking for a way to get more involved in your community? Look no further than your local SCOPE chapter. As a member of SCOPE (Shooters Committee On Political Education), you'll have the opportunity to meet like-minded individuals, learn about firearm safety and legislation, get involved and make a difference in your community.

Our chapter meetings are open to all who are interested, whether you're a seasoned gun owner or just starting to learn about firearms. We welcome individuals of all ages and backgrounds, and we strive to create a safe and welcoming environment for all members.

Joining your local SCOPE chapter is easy! Simply visit our website, find your local chapter, then attend one of our meetings.

www.SCOPEny2A.org

We are a statewide 501(c)4 organization dedicated to preserving the 2nd amendment rights for the residents of New York State.

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SCOPE CHAPTER INFORMATION

go to www.SCOPEny2a.org/chapters for your local meeting information

Allegheny Chapter
Chairman Jim Krywalski
scope.allegheny.chair@gmail.com
Meetings 2nd Tuesday 7:00pm
Angelica Conservation Club

Capital District/Saratoga Chapter:
Albany/Columbia/Greene/Schenectady/Rensselaer/Saratoga
Chairman Rich Chapman
richiechap@me.com
www.SCOPEny2a.org/CapitalDistrict
for calendar of meetings

Cattaraugus Chapter
Chairman Jim Land
cattscope@gmail.com
Meetings 2nd Thursday 7:00pm
American Legion Post 531, Little Valley

Cayuga Chapter
Joe Hradil
hradil24@gmail.com
Meetings 4th Thursday 6:00PM
A.T. Walley's, Auburn

Chautauqua Chapter
Chairman Will Conta
chautauquacounty@1791.com
Meetings 3rd Tuesday 7:00pm
VFW Post 8647 Mayville

Genesee Chapter
Chairman Jim Tuttle
tuttlej507@gmail.com
Meetings 2nd Tuesday 7:00pm
Sportsman Coon Club, Batavia

Jefferson-Lewis Chapter
Chairman C. Bruce Kingsley
cbkingsley@tds.net
Meetings 3rd Monday 7:00pm
Watertown Sportsmen's Club

Monroe Chapter
Chairman Joe Verdura
verijja@aol.com
Meetings 3rd Wednesday 6:30pm
Elks Lodge 24, Henrietta

Oneida-Herkimer Chapter
Chairman Bohdan Rabarsky
bohdan1@roadrunner.com
Meetings 2nd Monday 7:00pm
Fraternal Order of Eagles Club, Deerfield

Ontario Chapter
Chairman Marty Buonanno
martybtwin2@aol.com
Meetings 3rd Tuesday 7:00pm
Shortsville Rod & Gun Club

Orleans Chapter
Chairman Mark Allen
scopeorleans@outlook.com
Meetings 2nd Tuesday 7:00pm
Hoag Library, Albion

Schoharie Chapter
Chairwoman Katherine Olsen
katmolsen326@gmail.com

Meetings 3rd Tuesday 7:00pm
Alternate venue every 3 months
Jan/Feb/March/Jul/Aug/Sep:
Carlisle Town Hall, Carlisle
Apr/May/June/Oct/ Nov:
Middleburgh R&G Club, Middleburgh

Schuyler Chapter
Chairman Rob Halpin
scopeschuyler@gmail.com
Meetings 1st Thursday 6:00pm
Jan/March/June/Oct
Moose Lodge, Montour Falls

Seneca Chapter
Chairman Ron Pesta
rpesta@rochester.rr.com
Meetings 3rd Wednesday 7:00pm
Even months: North Seneca Sportsman Club
Odd months: South Seneca Sportsman Club

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

Wayne Chapter
Chairman Roy Franks
wescope@gmail.com
Meetings 2nd Wednesday 7:00pm
Marion American Legion

Yates Chapter
Chairwoman Mary Ann Walton
mryawatlon@yahoo.com

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You may be unaware that there is already a federal excise tax of 10% or 11% (depending on what firearm you buy). On the federal level, here's a proposed bill to drive FFL's out of business:

FFL applicants must submit a security plan, follow increased annual reporting requirements, inspections, post warnings about firearms, licensing fees are doubled (\$1294 and H2618).

SCOPE is constantly receiving reports of counties that delay processing applications. NY City is infamous for this (see article on Legal Updates) but several upstate counties are also having issues. All it takes is one judge or sheriff who doesn't believe in the 2nd Amendment to delay the process.

Angry yet? Try adding up the numbers.

If you buy a firearm sold at \$500, the federal excise tax is \$55 and the proposed state excise tax is \$55 so the price you pay is \$610. (Excise taxes are buried in the merchandise's price so you don't see them.) Then you pay 8% NYS Sales tax of \$48.80. And don't forget the \$9 CCIA fee. The \$500 gun costs you \$667.80. Buying a \$1,000 gun? Double that to \$1,335.60.

Then add on the cost of classroom and range training and a hunting license and a drug test and a mental health evaluation and \$1 million in liability insurance. That \$500 gun will cost you around \$1,200 to \$1500!

And don't forget your travel time as these costs will dramatically lower firearm sales and drive many dealers out of business, so you will have to hunt around for a gun store.

On the plus side, the proposed 30 and 90 day waiting periods won't mean much since we won't be able to afford a new gun that often.

But if you are a criminal, luckily, none of this will apply to you since you get your guns illegally and don't pay these taxes and fees.

Does this make you angry enough to get involved and not take it anymore? If not, will this scare you into action?

There is no doubt that the leaders of the Democrat Party are anti-2A. They have such an overwhelming majority in both houses of the NY legislature that they could easily pass some or all of the above proposed laws and, currently, there is nothing anyone can do to stop it.

Untangling Lawsuits

By Tom Reynolds

There are 2A lawsuits everywhere and it gets confusing as to where they stand and what the latest legal action means. In addition, headlines are getting more and more deceptive and ‘journalists’ often don’t explain the situation well. (Perhaps because they don’t really understand it.)

Here are some helpful hints from a non-lawyer in non-legal-speak. Of course, this is simplified and lawyers make their money arguing over the complexities.

A lawsuit can be filed against a government body to stop them from doing something. Two examples: NY State was sued to stop the Concealed Carry Improvement Act (CCIA) from going into effect and the Trump administration was sued to stop them from deporting illegal aliens.

It’s important to know that lawsuits challenge specific parts of a law or regulation and **do not necessarily challenge all of the law or regulation.**

These lawsuits can take years to settle, so the suers (plaintiffs) often ask for a ‘preliminary injunction.’ If granted, a ‘preliminary injunction’ will stop the government from enforcing their law / regulation while the lawsuit is actually being settled. (For instance, stop Hochul from enforcing the CCIA or stop Trump from deporting illegal aliens while the actual case is being settled.)

Think of the request for a preliminary injunction as a separate lawsuit (even though technically they are not.) Lawsuit one wants the government to be permanently stopped while lawsuit two wants the government stopped while lawsuit one is being decided.

Lawsuit two - the preliminary injunction request - usually gets decided before lawsuit one, which makes things further confusing.

Lawsuit two - the preliminary injunction - can end up working its way through the court system and sometimes goes all the way to the Supreme Court of the United States. (SCOTUS)

A judge is only supposed to issue a preliminary injunction if the judge believes (1) that there will be irreparable harm done if the order is not granted and 2) that the person seeking the order has a high probability of success on the merits and (3) the person seeking the order must have standing to raise the issue. The judge is supposed to use judgement but many (especially in NY State) seem to let their politics guide them.

Now, a few words about the court systems are necessary.

There are two separate court systems: NY State and the Federal government. But they both consist of three levels.

The lowest level is the trial level where the case is

initially argued and the facts are established.

The next level is a mid-level appeals court where the trial level loser can ask for a review of the case. This mid-level must accept all appeals made to it.

The highest level is also an appeals level. (SCOTUS on the federal level.) It has three paths it can follow:

(1) This level does **not** have to accept appeals. If it does not accept an appeal, the judgment of the mid-level appeals court stands and that is the end of the case.

(2) This level can also refer the case back to the mid-level appeals court level with instructions; it does this because it wants all the issues entered into the records before it hears the case.

(3) It can also agree to hear the case – usually months into the future.

TV talking heads and newspaper editorial writers (and anyone with an opinion on line) will often try to interpret what it means when SCOTUS refers a case back to the lower appeals level. First, that is the commenter’s opinion and not fact. Second, many are influenced by their politics and want to create a certain impression and often leave out – or bury – important facts. Be wary of these interpretations.

Let’s look at a current 2A case as an example. If you are paying attention to current 2A lawsuits, you may have heard about the Antonyuk v James case. (James is Steven James who is the Superintendent of the NY State Police).

As of today, this is our understanding. Antonyuk filed a lawsuit against the CCIA (lawsuit 1) and requested a preliminary injunction (lawsuit 2) so that the CCIA could not be enforced while lawsuit 1 is being heard. All the following has to do with the preliminary injunction case (lawsuit 2).

The trial judge mostly found for Antonyuk and issued a preliminary injunction.

The appeals level court reversed most of the trial judge’s findings and found that much of the CCIA could be enforced.

Antonyuk appealed to SCOTUS

SCOTUS referred the case back to the appeals court with instructions to reconsider the case in the light of another SCOTUS decision.

The appeals court decided that the other case did not impact Antonyuk and let their original decision stand.

Antonyuk went back to SCOTUS.

SCOTUS refused to hear the case so the appeals court decision as to the preliminary injunction stands.

What that means is that there now is an appeals level preliminary injunction stopping enforcement of a few parts of CCIA but most of the CCIA can be enforced by NY State.

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Schuyler SCOPE Legal Updates

Every month, Schuyler County SCOPE sends out “Legal Updates”. Some notable updates:

April

Hochul signs 3 new gun control bills into law

On April 3rd, Hochul signed three gun-prevention bills into law. The first bill adds penalties for using “pistol

converters,” which are rapid-fire modification devices that can be attached to semi-automatic pistols.

The second bill strengthens the warnings about the risk of firearms that gun dealers must provide to customers. The information would warn about the dangers of gun ownership (but nothing about the advantages.)

The third bill requires credit card companies to use the merchant category code for firearms and ammunition retailers. Hochul said this will give law enforcement information on who may be stockpiling ammunition. (Is it illegal to “stockpile” ammo? How

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However, lawsuit 1 to permanently stop CCIA will now be heard at the trial court level and it will work its way up through the system. (Now you know why these cases cost thousands of dollars.)

The 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals (the appeals court below SCOTUS) covers all of NY State. Decisions of this court apply to all of NY State but not to other circuits. For example, the 1st Circuit could ignore the Antonyuk ruling and Antonyuk would not be enforceable anywhere but in the 2nd Circuit. (A moot point since Antonyuk only applies to a NY State law.)

And if you understand all that, an important monkey-wrench has now arisen.

According to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65 (c), when someone asks for a temporary restraining order* or a preliminary injunction, they are supposed to put down a ‘security payment’ to cover the government’s costs if the restraining order is overturned. This has been largely ignored.

An example: the ACLU asked a judge to issue an order demanding the return of planes deporting suspected Venezuelan gang members. If this procedure had been enforced, the ACLU would likely have had to fork over enough money to cover the return of those planes and the detention of the suspects in U.S. facilities in the interim. That money would remain as bond, and the judge would return it to the ACLU if the ACLU ultimately succeeds in the lawsuit. If the ACLU fails, it would lose the money.

This could have a chilling effect on temporary restraining orders and preliminary injunctions as the suer (plaintiff) would want to be very sure they have a winning case. (And it’s never a sure thing.) Losing the case could cost hundreds-of-thousands or millions.

If used, this procedure would primarily impact the much-discussed cases where trial level judges are issuing nationwide restraining orders against the Trump administration that may well be overturned on appeal. Currently, plaintiffs who are anti-Trump administration will

‘judge shop’ for likely sympathetic judges at the initial trial level and there are no consequences to the plaintiff or the judge if the judges rule based on their political beliefs rather than the law, even if overturned on appeal. But if the plaintiffs had to fund these ‘security payments,’ that might stop many of these in-their-tracks.

But for 2A lawsuits, that would put an additional financial burden on these cases which are usually funded on a shoestring. The government defending the law has bottomless taxpayer dollars to keep appealing and running up the tab.

*Temporary Restraining Orders usually last for only 14 days, maximum.

**3231 ARMSTRONG RD.
BRANCHPORT, NY 14418
315-595-2816**

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much constitutes a stockpile?)

Another New York Attempt To Ban Glocks

Democrat State Senator Zellnor Myrie and Democrat State Rep. Michaelle Solages have introduced legislation that would prohibit the future sale or manufacture of any handguns—specifically Glocks—that they say are “especially” easy to convert into “machine guns.”

At issue is the so-called “Glock switch,” which is decidedly misnamed since Glock doesn’t produce the “switches,” doesn’t sell the switches and doesn’t condone their use. The “Glock switch,” or “Glock auto-sear,” is a piece of metal or plastic that can be used to illegally convert Glock pistols to fire full-automatic. The switch works by applying force to the trigger bar to prevent it from limiting fire to one round of ammunition per trigger pull.

What Sen. Myrie, Rep. Solages and others don’t really want you to know is that auto-sears are already prohibited by federal law. Converting any firearm to fire fully automatic is a federal felony, and even possessing a “Glock switch” can result in a federal prison sentence of up to 10 years.

Consequently, what Senator Myrie and Representative Solages are trying to address is a violent criminal problem by blaming the manufacturer, not the felons who could already face hard time just by being caught with one in their possession. Still, it’s easier for them to pick on gun companies than their constituents, so the drumbeat of Glock bashing continues.

Gun Owners Take NYPD to Court Over Concealed Carry License Delays

In another round of legal action, a new group of New York gun owners has launched a federal lawsuit against New York City. They are challenging what they describe as unconstitutional delays in processing firearms license applications by the NYPD Licensing Division. The case, filed in the Southern District of New York (Case No. 1:25-CV-1732), accuses the city of deliberate and excessive delays that violate the Second Amendment.

The plaintiffs—nine New Yorkers who applied for firearms permits—argue that the NYPD routinely slows approvals, refuses to issue required purchase authorizations in a timely manner, and only acts when forced by legal action.

The lawsuit, spearheaded by Attorney Mirel Fisch, seeks to hold the city accountable for what gun rights advocates call an ongoing pattern of bureaucratic obstruction. According to the complaint, the NYPD Licensing Division routinely violates state law by failing to

act on applications within the mandated six-month period. Even when applications are eventually approved, plaintiffs say they are left waiting indefinitely for the issuance of their licenses.

Trump’s DOJ Just Surprised Anti-Gun States

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) launched a federal investigation into the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department over allegations that it has deliberately stalled the processing of concealed carry weapon (CCW) permits, effectively denying law-abiding citizens their Second Amendment rights.

The probe, announced in late March, follows mounting complaints from gun-rights advocates and a 2023 lawsuit spearheaded by the California Rifle & Pistol Association, which exposed egregious wait times—sometimes exceeding 18 months—for permit applicants. This delay, the advocates argue, constitutes a de facto ban on concealed carry for residents who would otherwise be legally eligible to exercise their right to bear arms.

The investigation has sparked speculation over whether similar probes will be launched in other states known for restrictive firearm policies, such as New York, Illinois, and New Jersey. In recent years, these states have introduced measures aimed at limiting concealed carry permits, often using bureaucratic hurdles rather than outright bans

Gillibrand Introduces Federal Bill To Raise Age To Buy Assault Weapons

U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-New York) has introduced legislation to raise the minimum age to purchase ‘assault weapons’ and high-capacity ammunition magazines from 18 to 21, the same age requirement that already applies to purchasing handguns from federally licensed dealers.

The Age 21 Act’s restrictions on the sale of assault weapons, handguns, large-capacity ammunition feeding devices, and related ammunition to individuals under the age of 21 would apply to both federally licensed and private sellers. Additionally, the legislation would bar most individuals under 21 from possessing these items, with limited exceptions for specific circumstances such as service in law enforcement or the armed forces.

The Age 21 Act was originally introduced by Senator Alex Padilla (D-Calif.). In addition to Senator Gillibrand, it is cosponsored by 17 senators.

May

Proposed legislation to require gun owners to carry civil liability insurance.

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NY State Senate Bill S.5974, introduced by Senator Kevin Parker (D-21), is currently in committee. It would require all firearm owners to obtain liability insurance of no less than \$1 million in value. A companion State Assembly bill A.5611 is currently in committee with the Assembly, as well.

Parker represents a portion of Brooklyn that covers Flatbush, Little Haiti, Flatlands and Mill Basin.

According to the bill, the potential legislation would amend insurance law and would require gun owners or potential owners to "obtain and continuously maintain a policy of liability insurance to cover any damages resulting from the use of such firearm". Insurance would also be required prior to the purchase of firearms by anyone not currently in possession of a firearm, according to the bill.

Gun rights organizations have pointed towards previous rulings by the U.S. Supreme Court that noted that excessive taxation on constitutionally guaranteed rights is unconstitutional, while not explicitly including firearms as the central focus.

The bill joins a host of other pending legislation that would implement new regulations, ranging from a 10-day wait period to further restrictions of "sensitive spaces" where lawful concealed carry would not be allowed.

Supreme Court won't hear challenge to New York's 'sensitive locations' gun control law

On April 7th, the Supreme Court rejected a bid to overturn New York state's gun laws, which Albany imposed after the high court nixed century-old restrictions on carrying concealed firearms in 2022.

The justices did not specifically say why they declined to take up the petition from six residents who were challenging the Concealed Carry Improvement Act.

The appeals court had allowed New York to ban concealed firearms in "sensitive locations," including parks, entertainment areas, churches, and health care facilities. It also allowed the state to require that prospective gun owners exhibit "good moral character" in order to obtain a concealed carry license.

The 2nd Circuit did nix a provision restricting concealed firearms on private property that might be widely accessed by the public and the law's demand that applicants share their social media account information.

Under the Concealed Carry Improvement Act, applicants were also required to provide character references and contact information of family members.

The petitioners, led by Schenectady County resident Ivan Antonyuk, had argued the Concealed Carry Improvement Act restricted gun rights in violation of the Second Amendment.



SCOPE Membership Application

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 Check Renewal 3-Years Sponsor \$140 Senior Life (65+) -\$250 with proof of age
Appropriate Annual \$30 Endowment \$800
Boxes Annual Sponsor \$50 Benefactor \$1,000

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___ upgrade to Benefactor Membership \$400.00

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S.C.O.P.E. Inc.

Shooters Committee On Political Education
PO Box 165, East Aurora, NY 14052

Application for Associate Club Membership in S.C.O.P.E., Inc.

S.C.O.P.E. does not sell, give away, or allow others to use your club information

DATE: _____

DUES: _____ 1-99 Members: \$25 / Over 100 Members: \$50.00 / Sponsor (receives plaque) \$200.00

Organization Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____ County: _____

City / State / Zip: _____ Phone: _____

*Club Email Address: _____

Club Website: _____

*Please ensure we have an email contact for your club. This will enable us to keep you up to date on information regarding our Second Amendment rights.

SCOPE Member Clubs

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

1000 Islands Sportsmen's Club
 5 Point Rod & Gun Club
 Adirondack Federation
 of Sports Clubs
 Alabama Hunt Club
 Allegany Co. Federation
 of Sportsmen
 Almond Rod & Gun Club
 Angelica Conservation Club
 A-ON-DO-WA-NUH
 Sportsman Club
 Bainbridge Sportsman Association
 Baldwinsville Rod & Gun Club
 Barre Sportsmens Club
 Batavia Rod & Gun Club
 Bath Rod & Gun Club
 Bergen Rod & Gun Club
 Black Rock Fish & Game Club
 Bog Trotters Rifle & Pistol Club
 Branchport Rod & Gun Club
 Brewerton Lake Forest
 Sportsman Club
 Broome County Sportsmen's Assoc.
 Buckhorn Sportsmens Club
 Busti Trap & Skeet Club
 Caribou Rifle & Pistol Club
 Carroll Rod & Gun Club
 Cattaraugus Rod & Gun Club
 Chautauqua County Federation
 of Sportsmen
 Chemung County Fed of Sportsmen
 Chemung County Rod & Gun Club
 Chesterfield Fish & Game Club
 Corning Fish and Game Club
 Deerfield Fish & Game Club
 Denman Mountain Hunting
 & Fishing Club
 Depew Rod & Gun Club
 Dutchess County Pistol Association
 East Hook Sportsmen Assn.
 Elbridge Rod & Gun Club
 Essex County Fish & Game League
 Federated Sportsman's Club of
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 Franklinville Conservation Club
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Genesee Co. Federation
 of Sportsman Clubs
 Genesee Co. Fish & Game
 Protective Assoc
 Genesee Valley Conservation Club
 Gouverneur Rod & Gun Club
 Greene Rod and Gun Club
 Greenway Verona Mills Fish
 & Game Club
 Hamburg Rod & Gun Club
 Harder O'Donnell Post 734
 American Legion
 Helderberg Rod & Gun Club
 Hidden Lake Conservation
 Association
 Hidden Valley Lodge
 Hol-Field Rod & Gun Club
 Holley Rod & Gun Club
 Honeoye Fish & Game Club
 Iliion Fish & Game Club
 Indian Lake/Blue Mtn.
 Fish & Game Assoc
 Irondequoit Bay Fish & Game Club
 Iroquois Rod & Gun Club
 Junior Wilson Sportsmen Club
 Lackawanna Conservation
 Lee Center Rod & Gun Club
 Lima Gun Club
 Lime Lake Sportsman's Club
 Lodi Rod & Gun Club
 Long Lake Fish & Game Club
 McCavanaugh Pond Club
 Mendon Conservation League
 Middleburgh Rod & Gun Club
 Millgrove Sportsmen's Club
 Millport Hunting & Fishing Club
 New Paltz Rod & Gun Club
 Newark Rod & Gun Club
 Newfield Rod & Gun Club
 North Seneca Sportsmen's Club
 North Star Sportsman's Club
 Northern Chautauqua
 Conservation Club
 Northern Chautauqua Rifle
 & Pistol Club
 Northern Dutchess Rod & Gun Club
 Northwoods Sportsmen Association
 NY Houndsmen
 Conservation Association
 Oakfield Rod & Gun Club
 Oatka Fish & Game Club
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 Putnam Federation of Sporting Clubs
 Red Creek Conservation Club
 Richfield Sportsmen's Club
 Ripley Rod & Gun Club
 Rochester Brooks Gun Club
 Rochester Rifle Club
 Rockdale Rod & Gun Club
 Sackets Harbor Sportsman's Club
 SaraSpa Rod & Gun Club
 Schroon Lake Fish & Game Club
 Scio Rod & Gun Club
 Second Amendment For EVER
 Seneca Co. Fed of Sportsmen's Clubs
 Seneca Lake Duck Hunters
 Shortsville Rod & Gun Club
 Sodus Bay Sportsman's Club
 Sons of American Legion
 Squadron 734
 South Bristol Fish
 & Game Association
 Sportsmans Coon
 Hunters Association
 Sportsmen's Club of Clifton Park
 Springville Field & Stream Club
 Square Deal Sportsmen
 Stamford Rod & Gun Club
 Steuben Co. Federation of
 Conservation Clubs
 Syracuse Pistol Club
 Tonawanda Sportsmen's Club
 Trumansburg Rifle & Pistol Club
 Tupper Lake Sportsmens Club
 Twin City Shooting Club
 Vernon Rod & Gun Club
 W.A.G.E.
 Walker Valley Sportsman Assn.
 Waterloo Rifle & Pistol Club
 Wayne Co. Federation
 of Sportsmens Clubs
 Wellsville Rod & Gun Club
 West Falls Conservation Society
 Westfield Fish and Game Club
 Whortlekill Rod & Gun Club
 Williamson Conservation
 & Sporting Club
 Wolcottsville Sportsman's Club
 Wyoming Conservation Association
 Wyoming County Wildlife Federation
 Yates County Federation of
 Conservation Clubs
 Yates County Sportsmen's Association

SCOPE Chapter Activities

By Susan Maressa

To find your county's meeting information go to SCOPEny2a.org/calendar or go to your chapter's page of the website SCOPEny2a.org/chapters.

SCOPE is a 'boots on the ground' organization and we need your boots! We want a chapter in every county to work with our elected officials. If your county does not have an active SCOPE chapter and you are willing to help form a County Committee and subsequently an active Chapter, please contact John Elwood; jrelwood1355@gmail.com.

Allegany County

Met on April 8th

The chairman read an article about our Governor (or is it "governess") signing 3 new laws affecting our 2A rights under the guise of providing a safer New York,

One of the laws she signed covered *Merchant Category Codes*, (MCC's) which are codes used by credit card companies to indicate what type of sale the credit card was used for. Our Governor has designated that firearms and ammunition now have their own MCC, another way for NYS to monitor firearms and infringe on our 2A rights.

Upcoming summer events were discussed; the application has already been submitted for the Cuba Garlic Festival, the Andover Gun Show has been cancelled this year, the chapter is looking into a table at the Wyoming County Fair.

At the April 26th Member's Meeting, Allegany Chairman Jim Krywalski (right) was given an award by SCOPE President John Elwood (left). The award read: Your Unwavering Dedication to SCOPE, Outstanding Professionalism, and Commitment to Excellence Directly Contributes to the Success of Shooters Committee on Political Education's Quarterly Gun Raffles.

Congratulations to the entire Allegany Chapter for helping



sell tickets for the quarterly gun raffles.

At the SCOPE Board meeting, immediately succeeding the Member Meeting; Chairman Krywalski was elected as State SCOPE 2nd Vice-President. Congratulations to Chairman Krywalski.

Capital District

Capital District SCOPE has started to send out a monthly email newsletter to its members. Please contact Chairman Rich Chapman if you do not have an email listed with SCOPE and would like to receive the newsletter. The newsletter is also posted on the Capital District/Saratoga County SCOPE page: www.SCOPEny2a.org/CapitalDistrict

Included in the newsletter is Capital District news and action items, State SCOPE related news, along with 2A news from local, state and national sources.

Cattaraugus County

Met on March 13th

The guest speaker was Mark Heberling, the Cattaraugus County Republican Party Chairman. He noted that each county in New York is set up differently. Cattaraugus County has 5 legislative districts. There are 15 County legislators and, right now, all are Republican. County laws cannot over reach State or Federal laws.

Members were reminded that we should be talking to the Democratic Legislators/Senators not just the Republicans. We need to remind them they are representing all of their constituents. Give them your opinion on topics.

The Chapter Trap Shoot is being held on May 17th at the Cattaraugus Rod & Gun Club. High School Trap Teams will be involved; we still need basket donations for the raffle.

On April 10th, SCOPE President John Elwood was the guest speaker. An organization like SCOPE needs to grow or it withers and dies. He reported on lawsuits to which SCOPE has made donations: Ban on body armor and ammunition background check (along with G.O.A.-NY). He also went over his 2025-2026 initiatives; membership and high school shooting sports are a priority.

Mr. Elwood asked, "what is your vision for SCOPE?" Some answers were to reach out to

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

educate attorneys and the possibility of combining chapters and also SCOPE pistol training courses.

Along with the SCOPE President, Allegany Chairman Jim Krywalski, Chautauqua County SCOPE Membership Chairwoman Jayne Weiss, and members from the newly forming Erie County chapter were in attendance.

Becky W. from the Springville Strutters Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation reported on a Women in the Outdoors event to be held on June 14th.

Cayuga County

Met on March 27th

The election of chapter officers was held with Joseph Hradil being elected as the new chapter Chairman. Jim Dishaw is Vice-Chairman, Cindy Baney, secretary and Barb Stotler, Treasurer.

Results of the Spring gun show were discussed. Members who volunteered at the show noted the continued decrease in attendance as well as hesitance in buying raffle tickets. The total for the event was \$1,332. As this is the main source of chapter funding, members discussed ways to create new revenue at the show and elsewhere. It was agreed this will have to be addressed going forward. The Fall gun show will be held October 18-19 at the fairgrounds.

A proposal was made to donate \$500 to the New York State Firearms Association (NYSFA) to help defray costs of pending litigation. The motion was made by Irv F. and seconded by Dave E. The motion passed.

It was also proposed that the Chapter renew its support for local school trap teams. The support last year was greatly appreciated. A motion by Irv F. was seconded by Bill S. This passed and the following schools will receive a \$200 donation each: Skaneateles, Marcellus, and Moravia.

Ontario County

Met on March 18th

Fundraising was the topic of discussion; chicken BBQ, gun raffles, shooting events etc. The chapter needs to start planning for 2025. Perhaps a steak roast with a gun raffle; dates, venues, and ideas all need to be brought forth at meetings by the membership.

Also a topic of discussion was the age-old issue of *How do we get gun owners to vote?*

Met on April 15th

SCOPE President John Elwood had asked for input from all the SCOPE Chairmen regarding their vision of SCOPE. Marty emailed John his vision; a copy of the email was passed out to each attendee at tonight's meeting followed by discussion. Marty thinks we need to "get our name on the map" and be known as a group and have some clout in NY State 2A issues

Officer elections were held; all positions remain the same for the coming year.

Schoharie County

Schoharie County member Geruld Olsen (left) receives a SCOPE Challenge Coin from SCOPE President John



Elwood (right) as a thank you for all the years of dedication Geruld has put into the Schoharie County SCOPE chapter.

John Elwood spoke at the March 18th meeting at the Carlisle Town Hall.

Schuyler County

Legal Updates have been posted for April and May and are a separate article in this Firing Lines

Seneca County

Met on March 19th

The guest speaker was John Elwood, President of State
(Continued on page 12)

SCOPE member Businesses

A&K Gun Sales
5 West main St
PO Box 16
Corfu, NY 14036
585-599-3006

AM PM Bail Bonds
PO Box 357
Riverhead, NY 11901
631-369-5980

AR Pierrepont Co.
154 Berkeley St
Rochester, NY 14607-3003
585-473-3225

B&B Repair Service .
14 Second Street
Canisteo, NY 14823
607-698-2876

Bare Arms Gun Shop, LLC
738 Creek Rd
Little Falls, NY 13365
315-868-4831

Bonded Collection Services
PO Box 305
Fairport, NY 14450
585-223-7357

BS Recreational Farm
8384 State Park Rd
Three Mile Bay, NY 13693
315-649-3424

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

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

Criminal Justice Professionals
Training and Consulting, LLC
2476 Elmwood Avenue
Kenmore, NY 14217
716-322-1994

DONAHOO-CONSULTING, LLC?
1000 N Division Street, 2-i
Peekskill, NY 10566
914-455-4099

Earl's Enterprises
3231 Armstrong Rd.
Branchport, NY 14418
315-595-2816

George's Gun Shop
1368 Jump Brook Rd/ PO Box 39
Grand Gorge, NY 12434
607-588-7653

Guardian Gun Works
580 Route 303
Blauvelt, NY 10913
845-480-8087

Harold's Welding Shop
1164 E. Swamp Rd
Penn Yan, NY 14527-9363
585-554-5178

Hessney Auction Co.
2741 State Rt 14
Geneva, NY 14456
585-734-6082

Inspire Precision
2495 Andover Rd
Wellsville, NY 14895
585-593-8749

Interlaken Guns & Ammo
8268 Main Street
Interlaken, NY 14847
607-532-4867

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SCOPE. John informed our chapter of the SCOPE agenda; setting priorities and following them to help grow our organization. Some of the priorities being membership, contacting our representatives, and working with our local youth shooters.

A motion was made, and carried, to start holding the chapter meetings at 6:30PM.

Steuben County

Holds its meetings on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month.

At each meeting, there is an update from the Steuben Chapter of Armed Women of America (AWA). Steuben SCOPE has been instrumental in helping Steuben AWA. At the January 6th meeting, Bobby Jo, the Chairwoman of the Steuben AWA, talked about increased interest in gun training and gun ownership by women.

On March 17th, the discussion centered around all of the anti-gun bills in NYS. A list of the Top 10 most Egregious has been posted to the SCOPE website. People need to be aware of what is happening in Albany and they need to contact their representatives.

On April 21st, the guest speaker was Carl Hyde, Jr., a candidate for the Republican nomination for governor. Mr. Hyde reviewed his stance on issues affecting the state. He took questions from the floor and offered his website for further information: Frontdesk@nygop.gov

After the speaker, chapter officer elections were held; all positions remain the same with an addition of Jim Griffin as Vice-Chairman.

Ulster County

Met on March 13th

(Continued on page 14)

J. Kozel & Son, .
1211 W Bloomfield Rd
Honeoye Falls, NY 14472
585-436-9807

Saeli Implement
4761 East Lake Rd.
Geneva, NY 14456
315-585-9826

Village Firearms, LLC
120 S. Nanticoke Ave.
Endicott, NY 13760
607-785-3872

JL Custom Rifles
213 Elder Drive
Farmington, NY 14425
585-233-8541

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

Wallkill River Small Arms, LLC
2332 Route 300
Wallkill, NY 12589
844-308-GUNS

LegalShield/IDShield
PO Box 364
Ransomville, NY 14131
716-863-6577

SCS Gunsmithing
5692 County Route 11
Alpine, NY 14805
607-857-6426

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

Mayville Arms Depot, LLC
11 Pratt Street
Mayville, NY 14757
716-753-6076

Tilton Sears, FFL
11000 Salter Rd.
North Rose, NY 14516
315-587-9716

Williamson Hardware
4101 Main Street
Williamson, NY 14589
315-589-4011

N.A. Phillippi . Sales & Service
PO Box 178
Fillmore, NY 14735
585-567-8219

Valley Gun Shop
1600 Davis Rd.
West Falls, NY 14170
716-652-7444

WNY Synthetics/AMSOIL
3238 Lockport Rd
Sanborn, NY 14132
716-207-3705

Northhill Outdoors LLC
916 Main Street
Margaretville, NY 12455
845-586-3006

Valley Outdoors, .
16 S. Main St.
Cassadaga, NY 14718
716-595-3337

Precision Armament
Division of PM Research
4110 Niles Hill Rd.
Wellsville, NY 14895
585-593-3169

VFW Post 8647
10 Memorial Dr
Mayville, NY 14757
716-753-2444

Please whenever possible use our member businesses. Help keep our Second Amendment community strong.

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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)

Please use our member businesses whenever you can

(Continued from page 12)

Ed Altenau was elected as Chairman, Atillio Contini, Secretary. Bob Herbst, Treasurer.

Since four Ulster Co. SCOPE members are also members of The Federated Sportsmen (FSCUC) the chapter will hold casual meetings on the second Thursday of each month at the FSCUC meeting.

Elmer is working on arrangements with Ray V., president of FSCUC, for John Elwood to come to the April meeting of FSCUC and be a guest speaker.

Note: Elwood attended the April 8th Federation meeting at the Saugerties Rod & Gun Club. His theme was “*have you had enough*” and he went through the various ways the NYS government is attempting to infringe on the 2nd Amendment. He spoke to about 30 members and got several new membership applications.

Wayne County

SCOPE would like to thank the Wayne County chapter for hosting the April 26th Annual Member Meeting. Their members came early and helped set the room for the meeting; Daryl H. secured the venue for us and Penny G. graciously picked up the pastries for everyone. Thank you to Roy and his chapter for their help.

Yates County

Met on March 6th

District Attorney, Todd Casella was the guest speaker. Highlights of his talk include:

-it’s easy to recertify permits, just don’t let permits lapse.

- keep practicing your shooting at ranges
- be responsible in how to defend yourself; proportional response; duty to retreat.
- 50 state reciprocity passed in the House, but not yet the Senate as of this time.

A motion was made by Marsha and seconded by Doug, to support the Youth Shooting Program through funds raised at the Chicken and Biscuit dinner. All were in favor.

What can SCOPE do concerning gun issues? Suggestions: send pre-written letters to State Reps, personal letters, personal contact – we need to make our voices heard.

Met on May 1st.

Yates County SCOPE held their officer elections. Mary Ann Walton was elected as Chairwoman, Darwin Walton, Vice-Chair, Debbie Wright, Secretary and Don Curran, Treasurer.

SCOPE gives us an opportunity to help make our voice heard. We educate voters, donate money to different organizations to help fund lawsuits. By attending meetings on a regular basis, you have the benefit of staying abreast of the issues. This is also a great way to educate your friends about issues the mainstream press won’t report. Be involved; it takes a team of individuals with many different talents to accomplish what this 2A organization is all about, whether it’s manning a booth, planning an event, collecting raffle items, researching legislation, keeping records or so many other important parts of the machinery.

www.SCOPEny2A.org

**SAVE
THE DATE**

2025

Saturday

September 27th

5:00 PM

Annual Banquet

Palmyra VFW Post 6778 4306 Route 31 • Palmyra, NY 14522



Defensive Gun Uses

By Tom Reynolds

Whenever there is a shooting, the anti-2A bloc goes into overdrive demanding more gun control laws (as if criminals would obey those laws.) They reference every possible shooting.

But what the anti-2Aers never reference are Defensive Gun Uses (DGU's.) DGU's can include actual shooting but most involve a potential victim displaying in some way that they have a gun and the criminal decides on a change of careers (at least temporarily.)

In the early 1990's, the Department of Justice's National Crime Victim Survey (NCVS) reported 'only' 68,000 annual Defensive Gun Uses in connection with assaults and robberies. That number was low according to a later study.

In the 1995 study: Armed Resistance to Crime: The Prevalence and Nature of Self-Defense with a Gun by Kleck and Gertz, they took issue with NCVS and listed the estimated number of annual DGU's from numerous studies. Kleck and Gertz used these studies to prove that the NCVS report was drastically wrong as there were a lot more DGU's:

- 3,609,000
- 3,052,000
- 2,141,000
- 1,797,000
- 1,621,000
- 1,414,000
- 777,000
- 771,000
- 764,000

In 2018, Kleck's new paper—"What Do CDC's Surveys Say About the Frequency of Defensive Gun Uses?" found that the CDC had asked about Defensive Gun Uses in its 'Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey' (BRFSS) in 1996, 1997, and 1998. But never reported it!

Using the CDC's data, Kleck summarized the CDC findings: "*I obtained the unpublished raw data and computed the prevalence of DGU. CDC's findings indicated that an average of 2.46 million U.S. adults used a gun for self-defense in each of the years from 1996 through 1998.*"

But then, a sharp-eyed reviewer pointed out a method error in Kleck's latest work (not the 1995 original). Kleck agreed and reworked the 1996, 1997 and 1998 data and came up with a lower estimate, but still over 1 million Defensive Gun Uses.

Gun control fans like to refer to Keck as '*discredited*' because of an error he admitted and corrected, while they don't challenge the corrected 1 million number.

At some later date, the CDC published statistics on DGU on its 'Fast Facts' web site. It's not clear what those statistics were since they are not there anymore. In December 2022, during the Biden Administration, multiple sources reported that the CDC quietly removed a range of gun statistics from its website after gun control advocates complained that the statistics made gun control laws harder to pass.

Researchers with the time - and with a grant to pay for that time - can argue and nitpick about the validity of every study they do not agree with. But the sheer size of Kleck's numbers should give everyone pause.

Take only the median number of Kleck's original study, 1,621,000 DGU's. If only 1% had ended in serious injury or death to the victim, that is 16,210 prevented.

Use the later study of 1 million and you still get 10,000 serious injuries or deaths prevented.

In an average year, in the United States there are about 14,000 non suicide gun deaths from all other sources, legal and illegal.

Clearly, possession of a gun by the average citizen is beneficial, not harmful, and the numbers clearly outweigh gun usage by criminals.

Just as clearly, when gun control is advocated by the Left, Defensive Gun Uses are missing from the conversation. But now you know the complete story, in context.

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Step Up Now

By Attilio Contini

How much longer are we going to let the State Legislature and the Governor push crazy ideas down our throats? They will do anything and everything to destroy the 2nd Amendment without being able to repeal it.

The anti 2Aers want to – again - outlaw lead shot and bullets.

Look at what they tried to do last year to shooting ranges. It wasn't about safety. Their plan was to make it so difficult and expensive to build and operate a shooting range that few could afford to operate a range. They might just as well outlaw shooting ranges and be done with it. Of course that is their unspoken plan. Since it was unsuccessful, the left is back again, this year, with a narrower focus: municipal ranges.

Same thing for purchasing, owning, and carrying hand guns. They are making it difficult and expensive to qualify and get a pistol, hoping that we will throw up our hands in disgust and give up. They have also muddied the waters so we have difficulty trying to comply. Have you noticed that they snuck in technicalities making it necessary for you to get a permit to purchase a semi-automatic rifle or shotgun?

The left understands that we will not stand for outright gun registration. So, they have resorted to sneaky methods to obtain the information they need to compile a gun data base list; for instance, background checks for ammo purchasing. If they know what kind of

bullets you buy, they may learn what caliber guns you probably own! Back door gun registration!

Unconstitutional? Why comply with what they consider an outdated document? Especially when there are no consequences to them.

Does any of this contribute to stopping criminal use of guns and making our streets safe?

How much longer are we going to quietly sit back and let them get away with this unconstitutional activity?

Every two years we have an opportunity to vote the enemies of our constitutional rights out of office. What do we do? Many gun owners stay home, refuse to register and vote, or in some cases actually vote for the rascals who are working to disarm us.

How much longer can we go on like this? Do we have a breaking point or will we timidly let them make slaves of us? We can slow them down through the legal system, but we will run out of money while they fight us with our tax dollars. Besides, the Governor already defies the courts, so we lose anyway.

We must wake up to the reality that we only have a limited amount of time left until they accomplish their goal. We must turn this situation around peacefully through the ballot box or it may become violent. It appears some of our people will not step up until then.



Challenge the System

By Richard Rossi

Some law-abiding gun owners believe that our Second Amendment Rights and Freedoms are "safe" because we have President Trump in the White House and we also have a majority in both houses of Congress. While we have a slim advantage, we need now, more than ever, to stand firm and make our voices heard loud and clear in Washington. Time is short and the mid-term elections could be game changers.

Remember, all of President Trump's Executive Orders and actions are being challenged by unconstitutional members of our judicial system as well as radical DA's and could be reversed by a future rogue administration.

Stop kidding yourselves and wake-up to the fact that the anti-Second Amendment groups, working with the radical Democratic Party in Washington, are not going to sit back and rollover - not for one second.

We as individuals need to be the moving force.

The National News Media Networks and the press will not help our cause. If your local newspaper has a "Letter to the Editor" section, speak-up and share your point of view with your fellow citizens.

Our two NYS' senators are not fans of our 2A Rights. We should still bombard them with emails, letters, phone calls, office visits, attending town hall meetings and voicing our opposition to their view and remind them they represent "We the people."

The same holds true for our Congressman - Republican or Democratic. Let them 'feel the heat' of the millions of law-abiding gun owners in NY State.

Yes, we are at a big disadvantage living in New York State. Our Governor and radical legislature in Albany are in full control. Our New York State Government can be described as a government trifecta; that is, a single political party with the governorship and supermajorities in both chambers of the State Legislature.

We need to push our Senators and Representatives in Congress to get pro-Second Amendment legislation passed

and signed into law by our president. Let's stop playing defense and go on the offense.

SCOPE has been leading the charge to get information out to our SCOPE members on anti-2A initiatives coming out of Albany. While this may look like a futile attempt, we all need to "buck the tide" and persevere at all costs.

Take this information and contact your State Senator and Assemblyman and voice your opposition to unconstitutional legislation that is introduced in the legislature. It does not matter if the legislators are of the Democratic affiliation.

Don't give up - that is exactly what the opposition is counting on. Don't think that hearing your views and comments will not have an impact on legislators.

Since the bills are constantly being introduced and the status changing, if you want to be informed and up to date on exactly what is transpiring in Washington, I strongly suggest that you check-out:<https://www.govtrack.us/>. This site tracks the activities of the United States Congress and the White House. You can also set up your preference to track a particular class of legislation - such as firearms. This will provide you with critical information to contact your Congressman and Senators on issues that are important to you.

Remember, Washington & Albany are always playing the reelection game. They need to pull in the bucks! Negative press can and will influence their political donors; they don't want to waste their funds on a losing candidate.

Stand firm and never give up. Only 3% of our American Revolutionary citizens were fighting and defeating the British and winning our independence!

**SAVE
THE DATE**

2025

Saturday

September 27th

5:00 PM



Annual Banquet

Palmyra VFW Post 6778 4306 Route 31 • Palmyra, NY 14522

Concealed Carry Recertification

Prior to 2013, pistol permits were good for a lifetime and required no recertification.

In 2013, the NY SAFE Act required pistol permit holders to recertify every five years. This began in January of 2017. Those that certified in 2017 had to recertify five years later, in 2022.

But in late summer 2022, the state tweaked the rules for those who hold a concealed carry permit and they must recertify every three years, not the five that continues to pertain to other permit holders.

So, for those concealed carry permit holders that recertified in 2022 and thought they had five years, guess what? You will need to recertify this year - 2025

Prior to 2013, lifetime pistol permitting had been typically handled through the county clerks' offices. But the SAFE Act granted control of the new pistol permit

renewals to the New York State Police. During the renewal process, handgun owners affirm their basic personal information and that they still own the guns appearing on their permit.

To handle this process an online system was created.

If you want to check your recertification status:

Go to **NYS Pistol Permit Recertification**

Click on **Check Recertification Status**

You will need to know:

your last name,

date of birth,

drivers license number,

last four digits of your social security number

and that you are not a robot

Click on **Check Recertification Status**

Your recertification status should then appear.

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Annual SCOPE Members Meeting and Board Meeting

On Saturday April 26th, 108 SCOPE members gathered at the Palmyra VFW for the annual Members' Meeting.

State senator Pam Helming started the meeting with a tribute to the late Don Smith of Wayne County, who passed away this past year. She told the audience how much he had helped her, over the years, with 2nd Amendment issues and led the audience in a moment of silence for one of SCOPE's most active members.

Attorney Bobbie Ann Cox was the featured speaker and touched on a variety of issues that threaten our rights. Cox got her start as an activist during the Corona Virus shutdowns when she saw our rights being trampled and decided to do something about it.

She stressed that the 2nd Amendment exists to protect the 1st Amendment and pointedly said that instead of going after criminals, New York State is constantly attacking our rights, especially the 2nd Amendment rights of legal gun owners.

She also stressed voting as the solution and pointed out that gun owners are one of the problems, as too many don't vote. At other gun rights groups she has addressed, only half of them raise their hands. When the SCOPE audience was asked who voted, everyone raised their hands. She stressed registration drives and was pleased that SCOPE chapters make this a standard effort.

She also warned that Judicial Overreach is the latest effort to curtail our rights and said that changing those that make the laws (voting) is the answer. And we need to get active now as the next major election is coming fast.

Cox discussed several other issues of interest to the audience.

SCOPE President John Elwood discussed SCOPE's accomplishments during the past year and some of the future priorities. He also led a discussion of what the audience believed should be SCOPE's priorities, which led to suggestions from the audience. He also stressed that member participation is the key to achieving any results.

There was general agreement that SCOPE needed to find ways to appeal to a younger audience and Elwood showed a current effort in that area. He first showed a SCOPE alert video and then an updated video about the same topic. The updated video led to a round of applause from the audience.

Elwood said that both memberships and SCOPE's finances have improved over the past year and he challenged the membership to each bring in a new member before the SCOPE Banquet on September 27th, also at the Palmyra VFW.

President Elwood also discussed the many anti 2A bills proposed in the NY legislature and suggested SCOPE's list of the 10 Most Egregious proposed bills as a tool to use in keeping people informed.

Acting NY Supreme Court Judge Kristina Karle is running for election as a permanent Supreme Court judge and spoke briefly about the 2nd Amendment. Firearms have been a big part of her life as a youngster and now as a married woman with children.

Joe Atkinson (Chemung County) was announced as winning a seat on the SCOPE board as an At Large Director. He responded briefly, reinforcing Elwood's words about needing more participation by members.

The Board of Directors' meeting followed in the afternoon.

Chairman Prendergast started the meeting with a summary of the political and 2nd Amendment situation in NY State

The updated bylaws were approved.

Treasurer Tom Reynolds reported on SCOPE's financial situation, which is good, due to control of spending and membership being stable. SCOPE has donated over \$30,000 over the past few years to support 2A related lawsuits. A minor change in check signing procedure was also approved by the board.

Officer elections were held and the following were elected: Jack Prendergast (Yates), Chairman; John Elwood (Jefferson-Lewis), President; Tom Reynolds (Chemung), Treasurer; Gary Zielinski (Ontario), Secretary; Bohdan Rabarsky (Oneida-Herkimer), 1st Vice President; Jim Krywalski (Allegany), 2nd Vice President.

John Elwood updated the board on some of the lawsuits that SCOPE has been helping to fund: GOA-NY / Gazzola; Firearms Policy Coalition; Vintage Firearms;

Bo Rabarsky reported on firearms legislation.

Six standing committees were established: Executive; Election; Legislative; Finance; Membership; Raffle.

Special committees to explore new directions were also established: Merchandise; Social Media; Range Instructor.

Potential categories of membership were discussed.

President Elwood reported on meeting with chapters and Sportsmen's Federations and Rod & Gun Clubs throughout upstate New York. A new county chapter is currently being formed.

The annual banquet will be at the Palmyra VFW on September 27th.



