



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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We Must Stick Together Against an Unrelenting Opposition

By Nick Massal
S.C.O.P.E. President

“If we do not hang together, we will most assuredly hang separately!” Sound familiar? Those words were uttered by Ben Franklin almost 250 years ago. What is the significance of those words today? The NRA is having internal problems with the board and about spending money – where have we seen this before?

The NRA is also under attack by the governor of New York and his attorney general. If you did not already know it, Governor Andrew Cuomo hates gun owners! He also hates Christians and conservatives (he said so himself) and declared that they have no place in New York.

So, what do we do about it? Roll over and die? I’m sorry but that’s not the way I roll (pun intended)!

We have a Democratic party that for the most part is turning socialistic and the Republican Party seems to be sitting back, not answering the call and appears to be fragmented (look how many do not support the President). The President is an outsider. He does not “owe” people in politics a lot of favors so he cannot be controlled that way. Despite not being one of the “good old boys” he has more public support than most of them.

Perhaps it’s the news media that is not brining the whole story of both parties to the light of day so we can all see what is going on – most of us are sick and tired of “their” spin and would like the news straight up. The media is out to sell stories and ad-

vertising. That’s how they make their money and stay in business. Both sides of the media put out a headline to catch our attention regardless of what the underlying story is – human nature.

What can we do? We as 2nd Amendment organizations need to support one another as much as possible in any way possible – we are all in this together and we must stick together. Yes, we have differences. We always will, but fundamentally we are all fighting for the same thing: to stop the encroachment on our God-given rights – the “Right to keep and bear arms”. The government did not give these rights to us. We already had them and the 2nd Amendment merely affirms this right and is a restriction on government not to infringe upon them.

Give what you can to the NRA and other organizations including our own. Call your NRA reps and tell them what you think and why. If you feel the that the executive vice president needs to go, tell them why. If you are a voting member of the NRA, know your board members and vote for those that will do the right thing. These organizations represent you and me. We need to speak up or things will not change for the better.



Join SCOPE Today!
SCOPEny2A.org

“Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could do only a little.”

Edmund Burke

A well Regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the People to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.

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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

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Nassau Sportsmen's Club

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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

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Check your address label for your renewal date

With this newsletter your expiration date is included on the address label. It will save SCOPE time and money if you can renew your membership a month or two before your membership is due to expire.

You can use the membership application in the newsletter or go online to www.Scopeny2A.org to renew.

Thank you

Renew your membership today!

SCOPE-PAC

Political Action Committee

Effectively defending the 2nd Amendment requires us to go on the offensive. We cannot wait, unprepared, for the next assault from the radical left. Although we may have a friend in the White House, Cuomo and the radical left still reside in Albany.

SCOPE Inc. works to educate the public and influence legislation while SCOPE-PAC is a separate, all volunteer organization and can provide direct financial support to candidates and promote legislation safeguarding the 2nd Amendment. Money is the "Mother's Milk" of politics.

Politicians and candidates look at each individual and organization in terms of can they help, can they hurt me or do they matter at all. We can help candidates in a number of ways but the most effective is with money, that's where SCOPE PAC comes in and where each individual gun owner can help. There is estimated to be about 4 million gun owners in New York and if all those gun owners just donated a dollar each month we would have millions to work with. All we are asking is that you, our members and other gun owners donate at least that much to SCOPE PAC. It's not a lot to ask, so please help.

The time to begin building up cash reserves for that election cycle is now, when smaller donations given over time can mount up into a significant amount and will make a difference. Please consider making a donation now, no matter how small, to SCOPE-PAC and again whenever you can afford to support the 2nd Amendment



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2020 - THE MOST IMPORTANT ELECTION

By Tom Reynolds, Treasurer and Past President

We often hear that a coming election is the most important in our lifetime. Like so many phrases, it's used so much that it loses its impact. But with hindsight, we can see how many of the elections have increased importance because of the results of previous elections. Unfortunately, the good guys didn't win them all. We did win some at critical points in our history.

Just in our lifetime: what would the United States be like if Jimmy Carter had defeated Ronald Reagan in 1980?; what would this country be like if Newt Gingrich and the "Contract With America" had not taken control of the House of Representatives, stopping Clinton's leftward tilt? Can you imagine, except in our nightmares, the destruction a 'President' Hillary Clinton would have wreaked on America?

Obviously, the above instances were important because we had to stop something dangerous to our national well-being from continuing or happening. That is why I believe the 2020 election will be the most important of our lifetime, supplanting the 2016 election in that position. Something much more dangerous will happen if we lose.

We saw what happened in the USA when Barack Obama came to power in 2008, along with a liberal

Congress. We've seen this year what happened when the far-left gained complete political power in New York State. We've also seen this year the obstructionism and just plain craziness when liberals won the House; the people in power there seem to hate the United States and all it stands for. Worse, they hate our President with a rage that is incredible.

In all three instances, traditional constitutional, moral and religious values were trashed as they took what they believed was their opportunity to fundamentally change our nation and our state.

Think what will happen to the 2nd Amendment if any of the far-left presidential candidates were to become President. Even if one of them proclaimed their love for the 2nd Amendment during their campaign, once elected, they would be surrounded by people that have made destroying the 2nd Amendment as well as so many other freedoms loved by this country a centerpiece of their political careers.

Need an example of a politician who dramatically changed colors on the 2nd Amendment? Kristen Gillibrand. Oh wait, isn't she running for President? Or at least she was as I wrote this.

Congressional candidates may make convincing statements about their love for the 2nd amendment – again, while campaigning – but once in office the liberal leadership in the House will quickly cause a change in position.

It is difficult to imagine any of the far-left candidates speaking at the NRA national convention, as President Trump has done. We can't

blame them for that; who wants to be booed?

The difference in values between President Trump and all his potential opponents is absolutely clear. Unfortunately, the difference between many other Republicans and their Democratic opponents is less clear. (The term RINO comes to mind.) This fuzziness makes it more difficult to inspire hesitant potential voters to get out and vote for "The Lesser of Two Evils". The fuzziness also makes it difficult for those of us who always vote to become more active in politics. (My own Congressman has made a career of being the "Lesser of Two Evils".)

If we are to save the 2nd Amendment (and probably the Constitution) it will require a multi-year effort. For the next seventeen months, we need to work to regain control of the House and keep control of the Senate and the Presidency at the federal level. Once that is accomplished, we need to organize and 'primary' out of office the RINO's, both federally and in this state.

It's a big task in front of us that will require toil, time and money. Thankfully, we have the far-left leadership helping us to inspire people to vote against them. It's not a sin to vote against someone who is out to destroy all our traditions and values.

To quote Winston Churchill, "When the eagles are silent, the parrots begin to jabber." We must 'stiffen our upper lips' and get serious or lose everything.

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Liberals are not Constitutionalists

Budd Schroeder

There is usually turmoil in politics. In America, the parties are the Republican and Democratic parties and the differences are mostly between the conservatives and the liberals. Generally speaking, the Republicans are conservative. The Democrats are considered to be liberals, or as they prefer to call themselves, "progressives."

The differences should be simple, but with so many people involved, there are different concepts of those definitions and with it comes complexity. The conservatives usually start out with their desire for smaller government, lower taxes, more individual rights and adherence to the Constitution.

The liberals are focused more on bigger government and higher taxes to pay for more social programs and giveaways. They like the people to be treated more equally and are willing to pass laws to ensure that there is more "fairness" in the society.

The liberals want income to be shared so that all can have similar benefits. They want government to provide free health care and education, including college. They want to have more equality in wages, disregarding the willingness to work and the types of jobs.

The conservatives have different perspectives and think that people should bear the responsibility for their status and future. They believe that hard work and effort should result in higher compensation than those who are willing to slide along expending minimum effort and talent. They believe that the harder they work the higher their wages should be.

The conservatives generally believe the Constitution says what it means and means what it says. The liberals tend to think of it as a living document and there should be

changes at their whims. There is usually conflict between those involved making decisions and laws.

The Declaration of Independence defines rights as "endowed by our Creator" and provide for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Seems simple to grasp, but the "pursuit of happiness" can be very subjective. What makes one person happy might be very annoying or objectionable to another person.

The right to life can be subjective depending on viewpoint. This is a real division when it comes to the issue of abortion. Some want to prevent it under all conditions; some consider exceptions for rape, incest or to save the life of the mother. Some put a time of the pregnancy as a limitation.

The liberals, in most cases, want no restrictions at all and they have passed laws in some states, like New York and Virginia where viable babies, up to birth, can be legally aborted. One governor even thought that the mother could decide after the delivery whether she wanted to "abort" the baby and end its life.

This is a very controversial issue and will need another examination by the Supreme Court. Many liberals are concerned about repealing *Roe v. Wade* and it has become an issue.

The First Amendment provides for the freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of religion and the right to petition the government. The freedom of religion should be a no-brainer. After all, the Pilgrims came over because of a problem with religious freedom in England.

However, some have tried to pervert the words to "freedom from religion." There is the provision about the separation of church and state which is necessary to keep government out of the pulpits where the politicians could require some adjustments in the sermons.

But, as the progressives got more power there have been attacks on religion by atheists and now we

don't have prayers in public schools; in many there is no mention or displays of religious holidays. Prayers are no longer a part of a graduation ceremony or athletic events. Religious displays like a Nativity Scene aren't allowed in public places at Christmas time.

Some politicians want to end the phrase "so help me, God" at the end of swearing in ceremonies or in a courtroom. This should be an issue in any campaign. Next the atheists might want to eliminate "in God we trust" on money. Don't worry, all politicians want money regardless of what is written on it.

The Second Amendment is the one that has been the most controversial and it started in the south with gun control. According to the Founding Fathers, the Second Amendment was given its place of importance because freedom was a huge motivating reason for the Revolution.

It started with "the shot heard around the world" when in Lexington, the patriots gathered in protest and faced the British Army. When the general told them to "throw down your arms," somebody (nobody knows who) squeezed the trigger and the Revolution began.

The Amendment has the phrase, "the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed." However, politicians have been very creative figuring ways to legally infringe on the right. A common synonym for infringe is "violate." The violating keeps up and there are politicians and liberals who are suggesting that the Second Amendment be repealed.

Looking at most of the Democrat candidates at the debates and news events, the common denominator amongst them is a desire for more gun control and gun confiscation. They are serious.

The Founding Fathers were forward thinking geniuses and they were aware of what can happen in any

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Free Stuff – A Path to Power

By Tom Reynolds

A popular saying has arisen about the far left's free giveaways, "Mice don't understand why the cheese is free until it is too late".

What does all this free stuff have to do with the Constitution and in particular the Second Amendment? Power and control! Politicians giving away stuff they label as "free" has been a path to obtaining and keeping power even before Franklin Roosevelt made it into a science in the 1930s.

When the government gives away something "free", it always comes with strings attached. Those strings make the recipients into government puppets and the primary string is forcing the recipient to agree with and support government policies. It is understood that, if the recipient

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government. Power and money are always a temptation and motivation for ambitious people. Weapons have always been symbols of power, and the ones who had the best usually got or retained power.

Some have claimed that the amendment only refers to muskets since that was the military weapon of the time and therefore modern guns are not covered. However, the "assault weapons" they want to ban are the modern version of the musket of 1776. Using that rationale, the freedom of the press would be limited to the screw press and the town crier.

does not go along with the government, the "free stuff" will end.

Put another way, the government powerful enough to give you everything is also powerful enough to take everything away.

Politicians love to define the parameters of an issue in limited terms and avoid looking at the bigger picture effects; a view that might reveal problems with their plans. They need the voters to focus narrowly on only what the politicians want the voters to focus. The results of this bigger picture failure are called unintended consequences and these consequences can run far afield of just the "free stuff". Again, the "free stuff" is only a path to power, it is not the goal of the politician. Once in power, the politician's goal is to impose their will in other areas, especially the far left and their anti-Second amendment laws.

Imagine if the far left were to seize power in 2020 because they were elected on a "free stuff" platform. Actually, you don't have to imagine what would happen. Look at New York State as an example of one party using unchecked powers over a broad spectrum of issues. We are in the sixth term for the liberal Cuomo's that sandwich the three terms of RINO Pataki and the disgraced Eliot Spitzer. During these 30-something years, the NY Senate was usually in Republican hands and while they were less than arduous in pursuing conservative and constitutional goals, they did serve to stop most – but not all - of the craziness that was proposed by the NY City liberals. Now, the voters have put the Senate, Assembly and Governorship all in the far left hands, for whatever reason. There is no stopping the craziness: a 2nd SAFE Act (check); liberalize

abortion (check); anti-business laws (check); use government powers against their opponents (check); free stuff for illegal's (check).

And if New York State isn't bad enough, California provides another example. Need I go on?

The far left response to "Keep America Great" is "Vote for me and get it free." As Rush Limbaugh once asked, "How can you vote against Santa Claus?"

Gun owners must educate the public about politicians proposing giveaways and explaining that these are nothing more than a path to power for those that oppose our traditional American values and our 2nd Amendment rights. When debating against the "free stuff" giveaways, it's not just the cost of these that make them impossible – and the cost really does make them impossible. Voters need to understand the bigger picture; that once the far left are in power, they will do much more than just give away "stuff". They will impose their deepest, darkest far left desires on the people and one of their most cherished desires is to abolish the 2nd Amendment.



With the results in on the November elections, the battleground to save our Second Amendment Rights is now in the courts.

Court litigation is expensive and necessary and we need your help. Please donate today to help us fight Cuomo in the courts.

You can donate using your credit card at: www.Scopeny2A.org

Or you can mail a check to: SCOPE, PO Box 165, East Aurora, NY 14052

Please Donate Today

California's Instant Background Check Began July 1

By Don Smith
Wayne County Chair

The new California "Instant Background Check" system was part of Proposition 63 passed by voters in 2016. It may set a standard for other states and is actually more restrictive than our unSAFE Act. Gun owners should understand the key points as NY may attempt to adopt similar tactics. Some legislators in NY also want to register our long guns.

The purpose of the CA law was to force ammo buyers to undergo an "instant" background check each time they buy a round, box, flat or any amount of ammo. Two purchases on the same day means two background checks. Recall the unSAFE Act contains a similar provision but has not yet been implemented. However, NY recently announced it was closer to establishing the database required to operate the system. Here's how the California [CA] system works:

CA handgun owners have for many years received a "gun I.D. #" with the purchase of a permitted gun (handgun). Registration of long guns began in 2014 and either type of purchase lists them in the CA "Automatic Firearm System" (AFS).

[Note that a convicted felon is automatically disqualified from buying ammo in CA]. If a qualified

buyer goes to a dealer for ammo, they are not allowed to handle the ammo prior to a background check and have 3 background check options:

1. "Instant Background Check"- Only for residents listed in the California "Automated Firearm System" (AFS) (meaning they have purchased a firearm from a CA dealer). They pay \$1 and can make an ammo purchase if they pass the background check. They must also provide: name, address, telephone #, drivers license #, type of ammo and name of the sales person. This info is maintained by CA. [Some claim it is not a registration of ammo. If not, then why require the ammo to be listed ???]

2. Possibly millions in CA have never purchased a gun but may have one via inheritance etc. Thus, they would not be on the AFS list. They can apply for a "Certificate of Eligibility" (COE) from the Department of Justice (DOJ). It costs about \$100 and may take 30 days to have fingerprints checked and complete a background check. If they pass, they are then put into the AFS system and are eligible for an Instant Background Check in the future. Each ammo purchase thereafter costs \$1 and also requires all contact info with each purchase.

3. If neither of these two options are available to a resident, then the third option is a direct dealer transaction where they must pay \$19 and expect at least a 10-day waiting period for completion of a background check. The DOJ sends them a

transaction # so they can track the progress of their background check. If they pass the check then they have 30 days in which to make the ammo purchase. This is a one-time purchase and the process must be repeated for future purchases unless they decide to purchase a gun and become listed in the AFS or apply for a COE. They must also supply the same contact information as in #1 or #2.

I assume the NY system will be linked to our drivers' licenses like CA. Some say it is now. A NY gun owners I.D. card could also be required.

The CA bill was meant to simply require an instant background check for ammo purchases. However, the CA DOJ has expanded the requirements to include additional fees, waiting periods and transaction (tracking) #s with no legislative authorization. This could occur in NY.

Non-CA residents can no longer purchase ammo in CA unless they apply for a COE.

Residents of CA can no longer purchase ammo out of state directly from a dealer. The out-of-state dealer is required to deliver it to a CA dealer. The resident obtains the ammo from the CA dealer after passing a background check.

However, a nonresident can legally bring ammo into CA and give it away but cannot sell it. I suspect the ammo black market in CA should do quite well.



Have you Moved?

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

Have you changed your Email?

Sending us your email address does two things:

It allows us to get information to you quickly

It saves on mailing costs. Please email updates to:

sue.scopeny@gmail.com or mail to -PO Box 165, East Aurora, NY 14052

Rome, U.S.A., Free Stuff and the 2nd. Amendment

Tom Reynolds
S.C.O.P.E. Treasurer

I recently saw some interesting information about ancient Rome and politicians that offered “free stuff” and where the giveaways eventually ended up.

In 136 BC, Tiberius Gracchus redistributed land to the landless (*Income redistribution and social justice Roman style*). He limited the amount of land one could own to 310 acres. (*Government deciding someone is too wealthy*). He was killed by political enemies.

In 123 BC, Tiberius’ brother Gaius tried implementing his brother’s plans and found that many of those given free land couldn’t actually farm! (*Imagine that!*) To correct a government program that did not work, the government instituted another program of subsidized grain for all. (*A bit like subsidizing college loans and then proposing to forgive the loan because people took out too much!*) Gaius was also killed by political enemies.

In 100 BC, the grain pro-

gram was expanded in exchange for votes. (*Gasp! Buying votes. It’s a good thing that could never happen in the U.S.A.!*)

In 62 BC, Lucius Catiline, promised his “Clean Slates” program which would eliminate all debt and let people start over again. (*The Roman version of Bernie Sanders.*) He was also charged, but not convicted, of adultery with a Vestal Virgin. (Who does that remind me of... hmmm?) When he lost an election, he tried to seize power and was killed.

In 59 BC, Publius Clodius Pulcher granted free grain to all free citizens and - who could have guessed - the mobs of unemployed in Rome grew larger and larger. (*Who could have foreseen that some people would rather get “free stuff” than work.*) Publius was also tried on charges of incest - but the fix was in for acquittal. Publius Clodius was killed by his political enemies.

(*Tiberius, Gaius, Lucius and Publius could definitely have used laws against sword ownership! Could their last thoughts have been wishing they had licensed swords and put limits on a sword’s length -capacity?*)

Julius Caesar, passed his own land redistribution law, which helped get him elected to a succession

of offices as well as to his dictatorship. He was assassinated in 44 BC. (*Like today’s London Mayor, Caesar needed laws against knife ownership!*)

Because Rome didn’t have laws prohibiting swords, demagogues could be stopped. (*Not so good for demagogues, of course.*)

Our Founding Fathers were well acquainted with history, especially Roman history, which is why they created the 2nd Amendment for protection against government tyranny. (*Deer hunting was okay with the Founding Fathers, too.*)

The Roman far-left created a dependency class in Rome that could be manipulated for political purposes. It started with promises of “free stuff” and it ended in death and tyranny. Is it possible that today’s far left sees some parallel between the killing of Roman demagogues and wanting limits on magazine capacity?



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.

ABATE of NY Ontario Chapter
Adirondack Federation of Sports Clubs
Alabama Hunt Club
Allied Sportsmen of WNY
Almond Rod & Gun Club
Bailey Mountain Fish & Game Club
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Legislative Breakfast Shows A Disconnect

by Steve Piatt

(Opinion piece published in New York Outdoor News, Vol 15, No. 09, May 3, 2019)

The invitation came via email, and I immediately chuckled.

Then I got angry.

It was an invitation to attend the New York Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus Annual Sportsman-Legislator Breakfast in Albany.

On May 1.

The lawmakers apparently are unaware that May 1 is the opening day of the state's spring gobbler season, and generally regarded as a big deal for many sportsmen, including myself.

And these are the folks who are supposedly in our corner - as the invitation stated, a bipartisan "group of state legislators united to protect and advance our time-honored sporting traditions in the Empire State."

They've been around now for 15 years, so let's look at their track record of "advancing" hunting and fishing in New York state.

Sure, it was a major victory a few years back when the state lowered its minimum hunting age for big game with a firearm from 16 to 14. Let's keep in mind, however, that this improved regulation remains the most restrictive in the country.

Crossbows are now allowed during a portion of the regular archery season, but lawmakers have been unable to "advance" legislation that would expand it into the entire archery season, notably for seniors and physically challenged hunters.

Environmental conservation officers and forest rangers are generally regarded as operating short-staffed. The state's fish hatchery system - which has, in fact, seen millions of dollars funneled into much-needed

upgrades - needs further work, especially at the Salmon River hatchery, where water problems persist.

Do we really need to mention the SAFE Act and other gun restrictions passed by the Legislature this year? Or the proposal to shutter the state's last remaining pheasant-rearing facility?

Thanks, for the breakfast invitation, folks. But wouldn't it be more productive to invite some of your downstate, Democratic colleagues and educate them as to the importance of hunting and fishing New York, our traditions, and the economic impact our sports provide?

That's what the breakfast agenda is offering: an opportunity to outline the positive impacts hunting and fishing provide in New York state and "the role our sporting traditions play in providing critical conservation dollars" through the American system of conservation funding for the DEC.

I already know that, and I don't need to drive to Albany on the opening day of the spring gobbler season to hear state lawmakers outline all that and use those time-worn phrases like "I pledge to you" and "working together" and "our great pastimes."

Thanks, but instead I'll "advance" hunting in New York state by taking afield a youngster or newbie hunter who may not otherwise have a pathway to the sport. They may even harvest their first-ever gobbler.

If they do, we'll go to the local diner for breakfast.

spiatt@outdoornews.com

Court Ruling Doesn't Denounce S.A.F.E. Act

by Steve Piatt

(Opinion piece published in New York Outdoor News, Vol 15, No 10,

May 17, 2019)

A western New York man convicted under the SAFE Act has seen that conviction overturned by the New York State Supreme Court.

The ruling, however, wasn't an indictment of the SAFE Act itself; the court instead ruled that the now-former New York State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman had no jurisdiction to handle the case.

Benjamin Wassel of Silver Creek (Chautauqua County) had been charged with selling an AR-15, an AR-10, ammunition and magazines shortly after the January 2013 passage of the SAFE Act. In May of 2014 he was convicted in Chautauqua County Court of third-degree criminal possession of a firearm and two counts of third-degree criminal sale of a firearm. He was sentenced to probation and fined \$375.

His attorney, James Ostrowski, says the felony charges against Wassell will be wiped off his record. The widely criticized SAFE Act, however, lives on. While the state Supreme Court ruled that the attorney general can prosecute a case "only on request of the head of a department, authority, division or agency of the state." That request was not made, the court ruled.

The same five-judge panel didn't address Ostrowski's contention that the SAFE Act is unconstitutional, among other arguments. "In light of our determination, we do not address defendant's remaining contentions," the court wrote.

Wassel's sale of the firearms to an undercover officer came just days after the late-night, rapid fire passage of the SAFE Act by the state Legislature. Wassell, a Marine veteran who served twice in Iraq, said he was unaware of the new law.

But the SAFE Act remains intact, and the Wassell ruling serves as more of an individual victory than one that puts a nail in the coffin of the SAFE Act. The ongoing court battles

(Continued on page 15)

“Operation Fast and Furious”: Obama’s Gun Scandal

By Harold Moskowitz

President Obama misused the power of his office to create conditions for justifying increased Second Amendment restrictions. From October 2009-2011, the Phoenix Field Division of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) facilitated illegal gun sales to Mexican drug cartels. In fact, the government began instructing gun shop owners to break the law by selling firearms to suspected criminals. Dozens of AK-47 style rifles were bought during each transaction. Agents involved were ordered not to intercept the smugglers before the weapons crossed the border. Some of these weapons were paid for with taxpayer money. After purchase, ATF agents sold the weapons to “straw men” for resale to the smug-

glers.

The scandal only surfaced because two of the illegally sold rifles had been used in the murder of Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry (Dec., 2010.) Three ATF agents became “whistle blowers” and testified before Darrell Issa’s (R-CA) House Oversight Committee. The agents told of being forced by supervisors to let waves of guns pass to Mexican cartels. As the story threaten to involve key Obama officials such as Attorney General Eric Holder, the Department of Justice (DOJ)’s excuse was that it was all part of an “investigation” into where Mexican drug cartels were active and that agents “lost track of some of the firearms.”

As agent John Dodson told the committee: “I cannot but think of how the risk of letting guns fall into the hands of known criminals could possibly advance any legitimate law enforcement interest.” A DOJ Inspector General report indicated that hundreds of the untracked guns were later used in the U.S. and Mexico. Documents were eventually released to both Issa’s committee and Charles Grassley’s (R-IA) Senate Judiciary Committee despite “stonewalling.” In June, 2012, when El Chapo Guzman was arrested, agents found a Barrett .50 caliber rifle linked to Fast and Furious. A total of 34 Barrett .50’s had been “exported” by the ATF. There was eventual confirmation that the murder of “ICE” agent Jaime Zapata in 2011 was directly linked to ATF gun trafficking. In the U.S., one of the untracked weapons was in the hands of Nadir Soofi. He was one of two Muslim terrorists who tried to shoot up anti-Islamic Jihad activist Pamela Geller’s “Draw Mohammed” contest in 2015.

In June, 2012, Eric Holder became the first Attorney General to be declared in contempt of Congress. This step was taken after Holder refused for months to turn over subpoenaed documents related to ATF gun trafficking. By the time of Holder’s contempt of Congress vote, at least

300 Mexicans had already been murdered or wounded by Obama’s gun scandal weapons. In addition, agents Terry and Zapata had been murdered in the line of duty with those AD-47 style rifles. The DOJ Inspector General also reported that a total of 2000 semi-automatic weapons had been illegally transferred to criminals.

Massive amounts of evidence indicated that Holder’s “investigation” was actually a criminal operation aimed at blaming the Second Amendment for violence in the U.S. and Mexico. Congressional investigators found the operation was intended to push forward the gun control agenda. The scheme only failed because of three courageous ATF agents with consciences.

In June, 2017, the investigating Congressional committees released an incriminating report regarding the Obama administration’s scandal and its attempted cover up. Obama had tried to claim executive privilege to deny Congress access to related documents even though he denied having been personally involved in the scandal. A federal judge forced the release of more than 20,000 pages of emails and memos previously denied by Obama to Congress.

The documents revealed that top Obama officials deliberately obstructed the Congressional probe into Fast and Furious. Internal documents confirmed ATF agent John Dodson’s Congressional testimony regarding the total lack of attempt to track the firearms after they left the U.S. The real goal was to hopefully create a crisis of gun violence requiring a crackdown on firearms in the U.S.

Operation Fast and Furious has a “political angle.” Emails gotten by C.B.S. News in 2011 showed ATF officials discussing the operation to push through a regulation requiring gun shops to report the sale of multiple rifles or “long guns.” ATF allowed certain gun shops to make un-

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- as well as some long-shot legislative efforts - to overturn or repeal the SAFE Act will undoubtedly continue.

As we count down the days to the end of the legislative session in Albany, sportsmen and gun owners are keeping a close eye on several bills that are, at last check, thankfully stalled in committee. Among them are a proposal to end the pheasant-rearing program in New York, and another that threatens the popular Scholastic Clay Target League. Bottom line: we’re going to breathe a sigh of relief when this session comes to a close.

*Original article shortened for brevity
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desirable sales to dangerous people to use those sales as justification for new reporting requirements. At the same time, the mass media dutifully carried “news stories” about how loose U.S. gun laws lead to shootings in Mexico. In August, 2011, the Obama administration instituted new reporting requirements for the southern border states.

As Ian Tuttle of the National Review expressed it: Under Operation Fast and Furious, the U.S. government became a de facto illegal arms dealer to Mexican drug cartels

and Islamic criminals.” Obama and Holder oversaw this scandal while they lectured to the nation about the need for more gun control. Apparently, for the Progressive Left’s goal of severely weakening, if not outright destroying, the Second Amendment, “the end justifies the means.” That reality should never be lost sight of when voting on any Election Day. We must always look beyond the deliberately moderate/central-sounding campaign rhetoric of candidates. This is especially true for candidates claiming to be staunch defenders of the Second Amendment

before reminding us of the need for some “common sense” gun control measures.

One opinion is that Obama and Holder were both guilty of Congressional oversight obstruction regarding the investigation of Fast and Furious and that both have blood on their hands from their illegal gun trafficking. One fact we can state is that both have walked away from their unconscionable scandal unscathed to this day!

Please consider donating to the S.C.O.P.E., Inc. **Legal Defense Fund**

We still have much to battle Albany over, and as you well know it takes money to do this! This battle with Albany and the NY (UN)S.A.F.E. Act will be going on for the foreseeable future. Perhaps the action that N.Y.S.R.P.A. is undertaking against NYC will have a benefit for all of us, but we do not yet know. We must to be ready to fight, or assist others, in court.

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Application on page 12

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Libertarian Party Provides Neither Answers nor a Path to Legislative Success

Tim Andrews
S.C.O.P.E. At-Large Director

The 2018 elections were a disaster for New York gun owners, and the subsequent 2019 legislative session was gun control in overdrive. How can we turn this gun control freight train around? One of the remedies is the courts. Several cases which may bring relief are currently making their way through the judicial process.

In addition to the courts, we also need to grow support and establish greater influence within the political process. The issue is how this could be accomplished. The answer is we need to get involved in the process. How and where we do this is critical, the gun vote was very divided in 2018. There were many gun owners that were misled into thinking the Libertarian Party and their candidate for governor was a valid alternative. True, the Libertarian Party platform does describe the party as pro-Second Amendment. However, you would be hard pressed to find anywhere where the Libertarian Party has had any success defeating gun control. For any political party or candidate, it's not good enough just to say they're pro-gun. Sure, it's great to hear a candidate stand up and say all the things we want to hear, but if that candidate has no legitimate chance of winning in the end, they can do nothing for you. Despite Libertarian claims their candidate could win, we repeatedly warned voters that the Libertarian gubernatorial candidate for governor would at best get maybe 1.5% of the vote, in the end he got 1.5% of the vote.

Like it or not, the Democrat and Republican parties hold all the power in New York. The Libertarian Party is nowhere near being anything more than a fringe party. Beware, the Libertarian Party is very deceptive in how they present themselves. Their website does state they hold three elected offices in New York State. They have a city council position in Binghamton, where that candidate ran as a Democrat and as a Libertarian, 80% of his votes coming on the Democrat line. The second office is an obscure school board office in New York City where candidates run as non-partisan. The third is a councilor's office in the town of Cicero. That candidate was never elected as a Libertarian. He was elected as a Republican and later left the GOP and became a Libertarian. He is no longer in elective office. The Libertarian website claim that they hold three elected offices in New York is erroneous and an embellishment, they hold two obscure local political offices in New York and none in Albany. They are light years from having any influence in New York State.

You should also be aware where the Libertarian Party is on other key issues of our day. Taken directly from their platform, section 3.4, they support open borders, section 3.1 they oppose the military draft, section 1.8 states they oppose the death penalty and they support abortion rights. From the New York Libertarian website, they specifically state they support a "Less strict immigration policy" and a "easier pathway to citizenship." SCOPE has no position on any of these non-Second Amendment related issues, however, most gun rights supporters align themselves with conservative voters and given the Libertarian positions on these issues many conservative voting gun owners could never support a Libertarian candidate.

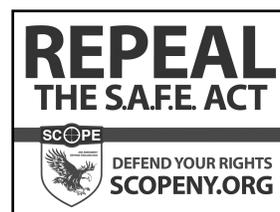
If we are ever going to win the fight in New York, the pathway to victory is not the Libertarian Party. The pathway to political success is

through the parties who hold all the power, the Democrat and Republican parties. I know you're screaming they're the ones that created this mess, they're never going to change it. As the parties stand today that may be true, however, change needs to come from within the parties. We need good people to get involved in the parties at the local level. Doing that is not a difficult thing to do, most parties are begging for volunteers, call your local party tell them you want to serve on your town or county committee. Truly this is where change can begin, if you really want to create change this is what we must do. Investing your time in fringe parties is fools gold and if anything will only help elect more gun grabbers to office.

You have the power to change the direction of New York State, but it is going to take hard work and commitment. Especially with the Republican Party We have a chance to make change but it's going to take you getting involved. If you're a Democrat or a Republican get involved in your party and serve on your county and town committee, you will be amazed at the influence you can have. If you're an independent and not registered to any party, register as a Democrat or a Republican and get involved in that party.

Yes, there are plenty of reasons to be critical of the two major political parties. However, if we as individuals refuse to get involved, we need to recognize that we are part of the problem.

I know Libertarians will likely be infuriated by this column. But keep in mind who was correct when we spoke about the anticipated results of the 2018 election.



Let Freedom Ring

By Budd Schroeder

It is that time of the year when we celebrate Independence Day. It reminds us that as a country we left the title of being subjects of the king and became citizens of a brand new nation with a different kind of government. It was designed to be a government of the people, by the people and for the people.

We were no longer under the domination of a despot who gave commands and told us what we could do and what we were not allowed to do. He gave orders that had to be obeyed and there was no process to get rid of him because he ruled by "divine right." The king was the one who was totally in control and the people had virtually no influence in government.

The people fought the Revolutionary War, where patriots formed an army and defeated the most powerful nation in the world. The freedom allowed the people to prosper under the new system.

The Founding Fathers designed a system whereby the country would be ruled by laws and not by the whims of despots. Representatives and leaders were elected by the people and if the people were not satisfied with the way they were being governed, they could elect new executives and representatives.

They designed a system of checks and balances by having three branches of government, executive, representative and judicial. Each had equal power and was designed to prevent a return to a monarchy or dictatorship. The ability to elect and replace gave the power to the people.

The Constitution was the guarantee that the power would remain with the people and enumerated the rights of the people that could not be taken from them. The rights were associated with freedoms that guaranteed that they would not be subjects. The natural rights were "endowed by our Creator" that we could enjoy "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

The Constitution was designed to keep control of these rights in the hands of the people. The rights included free speech, freedom of religion, a free press, and the right to petition the government for grievances. The people were free to criti-

cize those in power and could worship as they chose without government interference. They had a purpose and a purpose.

The second amendment of the Bill of Rights was the right to keep and bear arms which meant that the citizens would be able to own and keep firearms for their protection. It was not just to protect them from personal harm or to hunt, but it was to give them, as individuals, the means to protect them from a government takeover which would deny the people the freedoms they fought and died for. This right is in jeopardy and is being attacked by corrupt politicians.

Other basic freedoms were also guaranteed like the right to their property and not have soldiers invading their homes to be quartered. That doesn't seem like a big deal now, but at that time it was an important right and affirmed that the homeowner was the master of his own property.

Other freedoms protected the individual by guaranteeing that a person accused of a crime, would have a trial by a jury of his peers. It also gave means to protect the individual from illegal search and seizure along with other necessary protections.

Thomas Jefferson said: "In questions of power, then, let no more be heard of confidence in man, but bind him down from mischief by the chains of the Constitution." This means that the laws are the standard of liberty and the people are the source of the real power, not the whims of politicians.

It was a wonderful idea, but had a few flaws and problems. One of the worst was the term "all men are created equal" was not true in practice. The United States had the curse of allowing slavery which was a contradiction of the principles. It took a Civil War to correct that gross mistake. However it made freedom more than just a word.

Times, society and people change as a country progresses. We went from an agricultural nation to a manufacturing nation with the Industrial Revolution and became a rich nation. People had the right to progress and many became rich and powerful.

We were involved in two world wars and others that involved

protection of our interests. Many died to protect the country and keep it a republic. The only thing constant in our universe, which includes nations, is change. Along with the wars we had depressions and recessions, but in spite of the ups and downs, we survived and became the envy of the world. People wanted to immigrate to the "New World."

We became a nation of immigrants who wanted to leave their native land and get a fresh start, and freedom was a powerful motivation. The country was young and open. People from all nations, mostly from Europe, came across the oceans to build and make a better life for themselves and their families.

They all wanted to become American citizens and they learned the language, took courses and proved that they were worthy to become true Americans. The country grew because of these freedom loving people and we became the most powerful nation in the world.

Power and money are huge motivators for a nation to expand. Unfortunately, the expansion with those attributes extended into politics and the government. Principles are replaced by pragmatism and the society has morphed into a "what's in it for me" attitude. Freedom has new definitions.

We are celebrating the history of a great nation and have the opportunity to maintain the progress, but at the present time, the political conflicts are confusing many people. We are in a crisis situation filled with internal turmoil and could be fighting for survival to continue as a republic instead of becoming a socialistic nation. Hopefully, the instinct to maintain our freedom will triumph over the promise of "free stuff" by corrupt politicians. On this day of celebration, let freedom ring.



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