

# Firing Lines

Fighting for your Second Amendment Rights since 1965

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

## There is a New Senate Leadership

By Stephen Aldstadt

As everyone who doesn't live under a rock knows by now, the majority leader of the New York State Senate was forced to step down after being arrested on corruption charges. This follows the arrest of the Speaker of the Assembly, Sheldon Silver earlier this year. That makes two of the "Three Men in a Room" to face criminal charges so far this year. Federal prosecutor Preet Bararah has told us all to "stay tuned". I expect we will see more corruption charges coming. One can only speculate as to whether the criminal corruption charges will go as high as the governor's office.

At first it was reported that Dean Skelos was refusing to step down from the leadership, and that he was threatening to resign his seat altogether if he was forced out. The Republicans in the Senate hold a slim one vote majority. Senator Libous from the Binghamton area is fighting a battle against cancer and is not currently able to appear in the Senate chambers. If Senator Skelos had followed through with his threat, it could have given the Democrats an opportunity to take over control of the Senate.

The last time the Democrats had control of both houses and the governorship we were able to head off bad anti-gun rights legislation with the help of a few upstate pro-gun senators. It's not clear if there are any of those left. Every single Democrat in the senate voted for the NY SAFE Act!

The choice of senate Republican leadership came down to Syracuse area Senator John DeFrancisco and Long Island Senator John Flanagan. SCOPE members and gun owners were encouraged to contact their senator and urge them to vote for senator Defrancisco, who voted against the NY SAFE Act, over Senator Flanagan who voted with the entire Long Island delegation to pass the NY SAFE Act. In the end six upstate Republican senators joined the Long Island Nine, senators Golden and Lanza from NYC and senator Felder, the Staten Island Democrat who caucuses with the Republicans. The vote in conference was 18 to 15 Flanagan.

Many people upstate are very angry over the vote. Senators who promised to support the Second Amendment and work

to repeal parts or all of the NY SAFE Act had the opportunity to put an upstate pro-gun senator in the leaders position. Instead they elected another Long Island senator who voted for the NY SAFE Act. Those six were senators Nozzolio, Young, Seward, Farley, Larkin, and Bonacic.

Senator Michael Nozzolio, one of the upstate six that voted for senator Flanagan, contacted SCOPE shortly after the new leadership was chosen, and asked us to come to a meeting in Albany with senators Flanagan and Nozzolio. We were also joined by senators Seward, Marchione, Omara, and Young, and a number of senior staff people. Bill Robinson of the Second Amendment Radio Show was also invited by senator Nozzolio. Bill recently won his suit to have the "Assault Weapon" registration numbers released by the state police.

The meeting was productive. The discussion was frank and open. I knew most of those present but it was the first time I had spoken directly with senator Flanagan.

The senators' message:

Senator Nozzolio was concerned with the perception from gun owners, that the SAFE Act was funded in the budget. They did remove seven million dollars from the State Police I.T. budget that was earmarked for implementation of the ammunition background check and database. They expressed frustration with members of the assembly who they feel accept little or no responsibility because of their position in the minority.

They wanted to get their message to SCOPE members and gun owners that they are supporters of the Second Amendment, and they pointed out recent committee votes that killed additional anti-gun legislation. Including the fact that Senator Flanagan, as a member of the codes committee voted against the .50 caliber ban and the mandatory storage bill. They also wanted to stress, that should the senate return to Democrat control, they would not be able to stop those bills. Senator Nozzolio had a list of issues that he was seeking SCOPE's opinion on, and wanted our assessment on what issues were most important. Senator Nozzolio also expressed his appreciation for the SCOPE position papers. They had found them very useful in debate.

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**Don't Miss the SCOPE Banquet - October 17**  
 Celebrating the **50th Anniversary of SCOPE**  
 with **Key Note Speaker Robert Astorino**  
 Put a note in your calendar  
 Ticket information soon  
 SCOPENy.org and next newsletter



"I say to you, forget the extremists! It's simple: no one hunts with an assault rifle! No one needs 10 bullets to kill a deer!  
 ..Confiscation could be an option. Mandatory sale to the state could be an option. Permitting could be an option — keep your gun but permit it."  
 —Andrew Cuomo



"Every one of my positions cuts - out half the country. I'm pro-choice, I'm pro-gay rights, I'm pro-immigration, I'm against guns, I believe in Darwin."  
 —Michael Bloomberg



"The fact of the matter is that there is no legitimate use for these (assault) weapons. That was as true in 1994 as it is today. The bottom line is that the assault weapons ban is working and we are safer because of it."  
 —Charles Schumer



"The NY SAFE Act of 2013 was unparalleled in terms of its comprehensive measures, and it is imperative that New York State continues passing gun control and safety legislation following in the same path. As members of SLAIGNY, my colleagues and I will continue our vigilance against senseless gun violence in order to better protect the hardworking people of this state."  
 —Ruth Hassle-Thompson



"Today marks the first anniversary of one of the most important pieces of legislation I have had the honor to vote for, the NY SAFE Act. It is the perfect moment to applaud the work we've done and call for further common sense measures to protect our children, families and all New Yorkers from senseless gun violence."  
 —Amy Paulin



"Last year, New York took a major step forward in passing the SAFE Act. But our work isn't done. This legislative agenda will answer New Yorkers' calls and fill in gaps with sensible laws — including my legislation to ban 50-caliber military-style sniper rifles and the vital crime-fighting tool of microstamping."  
 —Daniel Squadron

*These people say they represent you...  
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# NO YOU DON'T

Help SCOPE's Political Action Committee get the message out to the misguided, misinformed and just plain ignorant career politicians and do-gooders.

The 2015 budget was passed using another fraudulent "Message of Necessity"—a legislative gimmick to circumvent the process required by the New York State Constitution.

This fraudulent "Message of Necessity" is how bills are passed without the opportunity for public review or comment, or reasoned debate in the Legislature - this was how the NY SAFE Act was passed.

The continuing abuse of the Legislative process only adds to the reputation of New York State government as the most corrupt state government in the Union, as reflected in a recent nation wide poll.

**The New York Times**  
 N.Y. / REGION  
**New York State Budget Is Passed Just After Deadline**

By THOMAS KATZMAN and WISNIEWSKI ONLINE APRIL 1, 2015



ALBANY — For Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo, so-called budgets are a serious point of pride, a symbol that he has restored order to the capital. This year, he sacrificed many of his 2015 proposals to clear the way for the punctual approval of the budget.

But on midnight struck and the state's new fiscal year began on Wednesday, there was only one problem: Lawmakers were not quite finished.

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SCOPE-PAC is the lobbying branch of SCOPE. Donations are used to fund people and events that interact with New York State government. Unlike SCOPE, SCOPE-PAC can make contributions to PRO-GUN candidates and political advertising.



## No photograph? No gun – not even for the Amish

By Paloma A. Capanna,  
Attorney & Policy Analyst

A picture may say 1,000 words to someone who enjoys photography, but it can cause an equal number of headaches to a member of the Older Order Amish who wants to make a lawful purchase of a firearm.

Federal law requires government issued identification with photograph for the purchase of a firearm. More than one form of identification can be used to accomplish this presentation, but no matter how you present it a photograph must be on one of the formal IDs. This is true for the purchase of a firearm, in conjunction with the ATF Form 4473 at a dealer, who represents through his signature his critical review of the requisite valid photo identification. Both buyer and seller face federal penalties for failure to comply with these requirements.

In New York, since 2013, it is also true that the photo ID is required in conjunction with the private purchase of a firearm, which must be

### 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.Scopeny.org](http://www.Scopeny.org) to renew.

Thanks  
John Krull  
Membership Chairman

conducted at a licensed dealer, to facilitate the ATF background check, including photo identification.

Now, some two years into the New York private sales background check, one group is being disproportionately impacted with absolutely no public safety benefit for justification: the Amish. Using rifles and shotguns that are the very definition of the “sporting purposes test” at federal law, the Amish use their firearms to kill game that is a food source. The Amish combine hunting and farming to sustain themselves in a largely self-contained religious community setting that one can describe as “idyllic,” compared to the Second Amendment battleground of New York post “SAFE Act.”

The Old Order Amish living in Central and Southern New York do not permit themselves to be photographed, as contrary to their religious beliefs. To do so could result in shunning and ex-communication from their community, meaning the religious community that is their very life’s blood. The Catch-22 stands to force them to choose between religion and lawfulness, in a system of beliefs where lawfulness is its own tenant.

There have been only a handful of lawsuits in which the Amish have been parties, although their numbers on a national level are estimated at 260,000. (Donnermeyer/Luthy, 2013.) The case most people know is *Wisconsin vs. Yoder*, a 1972 case that allows the Amish to school their children to an age lower than federal mandates, through a balancing of the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment of the United States Constitution and the interests of the state in an educated populace.

On behalf of an Upstate Old Amish Order community, I will be requesting the ATF and the State create a legal exemption for the Amish, using fingerprints as an alternative to photographs. If and when those requests are declined, we will proceed into federal court. Your prayers and support are, as always, much appreci-

ated by my clients, with whom I have spoken about our Second Amendment family.



## SCOPE - Steuben County Chapter

By Douglas A. Mitchell

Steuben County, is now a Chapter of SCOPE! We are hard-at-work to match and exceed our achievements of last year, specifically winning the Troy Defense in 223 cal. for greatest growth in membership, a highly successful Raffle/Pig Roast, a rather extensive radio campaign for gun rights and hosting several excellent speakers throughout the year.

This year, the Chapter is looking to put together another stand-out Raffle/Pig Roast along with providing firearms education to our local legislators, attorneys and judges. On the agenda, also, are periodic print ads to the public about the Framers thoughts on gun rights.

And, lastly, the Chapter recognizes the importance of gearing up right now for the political battles we will encounter in the next 18 months. This can only be accomplished with committed involvement in the local Committeeman process, local campaigns, state campaigns, a great deal of time and no small amount of money.

This quest and cause of ours is one of great Constitutional significance and consequence to you, me, our children and grandchildren. We need to get involved, stay involved, educate others, and get others involved... for the long haul.



## THE OPPORTUNITY TO WIN GET INVOLVED

By Budd Schroeder

This is a wonderful opportunity for everyone to get active in the battle to regain our Second Amendment rights. The state politicians are winding down and will soon be back in their districts. The local races in the counties and cities have their elections this fall. Remember, local races are like the minor leagues in baseball where the rookies get a chance to show what they can do.

Most of the state legislators got their start in local politics and this is an opportunity for us to make friends, check out attitudes on issues important to us and gain influence. Usually, local office holders have relationships with the "big guys and girls" in the state and federal offices. It is a good idea to work on local campaigns, especially when you are registered with the party. It also is a good opportunity to pave the way for next year to be committeemen.

A county chairman can fill vacancies for committeemen at any time and if there are open districts, it is a good idea to let the chairman know you are interested in becoming one. Get a jump on the process and get a position in the county committee. For some reason, (LOL) politicians are usually more attentive to committeemen. Could it be it is because committeemen have some clout when it comes to endorsements? Committeemen also choose who will be the party county chairman.

A second opportunity has been handed to us on a platter which is the fact that two of the "three men in a room" have been indicted for corruption. This has caused some confusion (maybe even chaos) in the state legislature. The leadership (if you want to call it that) has changed in both houses which gives us a great deal of leverage. Both men want to

keep their position of power and they need a majority in their houses to do that.

This is particularly significant in the senate. There is a slim majority for the Republicans and the loss of a couple of seats would change the party in power from Republican to Democrat. The big argument for gun owners is "what is in it for us to keep Republicans in power, when they sold us out with the SAFE act?"

John Flanagan, who replaced Dean Skelos as Majority Leader, voted for the SAFE act and now he is trying to "make nice" with the gun owners by saying "some of the parts of the law need to be changed." Wrong! The correct term is the law has to be repealed. That is unlikely with the overwhelming majority of Democrats in the assembly and Andrew Cuomo as governor.

However, if we are to get some improvement with the SAFE act, we have to start with the demand that the SAFE act be REPEALED! It is OK to negotiate for half a loaf if we are dealing with the other guy's loaf. If we can't get the whole loaf, at least we can get some political nourishment by getting more than we have now. It doesn't satisfy our hunger, but it can keep us from starvation.

Hopefully, our law suits will be successful and a court will find the law to be unconstitutional, but with the district courts made up mostly of Democrats, that is only a possibility and not a guarantee. We have to keep fighting in the trenches focusing on our districts since "all politics are local."

Because of the scandals and the failures of the SAFE act, we have to keep the issues in the forefront and ridicule is a good weapon to use. Politicians hate to have their stupid decisions pointed out. The fact that the "message of necessity" was used to pass the law and major parts of it are still not in effect, is a good argument to open a discussion.

The registration of "assault weapons" has not been very success-

ful and thankfully, our law suit regarding the FOIL to get the information on the numbers must be released by the State Police. Most people think the compliance numbers will be comparatively dismal and an embarrassment to Cuomo and Company. Non-compliance can be interpreted as public defiance. Politicians hate to see that.

Having first, second, fourth and fourteenth amendment rights violated without due process is a big argument that has virtually no defense. How can a person in America, with a Constitution, have that happen? It happened with the SAFE Act. We have seen people lose those rights because of a report made, but without any charges. No arrest, no definable offence, but only a report based on someone's opinion. The report may be an error or human mistake, but once it is made, it goes through a convoluted process that results in a person losing the right to possess firearms.

To regain the rights a person must hire a lawyer and go through an expensive process to get medical records and then present them to a judge. This means basically, that the American system of "innocent until proved guilty" is reversed. The fact that the person may have done nothing more than take a prescribed antidepressant can make this debacle happen.

One step further. If the person can prove that they are not a mental incompetent or that the report was erroneous, they may have their suspended pistol permit and the handguns returned. The glitch is that when the handguns are confiscated, the cops also take any long guns with them. If the handguns are returned, the police chief or the agency that has them doesn't have to return the long guns. To get the rifles and shotguns returned takes a court order.

The gun owner must hire a lawyer to file an Article 78 and present it to a Supreme Court Judge. The

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filing fees approach \$500 and the lawyer can charge whatever he wants to do the filing. The average fee as we researched this is \$2,500. Some offered to do it for \$1,500 and some as high as \$5,000. As one bureaucrat smirked: "It could be cheaper just to buy a new gun." That is a high price in dollars to get "justice."

The Montgomery case, which SCOPE is funding, is in the courts now. It addresses this debacle of justice and progress. As of this writing it is reportedly doing well. Other court cases are still dragging on which some say is a sign the anti-gun defendants are not optimistic about their case.

SCOPE is pushing for a law to demand transparency and the fact that we won the FOIL case is very encouraging. Now, the membership has some real ammunition to use in the fight for freedom.

Ridicule the anti-gun politicians with letters to the editor and talk radio on the stupidity and unfairness of the SAFE act. Spread the word to every gun owner and people who believe in the Constitution of these facts. Even if the letters are not published, the newspaper editor reads them and gets a feel of what his readers are thinking. If the newspaper editor writes anti-gun editorials, complain to the advertisers. Loss of revenue is a powerful motivator for any business.



This picture is from Joe in Schenectady County who proudly proclaims he's "never taking them down." At least as long as the SAFE Act and Cuomo are in NYS.



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Keep up to speed by checking in on the SCOPE website, SCOPENY.org. The laws being proposed are there to read along with commentary. Fight the anti-gun lies with facts and reason. We have a great opportunity to make the changes we need, and we are optimistic that we can grab the attention of the politicians because all state legislators have to run next year. If they realize that they can be vulnerable because of our opposition to the SAFE act, it can often give them the needed attitude adjustment.

We found that the Amish are being denied the right to buy firearms because they don't have photo IDs and they need them to get a background check. They are being denied their Second Amendment rights because they have the First Amendment right called freedom of religion.

We will provide the ammunition for you to use in the fight for our freedoms. It is up to you to hold the gun and pull the trigger. An army is only as good as its soldiers and we volunteered to be on the front lines. Join the fight and CHARGE!

## Singleness of purpose

By Don Hey

After two and one half years are we winning the war on The NY SAFE Act? Incrementally I would have to say yes. Are we satisfied? Absolutely not. Some would say at best we are keeping them at bay.

What is and has been our biggest obstacle to date? In my estimation I would say it is the Democratic Majority in the Assembly and I think most of you would agree. Just getting a bill to the floor has been impossible, much less getting a favorable vote.

In Tuesday's meeting (5/19) with Senate Majority Leader John Flanagan, Senator Mike Nozzolio and others, it was commented on that we have not done a good job of reaching out to those that do not share our views. To some this may seem like passing the buck, and to a certain point I would have to agree. We tend

to think of those that have opposed us in the past as unreachable, a lost cause, so why bother? Well, maybe this is an avenue that needs some probing.

While in Albany I had an opportunity to speak with Senator Marc Panepinto. Marc is the candidate that won a seat in the 60<sup>th</sup> District after we pummeled Mark Grisanti for lying to us. Though most, including myself wrote off Panepinto as a lost cause he did go public recently stating that he would support certain Republican Bills opposing different areas The Safe Act. This came as a surprise to me. With this being said how many other Democrats might be out there that just need a little persuasion? As any politician knows for every constituent that is vocal there is a multitude sharing the same thoughts that remain silent. I think we need to identify these "closet" supporters and work with them to persuade them to help us.

I can hear it now. He/She voted for The Safe Act. There are

many that voted for The SAFE Act that given the chance today would not do so. Or they support gay marriage and late term abortion. Common Core anyone? These things cannot cloud our objective. Remember "**Singleness of Purpose**". We oppose The NY SAFE Act and will work all possible avenues to achieve our goal! I will be reaching out to those that are in my area and asked Senator Nozzolio to supply me with a list of those thought to be reachable state-wide. I will share this list when it reaches me, and will be looking for volunteers to assist with this.

In closing a wise man once said:

"To try and fall short is not failure. What you have done is identify one more way that will not work!" Stay safe and keep up the good fight!



## New York is now quiet

By Daniel Meyers

Before the SAFE ACT I did not see very many AR (Armalite)-15's. I must assume that they were kept out of sight by those who feared this day would come. Probably due to the assault rifle misnomer that was applied to it. To those gun owners who say they have no use for these very enjoyable target rifles, I predict your favorite deer rifle will soon be labeled a SNIPER rifle. We should know that during the early years of Viet Nam the military cleaned out many sports stores of Winchester 30-06 rifles for their new sniper program. An argument can be made that since most deer are taken within 40 yards the need for a rifle capable of 500 yd. accuracy is not necessary. Now do you see how leftists work? Label it, demonize it, register it and then confiscate it from the Sheeple.

Another observation I've noticed is our politicians telling gun

owners how they are trying to help end this draconian law but, procrastinate with many and various excuses as to why nothing can be done. As soon as you hear them say "not at this time, we don't have the votes right now, etc." it should be your signal to vote for someone else. Because leftists don't wait, they keep pounding the point (usually behind closed government doors) until they get their way.

It has been shown how easy it is to take taxes, property or anything from hard working, law abiding, polite, taxpaying people. Perhaps watching on television how minorities in Baltimore, Missouri, NYC, Mississippi, etc. get government to work for them should be paid attention to. After all ISIS, Iran and Russia will be getting our nuclear material without being very nice to our government or troops. I'm sure they will send it back to us in some form when they are ready. At the very least it will be a great bargaining chip for UN inspired international gun laws that Amerika will be required to comply with; like the mandates that come

down on us from Albany.

I would not consider moving out of state as that pampered, pompous, punk from Albany has suggested. The ease at which he has ignored the Second Amendment is being closely watched by other states. So one thing they have noted is that "Liberals vote, Gun owners don't". The state has gone quiet I think, as many fear attracting law enforcement attention. I recommend going to your gun cabinet or safe and taking a hard look at what you have. Realize that some firearms (that list will grow) can never be used for self defense, fired or repaired as you would be the one in trouble for having it. The powers that be, will quickly inform you that you have brought this all on yourself. Freedom has a sound and it should be very loud and ring true, fear is quiet.

Well, I am fearful of being outed as a gun owner.



## CAN WE GET RID OF CORRUPT POLITICIANS?

By Budd Schroeder

The vultures are coming home to roost, at least in Albany. Another of the "three men in a room" has been indicted and is facing corruption charges. No big surprise! It has been expected since US Attorney Preet Bharara picked up the files from the shutdown Moreland Commission, and learned about what really goes on in Albany politics.

Since survival is a big issue with politicians, insiders wonder who will get thrown under the bus by former Speaker Sheldon Silver and now, Majority Leader Dean Skelos. Of course, the official word from both is that they are innocent and are confident that they will be vindicated.

For people who believe that there are salesmen offering a big bridge in Brooklyn and swamp land in Florida for sale. Most are wondering what other names are going to come up during the negotiations prior to the trials.

Politicians are used to making deals, and prosecutors are anxious to trade time in sentencing for juicy information on other potential candidates for arrest. Albany is a fertile field for growing corrupt politicians and Bharara is just the farmer to harvest a bumper crop.

If the attorney is successful in sending a bunch of corrupt legislators and bureaucrats to prison or at least, get them out of their jobs, wouldn't he be a great candidate to run for governor or higher public office? In the old days Governor Thomas Dewey got his start as a crime buster. History has a tendency to repeat itself and who knows what ambitions may surface in this scenario.

One thing is obvious, there is a lot of confusion in Albany, especially in the Senate. The Assembly has a new speaker, but he admits that he knows very little about upstate New York, and there doesn't seem to be a lot of productive lawmaking going on in that part of the Capitol. In New York, it seems that no legislation is better than much of the legislation that has been forced on us in the past few years, so this could be a

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good thing.

On the Senate side, there is a lot of scrambling to see who should replace Dean Skelos and the two names that come up are John DeFrancisco from the Syracuse area, and John Flanagan from the Hudson area. Gun owners in the state remember when the SAFE act was passed, DeFrancisco voted against it and Flanagan voted for it. Dean Skelos allowed it to be passed with the "message of necessity" and the gun owners are happy to see him go.

The Republicans have a very slim majority to control the Senate and the anger of the gun owners can be a handicap for the Republicans when it comes to replacing Skelos and in next year's elections or elections to fill vacancies if more senators are facing possible problems with the investigations.

Long Island could go Democrat and that would make the Democrats in complete control of the state. They proved, with the SAFE act that the New York City liberals control the laws that affect all of the

citizens in the state. The Republicans used to say that they were the only ones that keep the Big Apple politicians from "ruining" upstate New York. An activist told a Republican County Chairman, "What's the use of electing Republicans if they sell out to the Democrats?" There was no reply.

Traditionally the Assembly Speaker came from New York City and the Majority Leader came from upstate. However, the last two Speakers came from Long Island and that isn't a far cry from New York City. Upstate has a lot to worry about when it comes to the 2016 elections, and there is a group gathering momentum to split the state into two states, like Virginia and West Virginia.

That probably won't happen because it has to be passed by the state legislature and Congress. However, it does not fare well for incumbent upstate Democrats if the anger and disgust gain momentum for the

*(Continued on page 19)*

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(Continued on page 11)



(Continued from page 1)

My message to them from SCOPE:

Our bottom line has not changed, the NY SAFE Act is an attack on the rights of our members and we seek to have it repealed in its entirety or overturned in court. I did tell them that I knew it was unlikely that they would be able to get full repeal if they wanted to. I wasn't going to waste everybody's time by pounding the table and demanding what they couldn't deliver.

My message to them on what was the most important issues, short of full repeal, were the ones that had a real chance of passing. I let them know that a one-house bill, that passed the senate but then went nowhere would not impress our members. They were told that if that was all they were going to do then they should pass a bill for full repeal.

We went on to discuss possible actions short of full repeal. The things we are most interested in seeing passed right now are a proposals

to stop the ammunition background check and data base. The state police have already said that they don't have the technology to implement. Also it will cost the state millions of dollars. It would likely help solve about as many crimes as the defunct CoBIS system did – none. The best time to get rid of the whole thing is now, before it is put in place and costing NY taxpayers millions.

We also discussed many issues involving pistol licenses. The plan released by the state police last November goes way beyond the authority given in the statute. They do not have the authority to approve or deny a re-certification. The re-certification process is meant to be simply a verification of basic information, address, etc. and guns registered on the license. The process should be kept at the local issuing authority which in most counties is the clerks' office. You should not have to "opt out" to have your pistol license information kept private. They should all be private.

We went on to discuss a number of other issues. I won't go into all the details. The real question is how able and willing are the senate Republicans to pass something substantial? They are anxious for SCOPE members to believe that they are committed to standing up for the Second Amendment. But they say they can't do it alone. They will need partners in the assembly to advance legislation. I would like to believe them. There is very little time left in the 2015 legislative session. We will see what happens. Their actions will speak louder than their words.



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IT'S JUST POLITICS  
By Arlie

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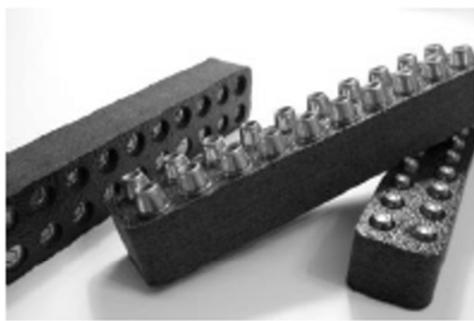
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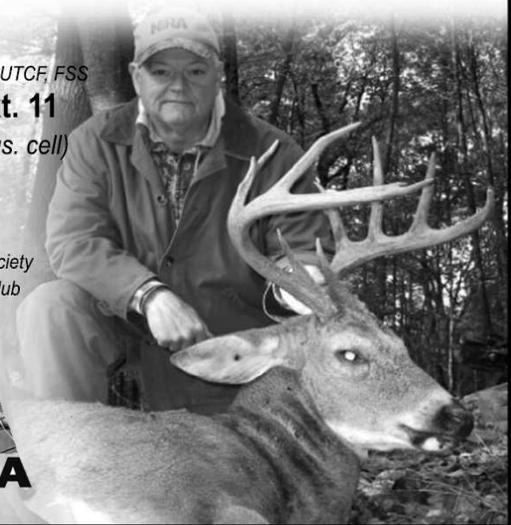
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# NY Court Rules in NY SAFE Case!

## NY State Police Must Release Registration Numbers

The Shooters Committee on Public Education (“SCOPE”) announced today the decision in the case of Robinson vs. Cuomo, signed by the Hon. Thomas J. McNamara of the New York Supreme Court, Albany County. The Court has directed the immediate release of statistical records from the New York State Division of State Police on the “assault weapons” registry.

“This Judgment of the Court requires the NYS Police to release statistical information about the so-called assault weapons registry, which they have tried to keep secret,” says Stephen J. Aldstadt, President of the Shooters Committee on Political Education (“SCOPE”). “The Court order in Robinson vs. Cuomo represents a major victory for transparency for the people of New York.”

The case was filed in October 2014 to pursue records originally requested in January 2014. The Court’s decision was issued on April 30, 2015.

The case of Robinson vs. Cuomo was filed to compel the production of records relating to the so-called “assault weapons registry.” There is no such thing as an “assault weapon.” The three primary categories of firearms as a matter of industry practice and of federal firearms compliance law are the rifle, the shotgun, and the handgun.

The term “assault weapon” is only a construct of law and is only found in the laws of New York and a handful of other states. The deadline for registration of a firearm that met the configuration details of Penal Law §265.00(22) was April 15, 2014.

As was argued in the case,

the Cuomo Administration has refused to provide any non-identifying, statistical information about the registry ever since, in spite of calls for the same from across the political spectrum, from Robinson (host of the “Second Amendment Radio Show”) to the NYS Committee on Open Government to NYPIRG and the NYS League of Women Voters.

Among the records that must now immediately be provided to Robinson, who is also a member of SCOPE, are: the number of “assault weapons” registered with the NYS Police on or after January 15, 2013; the total number of individuals who submitted applications to register “assault weapons” on or after January 15, 2013; and, a breakdown of statistical information relating to registrations by county, zip code, or other geographic identifier.

Altogether, 15 categories of records must be immediately released by the NYS Police to Robinson.

In the words of Robinson’s Attorney, Paloma A. Capanna, “We won. The ruling is clear and unequivocal. The effect of the ruling is immediate. Any failure to comply

with the ruling can – and will – be met with an application for civil contempt against the NYS Police.”

Assemblyman David DiPietro (R, C-East Aurora) said, “The Cuomo Administration has the worst record for transparency in modern New York political history. Everything is a secret to the Governor, and he fights tooth and nail to keep the public from knowing what’s going on. Maybe with this great victory in court, we will finally have an open window to see whether this registry is yet another maneuver by the Cuomo Administration for personal gain with no public benefit.”

Assemblyman Bill Nojay (R, C-Pittsford) said, “The SAFE Act never had anything to do with preventing crime or tragedy, which is why Andrew Cuomo is now refusing to provide any meaningful information about its enforcement. It was a staged theatric, which will do nothing more than snag otherwise law-abiding New York citizens in a nightmare of compliance problems. Let us now see whether the Governor, himself, complies with a court order for the sharing of information with the public.”



The New York Oath Keepers will be hosting their **FIRST ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER** this year in order to honor defenders of the U.S. and NYS Constitutions.

DATE: June 26, 2015

PLACE: ALBANY MARRIOTT, 189 Wolf Road, Albany, NY 12205

TIME: 6:00pm Reception - 7:00pm Dinner

COST: \$75.00 per Person

MAIN SPEAKER: STEWART RHODES - FOUNDER OF THE OATH KEEPERS ORGANIZATION - See more at: <http://newyorkoathkeepers.com>

**SCOPE’s President Stephen Aldstadt will be one of the award recipients.**

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**The Firing Lines is published 6 times a year and has a circulation rate of 10,000 New York State Gun owners and Sportsmen**



*(Continued from page 9)*  
 next year. The last election was an exercise in apathy, and Governor Cuomo squeaked by because of it. It was the lowest turnout in memory. It pointed out that if the voters come out in upstate, they can beat the NYC vote. Many were apathetic too, but there were more that were not and that made the difference when the votes were counted.

For the politically interested,

this will be an exceptionally interesting year. SCOPE (Shooters Committee On Political Education) and other Second Amendment groups are gearing up to become more active in local politics (all politics is local) and will be courting voters diligently to convince them that they CAN make a difference.

This can be the time to find out if the people really are satisfied with the corrupt status quo, or if they

care to improve the state. Maybe we can't change the laws, but we have the power to change the lawmakers. Next year we shall see if the citizens who didn't vote last year will stop being stupid and make the necessary changes to end the corruption. We get the government we deserve.



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Revised November 11, 2013  
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