



WILL COUNTY GRASSROOTS DIVISION OF THE ILLINOIS STATE RIFLE ASSOCIATION

NEXT MEETING - January 20, 2010 - 7:00 PM

Ivo's Express Restaurant

23819 West Eames Street

(Southeast Corner of Route 6 and I-55)

Channahon, IL 60410

815-467-0940

This month ISRA President, **Don Moran**, will speak on the past, present and future of the organization. As always, we invite you to bring a friend.

Congratulations to Will County ISRA member, *Edwin Penka*, who was the winner of the Taurus revolver in the WCGR Gun Giveaway. A new 'winner must be present' drawing will be held at the January meeting. Remember, the winner must have a valid FOID and comply with all local, state and federal laws.

Looking Back on the Year 2009

The year has gone by rather quickly, but that is usually the case, as each of us gets older. Remember how the day seemed to go on forever in our youth? As we get into the fifth or sixth decade of life, time really seems to speed up as we physically slow down. Somehow it does not seem fair, but as we know, life is not always fair.

Last month, the Will County Grassroots held its annual Christmas meeting, with an invitation to its members to show something from the gun safe at home. Our members brought some very interesting items to the meeting...some with family provenance going back several generations. Others had something new to show. One father showed us his daughter's .22 pistol that was done up in pink. Another gentleman had a Daisy BB gun in nickel that had been around for decades. There were a few shotguns shown; some were for hunting, others were family heirlooms. And there were the typical revolvers, pistols and rifles that seemed to hold a special interest for the owners. The important significance to the evening is that we have not lost all of our 2nd Amendment rights. Though we live in a state with firearm restrictions in its compiled statutes, we are still able to keep arms in Illinois and are standing up to the anti-gun liberals that do not want to understand the true meaning of the 2nd Amendment! One of the many things the ISRA has been working on is concealed carry in Illinois and the future holds promise for that goal!

In 2009, the ISRA repelled the efforts of those in Springfield to further restrict our 2nd Amendment rights. Additionally, the lawsuit, McDonald v. City of Chicago,

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against its handgun ban was granted cert by the U.S. Supreme Court for oral arguments on March 2 of this year. Besides that, the ISRA has reinforced this lawsuit by the addition of many briefs that our friends across the country have sent to the Supreme Court. Some of these briefs are from our sister state associations; others are from U.S. Attorneys, Congressmen and Legal Institutions. If you have the time and would like to look over some of these briefs, go to the ISRA website www.isra.org and click on the link to Chicago Gun Case. This is the link from Alan Gura, the attorney that won Heller v. Washington D.C., which chronologically lists all of the events of this case. Alan is one of the attorneys working for the plaintiffs in 'McDonald' and I am glad he is on our side.

There is so much more about 2009 that I think needs to be mentioned. The elections did not go well for the

Republican Party. Democrats won not only the Presidency, but also both houses in Congress. They won the Presidency by only 53% of the vote, which means we lost by a very small percentage. What I think is very important now is this: the Democrats are doing their very best to screw this up. They have really brought attention to how badly they have this country in a tailspin and I think they do not really have a clue as to how to appease everyone. Other countries have taken note of the indecisiveness of this administration and I hope this country does not suffer needlessly because of this lack of leadership. My hope here is that those independent voters, the ones that voted for Democrats last November, will have had enough of this by the next election and bring balance to Congress.

More highlights for the ISRA were the turnouts for Illinois Gun Owners Lobby Day (IGOLD) and the Range Open House. The crowd that came out to Springfield on March 10, 2009 was incredible and I, myself, was amazed that this event brought that many together! The disappointment was the lack of interest the major media had in presenting the event for the 10:00 evening news. Those in TV news and the papers continued with their disinterest in what is really important to Americans. It seems to me that when Americans get together to exercise their First Amendment right to "peaceably assemble", the media now looks the other way. It was strange to read on the internet about all those Americans in Washington, D.C. for the "Tea Party" and the "Town Hall Meetings" across the country and have the very existence of these events minimized by the major media. I am convinced there was some political motivation behind that, but true to the spirit of all Americans before us, we can find our way to the truth. The internet can bring the facts to us as long as we can carefully sieve out the garbage. The sources that supply the TV newsrooms or the newspaper writers are also available to the public. The blogs and other internet sources that write about these facts can enlighten and inform. I feel that the major media editors have been doing a disservice to the public and to themselves and it appears to me that they are more inclined to serve the political good than the public good. I wonder as to the real reason of the lack of circulation of newspapers and the decline that the big three TV corporations have of their TV viewers. John Adams once stated, "...facts are stubborn things..." and that speaks volumes of what all of America is seeking, the truth.

The ISRA Range Open House was another big surprise, in the attendance that came out for the one-day event. We expected around 1,200 people that day,

but over 1,700 showed up! There is a great video on the ISRA website and all the smiles seen on the faces of our guests indicate they all had a great time. As with IGOLD, it seems that the interest in ISRA events has been gaining in popularity over the years. I certainly hope so! There are too many gun owners in Illinois that need to awaken to what the ISRA has been doing for them!

On a sad note, we also have some losses to remember. Karl Kuhn, a past Vice President of the ISRA, was taken from us in 2009. He dedicated himself to the Second Amendment cause as a strong supporter of the NRA, ISRA and the VFW. I would also like to speak of another that gave of himself. PFC Michael Pearson of Bolingbrook was one of those killed at Fort Hood. I did not know this man or his family, but as a member of the VFW post where his family resided, I felt it necessary to be part of his return home. There are so many other Americans that gave selflessly for their country this year, too. I know they are not forgotten.

God Bless America.

Al Tiscareno



Chairman's Comments

by Doug Mayhall

Another year, as well as another decade, has passed. The following are my views of the important events that affect us law-abiding gun owners who believe in the Constitution. It seems like only yesterday that the whole world was afraid of what was going to happen with "Y2K." We worried what would happen to our computers, the electrical power plants, trains, air traffic control systems, financial institutions and more. As it turns out, only a few problems occurred so we went on our merry way, now amused by our unfounded concerns.

A year later, in 2001, a new pro-Second Amendment president took office and many gun owners breathed a sigh of relief. After having endured eight years of then, the most anti-gun president ever, we were able to defend most of our Second Amendment rights. One exception notably being the assault-gun ban that had passed by only one vote.

Then, the entire world turned around forever on 9/11/2001. I, along with millions of others, will never forget where I was when I heard the news. I was vacationing in England and was unable to get a call through to home for four days. It was very uncomfortable to be so far from home and not be able to talk to anyone in America. From that moment on, the remainder of our vacation was subdued and we were very relieved upon arriving at home.

As the strong country that we are, we united as we did

after Pearl Harbor and supported our President as he took the fight to the enemy in Afghanistan. I was proud as the people in Afghanistan were freed of their oppression. I was also happy to see some of the changes that occurred, such as girls being allowed to attend school and females being treated with more respect. The common man had much more freedom than before. When we went to war with Iraq to topple Saddam Hussein, there seemed to be less support, but I think all but the most extreme in this country were happy to see him go. And, who can forget the long lines of Iraqis happily waiting hours to vote for the first time in their lives and proudly showing their purple fingers as proof that they had voted.

The assault weapon ban was scheduled to sunset (no longer be in effect) in September of 2004. There was much hype that there would be all kinds of mayhem and killing in the streets when it happened. Nothing bad happened, as we knew would be the case, but now the current President and others are calling for its renewal.

I believe that United States' citizens, as a whole, are living the good life. Trouble is, we have grown impatient and we want everything...and we want it now. This new culture, along with the liberal media, have gotten many to grow weary of the war and want it to end no matter what the result. The debate over the wisdom of going into Iraq could go on forever, but a ruthless dictator was toppled from power; of that, there is no debate.

A fantastic event that happened in 2008 was that of the Heller decision by the Supreme Court. Basically, the Court stated that the right to own a firearm is a personal right, specifically in Washington, DC. The ISRA, along with other pro-Second Amendment groups decided to take this decision and fight the draconian Chicago gun ban. It is now going to be heard by the Supreme Court of the United States next month, with a decision expected in June. As expected, anti-gun groups have expressed fears that the Chicago gun ban will be struck down.

Clearly the country grew tired of the Republican president and the Republications in Congress, as evidenced by the November 2008 elections. Democrats won huge majorities in Congress, although not by large margins in many cases. Nevertheless, they did win. We evidenced this in Will County, in that almost all the Republicans were removed from office as many residents voted straight Democrat. I feel that many good people lost their jobs. It was apparent that

people wanted change...and they got it. We all did. Unfortunately, the radical left got into positions of extreme power from the White House, to the Speaker of the House and Speaker of the Senate to many of the Presidential Cabinet appointments. The new Supreme Court Justice is yet another example of an appointment of an extremist who is very anti-gun.

So far, it appears to me that the President has been busy fighting to change, cap and trade, global warming, health care, the banking industry, the Olympics and taking over auto companies. Due to this, it seems as if he has not done much to try to take away our guns yet, although he has sent out many trial balloons to observe the reactions from the public and Congress. Fortunately, the reactions have been strongly in favor of the Second Amendment. He has also tried to float the idea of eliminating talk radio as we know it, trying to revive the Fairness Doctrine. I don't believe this has ever worked; left-leaning radio has always failed through lack of listeners and advertisers. The President will soon try another end run to limit talk radio when the timing is right. In my opinion, he has tried to force his medicine down everyone's throat and I think that many of us are getting fed up. Look at all of the huge crowds at the tea parties and other rallies. This is something I have never seen, protesters in such huge groups. I believe the President has tried to fit his radical ideas into the job of running the country and it has taken some time to get his crew together and working as a team. When he feels the time is right, I think that he will surely throw out so many anti-gun laws, presidential executive orders, international treaties and insertion of radical judges that we will have our hands full trying to not lose our precious First and Second Amendment rights. We have those in Congress, on both sides of the isle, which will defend our rights. But, as we saw with the health care plan, I don't think the President will stop at anything to persuade the legislators to vote his way. It is our job to let our legislators know that voting against the people will eventually get them voted out of office.

All in all, I suppose it was a good decade. I think we need to get this next decade started in the right direction, that of "America...land of the free". Please remain vigilant and communicate often with your legislators. The timing is right to get them to listen. Already several left wing legislators have announced they are retiring, knowing they will not get re-elected. Let's get many more legislators to either defend our rights or to decide to join the ranks that are retiring. Then, let's vote in people who are willing to defend the Constitution as it was written and protect all of our rights.

*** Please note ***

Articles in the WCGR newsletter contain information gathered by and are of the specific viewpoint and beliefs of their authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the ISRA.

Calendar of Events

- January 16** ISRA Winter Wars Match VI - **ISRA Range** - Bonfield - Claude Heale (815) 553-0591
- January 20** ISRA Will County Grassroots Meeting - Ivo's Express Restaurant - Channahon
- January 30** ISRA Women on Target - Chillicothe Sportsmen's Club - Chillicothe - ISRA (815) 635-3198
- January 31** Kane County Gun Show - Kane County Fairgrounds - Kathy Carlson (815) 758-2773
- February 7** Wheaton Gun Show - Dupage County Fairgrounds - Mike Holan (630) 365-2808
- February 14** Kane County Gun Show - Kane County Fairgrounds - Kathy Carlson (815) 758-2773
- February 27** ISRA Women on Target - Chillicothe Sportsmen's Club - Chillicothe - ISRA (815) 635-3198
- February 27 & 28** G.A.T. Guns Factory Shoot - G.A.T. Guns - Dundee - (847) 428-4867
- March 7** Wheaton Gun Show - Dupage County Fairgrounds - Mike Holan (630) 365-2808
- March 10** **IGOLD** (Illinois Gun Owners Lobby Day) - Springfield - ISRA (815) 635-3198
- March 13 & 14** Kankakee Gun Show - Kankakee County Fairgrounds - Terry Keller (866) 930-4422
- March 21** Three Rivers FNRA Annual Dinner and Auction - Renaissance Center - Joliet
Save the date & look for more information in future newsletters
- April 11** Kane County Gun Show - Kane County Fairgrounds - Kathy Carlson (815) 758-2773
- April 17 & 18** Kankakee Gun Show - Kankakee County Fairgrounds - Terry Keller (866) 930-4422
- May 13 - 16** NRA 2010 Annual Meeting & Exhibits - Charlotte Convention Center - Charlotte, NC
It's not too early to start making plans to attend this event.

*** Please use the above contact information for detailed information (i.e. fees, registration) and to confirm events as dates are subject to change without notice ***

*Please contact Chairman, Doug Mayhall, or the ISRA office if you would like to volunteer at any of the **ISRA** events*

E-mail us at willcounty@isra.org if you have any events you would like included in this monthly newsletter

***** Political Disclaimer *****

The ISRA and the Will County Division of the ISRA **cannot** and **will not** endorse any candidate or party. We feature speakers to allow us to learn about the positions a candidate holds on the Second Amendment and welcome all candidates to speak to us. Only the **ISRA Political Victory Fund (ISRA-PVF)** can endorse candidates or donate to political campaigns.

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