



WILL COUNTY GRASSROOTS DIVISION OF THE ILLINOIS STATE RIFLE ASSOCIATION

NEXT MEETING - March 21, 2007 - 7:00 PM

Sara's Place Restaurant

Joliet, IL (815) 741-3076

This month, we will have a report on IGOLD and our trip to Springfield. We will also discuss what you can do to inform and influence your senators and representatives to support our cause. Be sure to bring your friends and family.

Will County ISRA member, Frank J. Kovachik Jr., was the name drawn at the February meeting in the WCGR "Gun Giveaway". Unfortunately for Frank, he was not present. Another name will be drawn at our March meeting. Remember, the winner must be present, have a valid FOID and comply with all local, state and federal firearm laws.

A Million Acts of Kindness

Last month's newsletter had an article from the President of USO Illinois, Lisa Moeller. In it, she gave us an idea of what the United Service Organization (USO) has been doing for the men and women of our military, here and abroad.

Lisa came to our February meeting to tell us more about the USO. There is so much happening in the world right now, including our country's involvement in the fight against terrorism. It is

reassuring to hear that the USO is just as dedicated and committed as ever to supporting our troops, wherever they may be.

Dedicated to the needs of our

military personnel has been foremost to the USO. It is vital to these military men and women to maintain links to their family and friends back home and the USO has the facilities to keep everyone in touch with each other. In Vietnam, I had only two choices to stay in touch back home, written letters or short-wave radio. Many times the USO assisted us in getting the word home that we were all right. Today, with cell phones, computers



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and e-mail, the USO provides our soldiers many more options in order to communicate with their loved ones at home.

The USO is one of the best at helping military personnel when a crisis or emergency occurs. Some of these programs and services include family crisis counseling, housing assistance and support groups. With over 1.5 million active duty personnel around the world, it is very reassuring to know that organizations like the USO are there to help.

Those not very familiar with the USO have probably heard of the entertainment aspect of this

organization. Actor and comedian, Bob Hope, is the one name most closely associated with the USO and its legendary shows. There is a great deal of effort and energy put into these programs and it is a credit to the many entertainers and personalities that make the time to cheer up the troops today. These USO shows bring to our heroes a little time to escape from the realities of the world around them.

I know this well enough. The best memory of Vietnam that I have is the Bob Hope USO show. I don't remember the jokes, the skits or even the day of the week, but I do remember how important it was to me, and the rest of the Marines, that were able to see this living legend.

The USO gives back to our military more than any other organization. They do their best to be there for every deployment and every homecoming. Whether it's sending off hundreds of soldiers to battle for our freedom...or simply being there to receive one of our fallen heroes, the USO is there to lend its support.

The USO needs our support, too. It is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit charitable organization that does not receive financial support from the government. That's where we come in. Why not donate something to the USO? Donate some time. Donate some money. Offer them what you can. Let's help them help our troops.

Thank you, Lisa Moeller, for letting us know about what the USO does for our troops and their families. We wish you continued success with everything you do to support our troops and we thank you for being there, "Until Every One Comes Home."

To volunteer or contribute to the USO, please visit www.uso.org/illinois or call: 312-923-7070.

Al Tiscareno



Chairman's Comments

Well, after the Cook County assault weapon ban passed so easily a couple of months ago without even being listed on the agenda (which that is illegal), the 'antis' are really feeling their oats and are on the offensive. They are testing the waters to see how far they can go in passing anti-gun legislation in the entire state by sending a multitude of gun restriction bills out to different legislative committees where they feel they have the best chance of getting passed so the general legislature can vote on them. One of the worst of these is SB16, which was voted out of committee. It would ban many, if not most guns commonly owned, along with HB0796, HB1696 and HB3633, which are designed to put dealers out of business and revoke your FOIA card.

But we (the ISRA) are also on the offensive. We, too, have several pro-gun bills in Committee that we are hoping to get out into the General Assembly, including a concealed carry bill. We have filed for a temporary restraining order in Cook County that is currently being processed. If successful, we will then file for a permanent restraining order. And we have big plans, coordinated with other pro-gun groups in Illinois, for IGOLD to be held on Wednesday 3.14.07 in Springfield to visit our legislators.

Apathy is a lack of concern and is the definition of most gun owners. Any group, by nature, has a few members who do most of the work to keep it growing and successful, with most members just going along for the ride. Some members do nothing at all. Gun owners are a classic example of this. There are over 1.5 million law-abiding gun owners in Illinois and only a fraction of them belong to the NRA or the ISRA. Yet when you talk to most gun owners about gun grabs, they say, "They will never take my guns." About the only good thing that happens when a lot of anti-gun

* * * 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.

politicians get elected and anti-gun bills crop up, is membership in all pro-gun groups rise significantly.

Let's not be apathetic, let's all be in the lead and vigorously recruit new members, call our senators, and representatives. Twenty calls on a pending bill is a lot to a legislator, so let's give them several hundred!! Last year, Emil Jones got so many calls from us on a bill, that they gave up even trying to answer the phone. Let's do that again this year! It's up to you!!

So keep up with the latest news and visit the ISRA website for recent changes. What happens in Springfield is up to you and me. We can be apathetic and lose or we can rise to the occasion and fight. Then, and only then, we WILL win the fight in Springfield.

Doug Mayhall

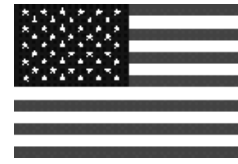
WWW.IGOLD.ISRA.ORG

**11th Annual
Three Rivers Friends of NRA Dinner
Sunday, March 18, 2007**

The Three Rivers Friends of the NRA will be hosting their 11th annual fundraising banquet on Sunday, March 18th, 2007 at the Renaissance Center located in downtown Joliet.

Silent and live auctions, various games, drawings and raffles will be held throughout the event, including a special raffle for our younger guests. Sponsorship packages are available.

Dinner tickets are \$35.00 each and there are also a variety of packages available this year. You may purchase tickets and inquire about Sponsor packages by calling Dolores at 630-935-6470 or on the website threeriversfnra.com



The Will County Grassroots Committee would like you to join them in paying special tribute to our veterans at our meeting in May 2007. As part of this memorial tribute, we will be delivering a variety of desired items to a local Veteran's Home located in Manteno, IL. Below is a list of some of the desired items that the veterans have requested (the complete list can be found on our website and at the meeting). We are asking that anyone who would like to contribute to this endeavor bring their donated items to the Will County Grassroots meetings in March and April. For hygienic reasons, please provide new (not used) and non-expired items.

- After-shave & pre-shave lotions
- Batteries (AAA, AA, 9V, C, D)
- Candy (no nuts/caramel)
- Cologne (for men & women)
- Deodorant (stick only)
- Electric Razors
- Fixodent Denture Cream
- Kleenex/Paper Towels
- Phone Cards
- Sweat Pants (M thru XXXL)

Please contact Doug Mayhall or Kim Beard if you have any questions. As always, we appreciate your support and generosity!

2007 NRA CONVENTION

The Illinois State Rifle Association will be present at the NRA Convention in St. Louis, Missouri, April 12-15, 2007. Lots of work will be done to showcase our organization during that week, so there is a need for more help once our exhibit is set up for those four days. Volunteers are needed to assist the ISRA exhibitors. If you are planning to attend this convention and would like to help, please contact:

**Illinois State Rifle Association
815 635-3198**

Calendar of Events

- March 14** **IGOLD** (Illinois Gun Owner Lobby Day) - Springfield - ISRA (815) 635-3198 or visit WWW.IGOLD.ISRA.ORG
- March 17** Midwest Sporting Goods Open House - Lyons - (708) 447-4848
- March 17** NRA First Steps Pistol Orientation - Mega Sports - Plainfield - contact Kent at (815) 545-4872 or visit www.firearmsafetytraining.com
- March 18** Kane County Gun Show - Kane County Fairgrounds - (815) 758-2773
- March 18** Three Rivers Friends of NRA Dinner - Renaissance Center, Joliet - contact Doug Mayhall (708) 514-4591 or Dolores (630) 935-6470 to purchase tickets
- March 23 & 24** **ISRA Annual Meeting** - Holiday Inn Select, Naperville - ISRA (815) 635-3198
- March 31** NRA First Steps Pistol Orientation - Mega Sports - Plainfield - contact Kent at (815) 545-4872 or visit www.firearmsafetytraining.com
- April 1** Wheaton Gun Show - Dupage County Fairgrounds - (773) 237-8844
- April 12-15** NRA Annual Meeting & Exhibits - St.Louis, MO - www.nraam.org/default.asp
- April 14** NRA First Steps Pistol Orientation - Mega Sports - Plainfield - contact Kent at (815) 545-4872 or visit www.firearmsafetytraining.com
- April 15** Kane County Gun Show - Kane County Fairgrounds - (815) 758-2773
- April 21** NRA First Steps Shotgun Orientation - Erienna Hunt Club - Morris - contact Kent at (815) 545-4872 or visit www.firearmsafetytraining.com
- April 21 & 22** Kankakee Gun Show - Kankakee County Fairgrounds - (815) 939-7572
- April 28** First Steps Rifle Orientation - Mega Sports - Plainfield - contact Kent at (815) 545-4872 or visit www.firearmsafetytraining.com
- April 29** Wheaton Gun Show - Dupage County Fairgrounds - (773) 237-8844

** Please use the above contact information to confirm events as dates may change without notice *
Please contact Chairman, Doug Mayhall, or the ISRA office if you would like to help out at any of the ISRA events*

E-mail willcounty@isra.org if you have any events you would like included in next month's newsletter

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104th Annual ISRA Meeting

March 23-24, 2007

Holiday Inn Select

Naperville, IL

Meet the Officers and Directors of the ISRA
and join fellow members at the
104th ISRA Annual Meeting and Banquet

Free admission to ISRA Annual Meeting and Educational Seminars

"Meet & Greet" Reception

Friday Evening, March 23

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Educational Sessions

and

Annual Meeting of Members

Saturday, March 24

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Banquet

Keynote Speaker: Bob Barr, Former Congressman and Gun Rights' Activist

Drawing and Raffles

Saturday Evening, March 24

*** * * Banquet tickets are still available * * ***

To purchase tickets or for more information, please visit:

www.isra.org