



WILL COUNTY GRASSROOTS DIVISION OF THE ILLINOIS STATE RIFLE ASSOCIATION

NEXT MEETING - April 18, 2007 - 7:00 PM

Sara's Place Restaurant

Joliet, IL (815) 741-3076

This month, ISRA member **Gene Sowa** will talk about Japanese Brownings. Be sure to bring your friends and family.

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

Something in the Wind

Since January, the ISRA has been letting everyone know about the status of certain bills that are coming through the Illinois State Legislature. As we read about the many bills (good and bad) that make their way through the State House and Senate, one wonders if the anti-gun folks in Illinois will ever see the light.

It seems to us believers in the Second Amendment that the "right to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed." It is as clear as the Liberty Bell. Right? One reason there is such debate over our Second Amendment rights is because



the U.S. Supreme Court has not had to decide if these rights are individual or collective. The ISRA, NRA and other gun rights activists see it as an individual right and the other side sees it the other way. They believe that the prefatory clause of the Second Amendment, "A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state," defines the Second Amendment as a reference in

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maintaining a state militia, creating a collective right of the state to regulate firearms.

On March 9th of this year, in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, a case with the potential to overturn firearm bans across the country was decided. In "Parker vs. District of Columbia", the Court decided that the handgun ban in Washington D.C. is unconstitutional and struck down this gun law on Second Amendment grounds. This is big! In the history of this country, no court has ever struck down a gun law because it violated our RIGHTS as stated

in the Second Amendment. In a 2-1 decision, Senior Judge Laurence H. Sliberman wrote the majority opinion and stated, " We conclude that the Second Amendment protects an individual right to keep and bear arms." Not only did the Appellate Court strike down the gun ban, but other laws as well. One of these laws stated that if you owned a handgun that had been "grand-fathered" before the 1976 gun ban, then it would be illegal to move that handgun from room to room within your own home. Any other firearm in possession would have to be broken down, trigger locked and stored in an inaccessible location. Just so you know, the dissenting Judge stated that since the District of



Columbia was not a State, the Second Amendment does not apply to its residents.

What could happen next is that, after the smoke clears, the Washington D.C. anti-gun folks will try to seek a review by the full D.C. circuit and then the U.S. Supreme Court could be asked to review this case. With the Supreme Court biased more towards the conservative side, it will be anticipated that they decide it to be an individual right. It will be a while before the Supreme Court will get a chance to look at this decision. But, I strongly feel that before the present administration leaves, another Supreme Court Justice seat will be vacated and President Bush will select another conservative-thinking Justice. Many legal authorities believe that this could decide, once and for all, how the Second Amendment should be interpreted.

Al Tiscareno

Chairman's Comments



Well, it would be an understatement to say that the last couple of months have been pretty exciting for both gun haters and firearm enthusiasts all across the country on both federal and state levels.

The most important event in recent history is probably the appellate court overturning the Washington D.C. gun ban and very clearly stating that the right to keep and bear arms is indeed an individual right. Sara Brady is absolutely livid about this as can be seen by her raving articles. And, she must be very worried about future court rulings.

On the state level, the bans on "assault weapons" and .50 calibers that are being considered are getting all of the attention. Both sides are trying very hard to gather their troops to pressure the politicians to vote their way. There are approximately 225 bills that are firearm-related, including hunting and conservation issues. These bills are both pro and anti-gun and many of them are "shell bills." These are nothing more than empty bills that can have content added to them at any time the writer of the bill feels they have the best chance of getting it through the legislature. Many bills will never make it out of Committee or will be amended so that the final bill is nothing like the original bill. For example, one bill in last year's Assembly amazingly changed content five times, going back and forth from pro to anti-gun. Another bill that started out as one requiring all surplus military hardware to be destroyed or permanently rendered 'unusable' somehow changed into a gaming bill.

Even a bill that gets out of Committee may never get the majority of votes needed to pass through the respective House or Senate and it dies there. If it passes through one chamber, then it must be brought

***** 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.

to the other chamber to be voted on. If it passes through this chamber, any differences between the House and Senate bills must be resolved before it can be passed on to the Governor who either signs it or vetoes it. If it is vetoed, it can be overridden if both chambers override the Governor's veto with a super majority. What this means to gun owners is two things. First, it is a long, drawn-out and difficult process for any bill to get out of committee, to get voted out of both chambers and get the Governor to sign it into law. Second, we must be very watchful of the contents in each bill. When we are alerted, for example by the ISRA, to notify our Senator or Representative, we should contact them and politely request that they either vote for or against a bill. We must do so immediately, as a day or so later often is too late and the vote has already taken place. The people that are more active, organized and funded have the advantage to get the bills they want turned into law.

IGOLD

To that end, every year we have a "Lobby Day" in Springfield at the capitol building. On the past, we had one hundred or so "diehards" attend. It consisted of a briefing in the cafeteria, handouts were distributed and then the attendees visited their respective Senators and Representatives. This year, we associated with several other gun rights' organizations in the state and called the event "IGOLD," an acronym for Illinois Gun Owners' Lobby Day. We were more organized and had busses take people to Springfield from all over the state. Approximately 350 people took advantage of this chance to ride and bond with like-minded people. It turned out that, with so many people in attendance, we had to have the briefing in the theatre. It was standing room only for two sessions and a third session was conducted for about fifty more people. The number of attendees is considered to be somewhere between 1300-1500.

All of the attendees wore badges and a couple

hundred wore yellow "IGOLD" t-shirts. As you walked through the capital building that day, you couldn't go anywhere without seeing the majority of people wearing badges and/or yellow shirts. The legislators were surely inundated with pro-gun people. We all went to see our respective legislators and gave them cards indicating to them which bills we supported and which bills we were against. Afterward, we had a reception in the Library where many legislators visited with us.

All in all, it was an extremely effective day. We made quite an impression on the politicians, showing them that we can join forces with a large number of people who believe in our cause. We also reinforced that we can work with other firearms groups to circle the wagons and, together, fight the real enemy.

Now is the time for each and every one of us to follow through and do all that we can to support our firearm rights by working hard to recruit new members to ISRA and NRA. Winning is a numbers game. We must keep the pressure on our politicians to vote to protect our rights and our freedoms. There are several out there just waiting for us to let our guard down or get lazy. Let's not do that!

Doug Mayhall

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:

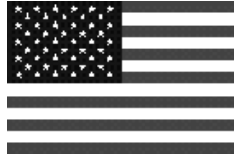
Illinois State Rifle Association
815 635-3198

For information regarding the convention, call:

NRA 877-800-4672

or visit

www.nraam.org/default.asp



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. We are asking that anyone who would like to contribute to this endeavor bring their donated items to the Will County Grassroots meetings in April and May. **For hygienic reasons, please provide new (not used) and non-expired items. Due to infection control policies, we request all personal care items be new.**

(New) Greeting Cards, Phone Cards
White Railroad Socks – No Elastic, Postage Stamps
Batteries AAA, AA, 9 Volt, C, D, Magnifying Glasses

Personal Care Items:

Hair Cream/Dressing for Men, After-shave and Pre-shave
Deodorant (Stick only), Cologne for Men & Women
Body Lotion/Cream, Efferdent Tablets for dentures
Fixodent – denture cream, Kleenex (large & small boxes)
Electric Razors – New

Diabetics / Sugar Free:

Candy, Gum, Cookies, Vanilla Wafers

Snacks:

Fresh Fruit, Bananas, Candy Bars – no nuts/caramel
Small boxes of Raisins, Cookies
Individual Packages – Chips, Gum
Soft Granola/Cereal Bars
Individually Wrapped Candy (soft)
Individual Packages – Crackers/Cheese, Fruit Punch
Individual Packages – Crackers/Peanut Butter, Individual Juice Boxes
Individually Sealed Fruit Cups (i.e. DelMonte or Dole)

Smoking Material:

Cigarettes, Cigars
Disposable Lighters, Tobacco (chewing)

Other:

Coffee, Paper Plates (varied sizes)
Six-ounce Foam Cups, Napkins
Paper Towels, Forks, Spoons, Knives – PLASTIC
Fabric Softener Sheets, Bath Towels (for making bibs)
Sweat Pants (M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL), Charcoal and Lighter Fluid
DVD Movies

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

Calendar of Events

- 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
- May 5 & 6** CADA Gun Show - Dupage Expo Center - St.Charles - (760) 202-4489
(CADA = Collectors Arms Dealer's Association)
- May 13** NRA First Steps Pistol Orientation - Mega Sports - Plainfield - contact Kent at (815) 545-4872 or visit www.firearmsafetytraining.com
- May 13** Kane County Gun Show - Kane County Fairgrounds - (815) 758-2773
- May 19** Wheelin' Sportsmen Shoot & Awareness Event-ISRA Range-Bonfield - (815) 635-3198
- May 19** NRA First Steps Shotgun Orientation - Erienna Hunt Club - Morris - contact Kent at (815) 545-4872 or visit www.firearmsafetytraining.com
- June 9** ISRA Range Open House - ISRA Range - Bonfield - (815) 635-3198

** 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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