



WILL COUNTY GRASSROOTS DIVISION OF THE ILLINOIS STATE RIFLE ASSOCIATION

NEXT MEETING - August 20, 2008 - 7:00 PM

**Sara's Place Restaurant
3501 Channahon Rd. (Route 6)
Joliet, IL
(815) 741-3076**

Retired ISRA Board member, **Carl Kuhn**, will be our speaker this month. Carl will be discussing unique and unusual firearms and will bring some examples to share with the group. As always, we invite you to bring a friend...it's sure to be an interesting and informative evening!

Will County ISRA member, *Peter Stoller*, was the name drawn for the WCGR Gun Giveaway last month. Unfortunately, Peter was not present, so he missed out on the Mossberg 500 shotgun. Remember, the winner must be present, have a valid FOID and comply with all local, state and federal firearm laws.

On the Offensive

While awaiting the decision of the U.S. Supreme Court, I hoped that the Justices would give us some leverage for future court battles that were expected to develop. Guessing at what the decision could be created some unsettling thoughts and though many felt the way I did, nothing could prevent me from worrying about the outcome. After the Supreme Court heard the oral arguments in *Heller*, I spoke to many gun owners at gun shows, the NRA convention and FNRA banquets. Foremost on everyone's minds was this thought... which way will Justice Kennedy vote? This basic right hinged on the decision of one man.

Thankfully, Alan Gura represented Richard Heller in this landmark case. It is through Mr. Gura's skill and dedication in not only the *Heller* case, but also in the initial *Parker* case that brought us to this point in time. I know that many others worked behind the scenes, enduring endless hours, preparing court strategies and we thank all of them for their efforts. It was well worth everything that it took to put it all together. The Supreme Court finally had the opportunity to declare, for the first time, that the Second Amendment is an individual right and a ban on handguns is unconstitutional.

In Illinois, we are well aware of what this decision means. It opens the door to returning to "Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness" with the fundamental right of gun ownership to law abiding

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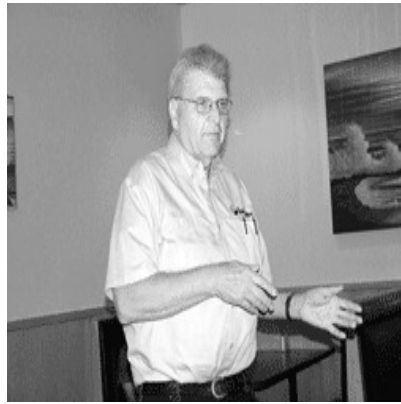
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citizens. The ISRA has also been awaiting this decision. When the Supreme Court handed out its decision, the ISRA, along with the Second Amendment Foundation (SAF), handed the city of Chicago a lawsuit (with Mayor Richard M. Daley's name on it as well) that demanded that the handgun ban be lifted.

Richard Pearson, ISRA Executive Director, was at our July Will County Grassroots meeting to tell us what he could about this lawsuit and what it means to Illinois residents.

The ISRA and SAF began working on this lawsuit back in September 2007 and it must have been difficult for all involved to speculate, not only the

strategy of Alan Gura, but also the eventual decision of the Supreme Court. When the Supreme Court did announce their decision, the ISRA was ready to give the Mayor his long-overdue and well-deserved lawsuit. Most of the Will County members I've spoken with felt that the Heller decision should have given the Chicago handgun ban its walking papers and asked



Richard Pearson why this was not the case. Mr. Pearson explained that the 2nd Amendment is part of the Bill of Rights that has not been "incorporated" or absorbed into the 14th Amendment*. What that means is that the

14th Amendment is worded to allow the Bill of Rights restrictions on Federal power to be applicable to the states. This opens up a big can of worms in the legal community. This is not automatically done, as the legislatures and the courts have say in this matter. As we all know, the 2nd Amendment has created a lot of controversy these past eighty years with the two concepts of "individual" versus "collective" rights. However, this Court did not incorporate this right with the 14th Amendment. I did some research into this controversy and found that there are three basic thoughts on incorporating a Bill of Rights with the 14th Amendment. One is to not incorporate, as it could change a meaning of a Right and each state is well aware that these Rights are not to be infringed or abridged. Another is to incorporate all of the Rights, as it should prevent a state from violating any Right. The last is to carefully address each Right and decide if it merits incorporation with the 14th Amendment. Each argument has its points and, since I am not a lawyer, I am not sure which argument is considered the best, from a legal stand.

This is why this lawsuit is so important. It seeks the courts to not only remove the bans and the capricious nature of the rules that law-abiding Chicago citizens must follow. It also asks that the 2nd Amendment be incorporated into the 14th

Amendment. If this were done, then all States would have to abide by this ruling and the Heller decision. This is important. This is historic.

Mr. Pearson asked everyone present to find more members for the ISRA and to help out, especially financially, when asked. We are all aware of the price at the pumps and that the dollar needs to be stretched out a bit further, but please realize that this endeavor is not cheap. Lawyers are expensive and have already worked many hours for us. One way I can think of to make it easier is to write a check each month, for ten dollars, to the ISRA. By the end of the year, you will have contributed \$120 and it would not be as much of a hit to your wallet. You may send your checks to: ISRA, P.O. Box 637, Chatsworth, IL, 60921.

Since the Supreme Court decision, Washington D.C. has not followed what the Supreme Court has directed the city to do. I spoke with a friend of mine the other day. He, a retired attorney, told me that the Supreme Court has not ever generated an "Order of Contempt," but certainly has the power to do so.

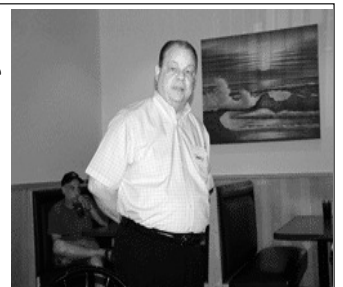
Finally, there is not much time left before it is time to vote. Please think carefully about your choices, be sure you are registered to vote and see about those that may not or cannot go out to vote on November 4th, 2008. Consider taking some of your friends and neighbors to the polls that day. They would certainly appreciate the ride and it would get more voters out.

There are many good people working behind the scenes to insure that the ISRA will maintain its leadership role here in Illinois. The Officers, Directors and the staff of the ISRA are committed to that end. In my opinion, Richard Pearson is the hardest working one of them all. I am convinced that, without Richard, the ISRA would not be where it is today. Thank you, Richard!

Al Tiscareno

July 2008

Marty Ozinga (R), candidate for the IL 11th Congressional District, speaks to our group about his candidacy and his stance on the Second Amendment.



Thank you for visiting with us!



Chairman's Comments

July 11, 2008 is a date that will long be remembered in Chicago history by firearm owners and by Mayor Daley. It was on this day that Second Amendment supporters dared to tread on the hallowed ground in the heart of Chicago...one of this country's most anti-gun cities. The proverbial wall surrounding the City, a place that is saturated with the absolute gun control rants by the Mayor, began to crumble. The setting for this first-ever Pro-Second Amendment Rally was the James R.Thompson Center, directly outside the window of the infamous Mayor Richard M.Daley. Known for being a sanctuary for both the mayor of Chicago and the governor of Illinois, Chicago has previously been a bastion of anti-Second Amendment ideology.

After the phenomenal success of IGOLD (Illinois Gun Owners Lobby Day) this past March, when well over 1200 people marched down the streets of Springfield to the Capital Building, having a similar event in Chicago seemed only natural. Timing of the event was opportune, as it followed the Supreme Court's ruling on the Second Amendment...a decision that dramatically affected Chicago's draconian and unconstitutional firearm ban. The ruling did state, in effect, that the gun bans in Washington DC, Chicago, Morton Grove, Wilmette, Evanston and several other cities were, indeed, unconstitutional. Some of these cities (most notably Wilmette and Morton Grove that instituted the first gun bans some twenty-seven years ago) have already rescinded their gun bans. Mayor Daley, on the other hand, has vowed to spend millions to fight the US Supreme Court's decision.

Cisco Cotto, a popular morning disc jockey with AM560 WIND talk radio, emceed the event. The keynote speaker for the event was none other than Dr. Suzanna Hupp.

For those of you who may not be familiar with Dr.Hupp, she, in 1991, watched helplessly in horror as a deranged gunman killed her parents along with

twenty-one others in a Luby's cafeteria in Killeen, TX. She had left her legally owned concealed carry gun in the trunk of her car, as Texas law required at that time. Dr.Hupp later won a seat in the Texas House of Representatives and was successful in changing the Texas concealed carry law to the common sense law it is now.

Her accounts and real-life experience with how an adverse law allowed so many people to get killed was especially inspiring. She stated that, after the tragic killing of her parents and the others present that dreadful day, she got inspired to do whatever was necessary to change the situation...and she succeeded.

Other speakers included: Mike Weisman, First Vice President of the ISRA; Valinda Rowe with IllinoisCarry.com; Doug Krick, a member of the Pink Pistols; Paula Bratich,DVM, of Second Amendment Sisters; Cook County Commissioner,Tony Peraica; and Colleen Lawson, one of the plaintiffs in the lawsuit challenging Chicago's handgun ban.

Just as we are energized right now, the "antis" are equally anxious to regain the ground they have lost. It is our determination that will allow us to do anything and our endurance and dedication must remain strong. In the 60's, President Kennedy said that America would get a man on the moon in ten years. Many scoffed at the idea, claiming it was impossible. But, America did it. Momentum is on our side and we have the power and perseverance to influence many other changes to the current anti-gun laws. We must continue to work with our pro-gun legislators in order to make a difference. So much is at stake. Let's be sure our determination is stronger than that of our enemies.

Doug Mayhall

For information regarding future
ISRA events, visit:

www.isra.org

*** Please note ***

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

Calendar of Events

- August 17** **ISRA Battle Rifle Belly Match - ISRA Range** - Claude Heale (815) 553-0591
- August 30** SAFER USA Handgun Marksmanship Qualification Course (Part 1 of 2) - Howell Shooting Club - Yorkville - David Lombardo - (815) 744-5487 - Early registration & fees applicable Note: Part 2 of 2 will be held on Saturday, September 6, 2008
- August 31** **GSSF/ISRA Glock League - ISRA Range** - Bonfield - Terry Kreimeier (815) 635-3198
- September 5-6** SAFER USA Basic Pistol - Howell Shooting Club - Yorkville - David Lombardo - (815) 744-5487 - Early registration & fees applicable
- September 6** SAFER USA Handgun Marksmanship Qualification Course (Part 2 of 2) - Howell Shooting Club - Yorkville - David Lombardo - (815) 744-5487 - Early registration & fees applicable
- September 6** Firearm Safety Training, Inc.-NRA First Steps Pistol Orientation-Mega Sports-Plainfield Kent (815) 545-4872 - Early registration is necessary!
- September 12-13** SAFER USA Basic Shotgun - Howell Shooting Club - Yorkville - David Lombardo - (815) 744-5487 - Early registration & fees applicable
- September 13** **Annual ISRA Sighting-In Day - ISRA Range** - Bonfield - ISRA (815) 635-3198
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - FREE PARKING - ISRA or Range membership is not required - nominal \$10.00 fee per firearm sighted in - bring your own ammunition
- September 13,14** Kankakee Gun Show - Kankakee County Fairgrounds - Terry Keller (815) 930-4422
- September 14** **ISRA/CMP Qualification & Vintage Military Rifle Match - ISRA Range** - Bonfield - Jess Brandt (815) 697-2205 or John Newman (815) 485-0351
- September 26-27** Firearm Safety Training, Inc.-NRA Personal Protection in the Home - Mega Sports-Plainfield - Kent (815) 545-4872 - Early registration is necessary!
- September 26-27** SAFER USA Basic Rifle - Howell Shooting Club - Yorkville - David Lombardo - (815) 744-5487 - Early registration & fees applicable
- October 4** **ISRA Doughboy Match - ISRA Range** - Bonfield - ISRA (815) 635-3198
Fees applicable. Advanced registration by mail closes Sept. 26, 2008

*** 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 the 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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NRA Life Member & Recruiter
EVC 11th Congressional District
ISRA Life Member

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and Match Rifle
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