

Obama's Kabuki Theater

By Ralph Esposito
Newsletter Editor

President Obama stepped over the seemingly inept Congress to announce his newest Executive Action regarding gun control in a speech on January 5th, 2016. As I watched it could better be described as "Kabuki Theater." A form of theater coming from Japan that is noted for its drama and exaggeration, both played to the hilt by the President.

As the curtain opened Obama stood surrounded by victims of tragedy. Declaring that his plan was just "common sense" he began his sermon. The gist was to keep guns from the hands of the mentally ill and criminals. No sane or reasonable person would argue that. Of course as in all government solutions the devil is in the details.

Tears slowly rolled down his cheeks as he talked about the children killed in Newtown as well as the out of control violence plaguing Chicago. Neglected of course was the fact that in the past 7 years of his tenure he has done nothing to stem the daily gun violence in Chicago. Most recent stats for 2015 in Chicago are 2552 shot and wounded, 443 were killed, mostly in gang/drug related

violence. Not a legally owned gun in the lot.

He outlined his new "common sense" gun control order like a snake oil salesman hawking his "miracle cure." It will include requiring a gun dealer's license for anyone selling over 2 guns. As well as requiring doctors' records, the Veterans Administration records and social security records to be part of the NICS background search. Miracle cure or new nightmare for gun owners?

Make no mistake this action is hardly "common sense." It is another attack on the Second Amendment. Chipping away at who can buy and own a gun. Setting the requirements higher as well as increasing costs to purchase and own a gun.

The "you may be a gun dealer if..." portion of the executive action sounds unsettling especially if you read U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives publication "DO I NEED A LICENSE TO BUY AND SELL FIREARMS?"

"Federal law does not establish a "bright-line" rule for when a federal firearms license is required. As a result, there is no specific threshold number or frequency

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SCOPE PAC needs donations

You should all know that SCOPE has a Political Action Committee (PAC) whose sole purpose is to collect money to donate to deserving Second Amendment candidates and incumbents. 2016 is an election year for the state senate and assembly.

I have always said that if all gun owners donated one dollar a month to the SCOPE PAC we would have millions of dollars to work with. So, I'm asking all SCOPE members to donate one dollar per month (more if you can) to the SCOPE PAC. You can do that through an automatic deduction from your credit card, bank account with your debit card. or through a PayPal account if you have one. All you need to do is visit www.scopepac.com, click on the Donate button, and follow the instructions.

Money is the grease of the political machine, if we have significant money we can grease the machine in our favor.

Thanks,
Ken Mathison, Treasurer SCOPE PAC

www.scopepac.com

A well Regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the People to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.

SCOPE PHONE NUMBERS

To contact SCOPE:
Contact, Stephen J. Aldstadt
admin@scopeny.org
315 27-SCOPE

SCOPE Board Members
SCOPE Chapter Chairs are
also Board Members

President
Stephen Aldstadt
saldstadt@scopeny.org
716-941-3286

Chairman of the Board
Harold 'Budd' Schroeder
bigbudd99@aol.com
716-861-9302

1st Vice President
Mike Mastrogiovanni
mikem4570@gmail.com
315-652-4597

2nd Vice President
Bill Fox Sr
bfsonllc@gmail.com
585-356-4992

Secretary
Gary Zielinski
hetman1683@aol.com
585-396-9129

Treasurer
Bob Savage
585-346-3000
585-734-WYSL
savage@wysl1040.com

At Large Directors

Membership Director
John Krull
johnsaf@verizon.net
716-832-8013

Media Coordinator
Joe McAdams
joe@joemc.net
716-570-3436

Webmaster
Jim Nowotny
jim@scopeny.org
716-584-1221

Don Hey
don@scopeny.org
716-860-9388

Bob Brannan
unclebob1100@yahoo.com
315-573-9088

Kathie Ricketson
kathie44@rochester.rr.com
585-535-0670

Ken Mathison
scopepac@scopeny.org
585-967-1040

Don Smith
don6027@gmail.com
315-524-8017

SCOPE CHAPTER INFORMATION

We are just listing the Chapter Chairs information.

Allegany Chapter
Chair Nicholas Massal
hunted@roadrunner.com
585-593-0131
Meetings are the 3rd Tuesday
7pm Angelica American Le-
gion, Angelica, NY.

Capitol District Chapter
Albany/Columbia/Greene/
Saratoga/Schenectady/
Rensselaer
Chair Ray Kosorek
rsbllc@earthlink.net
518-966-4271
1st Co-Chair Dave Goslyn
narrowgate1@ymail.com
518-966-8560
2nd Co-Chair
Mark Rosenzweig
r1stx2@aol.com
518-701-6647

Cattaraugus Chapter
Chair Robert McNally
renegade5411@icloud.com
716-790-9948

Cayuga Chapter
Chair David Rowe
woodchuck6660@gmail.com
315-806-4338

Central NY Chapter
Onondaga/ Oswego
Chair Mike Mastrogiovanni
mike4570@gmail.com
315-652-4597

Chautauqua Chapter
Chair Will Conta
will.conta@windstream.net
716-857-0382

Chemung County
Chair Jason Novotny
jasonn845@gmail.com
607-259-1149

Cortland Committee
Chair Randy Weatherby
raweatherby@gmail.com

Dutchess Chapter
Chair Chris Zaleski
c_zaleski@yahoo.com
845-868-0022

Erie Chapter
Chair Carl Leas
carlpride@msn.com
716-656-0350

Fulton Committee
Co-Chair Andrew Berecka
scope.fulton.county.ny@gmail
.com
518-844-6930
Co-Chair Dave Bardascini
scope.fulton.county.ny@gmail
.com
518-883-4757

Genesee Chapter
Chair Bill Fox Sr.
bfsonllc@gmail.com
585-356-4992
meetings are the second Tues-
day of every month at 7:00
and our meetings are at the
Calvary Baptist Church 3515
Galloway Road, Batavia.

Jefferson-Lewis Chapter
Chair Danny tynor
tt501bbf@yahoo.com
315-408-4931
Meetings starting January
2016 on the 3rd Monday of
each month at Watertown
Sportsmen's Club.

Livingston Chapter
Chair John Frew
jfrew52@yahoo.com
585-755-3534

Monroe Chapter
Chair Chris Edes
chrisedes@dynamic-mail.net
585-202-7741

Vice-Chair Bill Robinson
doc@frontiernet.net
585-413-6340

New York City Chapter
Chair
nyc@scopeny.org

Niagara Chapter
Chair John Peraccino
jonjoe007@aol.com
716-998-1434
Co-Chair Russ Petrie
russp0067@gmail.com
585-733-5968

North Country Chapter
Clinton/ Essex / Franklin
Chair Garry Hoffman
judgegarry@founderspirit.com
518-524-6752

Ontario Chapter
Chair Doug Negley
negs50@frontiernet.net
585-507-6735
Meetings are the 3rd Monday
Inn on the Lake 7:30pm Can-
andaigua, NY

Orange Chapter
Chair Mike Kubow
wileec@frontiernet.net
845-496-1183

Orleans Chapter
Chair David G. Thom
orlctychair@gmail.com
585-589-6918
Co-Chair Lynn Williams
williamsr@yahoo.com
585-798-1718
Meetings are the 2nd Monday
7pm VFW, Platt St, Albion,
NY.

Putnam County
Chair Nick Castellano
Nicholas.castellano@gmail.com
845-475-8672

St. Lawrence Chapter
Chair Jamie Briggs
jlbriggslmt@yahoo.com
315-771-1374

Schoharie Chapter
Co-Chair Kevin Sisson
kevinsisson63@gmail.com
Co-Chair Austin Czechowski
adviseaustin@gmail.com
518-231-8277

Schuyler Chapter
Chair Les Wilson
lhwilson100@yahoo.com
607-857-3309
Co-Chair Bob Edwards
retired826@yahoo.com
607-742-1355
MeetinMeetings are the 2nd

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Editor - Ralph Esposito

To contact SCOPE
and FIRING LINES
Call (315) 27-SCOPE

Or Write:
SCOPE
PO Box 602
Tonawanda NY 14151-0602

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(Continued from page 2)

Thursday 7pm Montour Falls
Moose Lodge, Montour Falls,
NY.

Seneca Committee
Chair Bill McGuire
Senecacountyscope
@gmail.com
607-793-1973

Meetings are the 2nd Sunday
2pm, South Seneca Sportsman's
Club, Ovid, NY.

Southern Tier Region Chapter -
Chenango/ Madison / Broome
Chair Chris Naylor
chenangocounty-
scope@gmail.com
607-244-1373

Steuben Chapter
Chair Douglas Mitchell
dmitch7664@stny.rr.com
607-359-2928

Suffolk Chapter
Chair William Walter
suffolkscope@gmail.com
631-560-9260
Tioga Committee
Chair Glenn Hopler
scopetioga@stny.rr.com
607-625-3463

Wayne Chapter
Chair Bob Brannan
unclebobr1100@yahoo.com
315-331-0649
Meetings are the 2nd Wednes-
day 7pm Palmyra VFW, Pal-
myra, NY. Also the 4th
Wednesday 7pm Red Creek
Conservation Club, Red Creek,
NY.

Wyoming Chapter
Chair Mark Yount Jr.
Clifford6981@yahoo.com
585-322-3144
Vice-Chair Dave Ricketson
red44@rochester.rr.com
585-535-0670

Yates Chapter
Chair John Prendergast
jpr3nder66@outlook.com
315-781-2334
Vice-Chair Leigh Williams



Paloma Capanna & Tommy Thompson
At the 2015 SCOPE Banquet

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Political Action Committee

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PO Box 12711

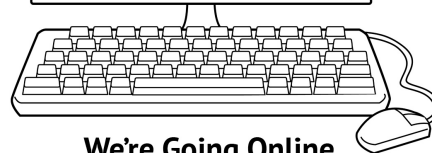
Rochester NY 14612

Or Donate On-Line at:

www.SCOPEPAC.com



S.C.O.P.E.-P.A.C.'s Mission is to replace the politicians in Albany that voted for this hideous, intrusive law with politicians who will vote to REPEAL this so-called "S.A.F.E." Act and support our rights going forward!



We're Going Online

We will be delivering Firing Lines right to your email so that the news can get to you when you can use it most.

You get the news faster - SCOPE saves on costs - which puts more money into our efforts fighting for the restoration of our second amendment rights.

Go to:

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to sign up for your email version of our newsletter today.



ANOTHER DESTRUCTION OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS?

By Budd Schroeder

As most people who are involved with Second Amendment issues, it is almost like a tradition for the liberal left in politics and the media to call for more “gun control” when there is an incident when no gun control law on the books, or proposed would have prevented the tragedy. The terrorist attack in San Bernardino is the latest example. Now, the politicians want to destroy the 14th Amendment.

The knee jerk reactions range from banning Muslims from entering the country as immigrants and refugees to banning guns from people on the no fly list. The upstate gun lobby, SCOPE (Shooters Committee On Political Education) has taken a firm stand on this constitutional violation.

It is not that they think terrorists should be allowed to own guns, but rather examine the process that is involved with getting on the list. The *Huffington Post* revealed seven ways a person can be placed on the list. The big problem is that the person does not know that he or she is on the no-fly list until they try to board a plane.

The seven ways are. 1. You could raise “reasonable suspicion” that you’re involved in terrorism. “Irrefutable evidence or concrete facts are not required. 2. You could post something on Facebook or Twitter that raises “reasonable suspicion.” 3. Somebody else could just think you’re a potential terror threat. 4. You could be a little terrorist-ish at least according to someone. 5. Or you could just know someone terrorist-y, maybe. 6. And if you’re in a “category” of people determined to be a threat, your threat status could be

“upgraded” at the snap of a finger. 7. Lastly, you could just be unlucky.”

The download of the article by the *Huffington Post* explains the headings and adds, “The process of adding people to the terror watch list is as imperfect as the intelligence officials tasked with doing so. There have been reports of ‘false positives’ or instances in which an innocent passenger has been subject to treatment under a no-fly or selection list because his or her name was similar to that of another individual. In one highly publicized incident in 2005, a 4 year - old boy was nearly barred from boarding a plane to visit his grandmother.”

The article discusses the problems of getting off the list once you are on it and suggests that the success rate is dismal for those who are unfortunate to be wrongly listed. This is similar to the lack of success that people who are wrongly placed on “the list” in the provision of the New York SAFE act.

As we would predict, the political left in New York wants to add those on the no-fly list to those who are on the report that causes the loss of gun rights in the SAFE act. The common thread is that this is done by opinion and is not hindered by due process, which is the keynote of the 14th amendment of the Constitution.

Senator Jeffery Klein has submitted Senate Bill S6279 which is contrary to the provision, “No state shall make or enforce any law that will abridge the provisions and immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law; nor to deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.”

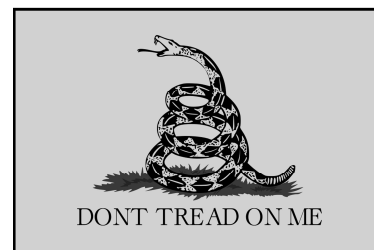
SCOPE is suggesting that all people who believe citizens are entitled to due process and should not be subjected to losing at least four constitutional rights by the denial of due process in this proposed law, should

call Senator Klein’s office at (718) 822-2049 and object to his bill. They should also contact their own senator to object to Senator Klein’s attempt to spit on the Constitution.

To further object, you can call Senate Majority Leader, John Flanagan at (518) 455-2071 and tell him to not allow such an anti-constitutional bill to reach the floor. The Fourteenth Amendment was necessary to protect the civil rights of the newly freed slaves. History tells us that even with the amendment it took a century to make it effective. We shouldn’t allow that to happen again.

The biggest problem is there is no rock hard definition of “reasonable suspicion.” This could be like going back to Nazi Germany and Stalin’s reign in the Soviet Union. A “reasonable suspicion” made by a neighbor or personal enemy could result in a visit by the SS Soldiers or KGB and a trip to a death camp or gulag. It isn’t that drastic here, but loss of constitutional rights, especially one as powerful as “due process,” is worth fighting for.

Laws can be based on precedent and this is a precedent that has to be addressed and ended. It takes only a few minutes to make a phone call. The result we deserve is worth the time and effort. Politicians view people in three classifications. 1. Those that can help me. 2. Those that can hurt me. 3. Those that don’t matter. Don’t be number three.



It's not too late to join SCOPE "STOP THE SECRECY!" Campaign

By Ralph Esposito

It's not too late to join the "Stop the Secrecy" campaign. SCOPE launched a statewide campaign to "Stop the Secrecy" of the NYS Police in its creation and use of a secret database known as the "Integrated SAFE Act Reporting System" or "ISARS." "ISARS" is designed and run by NYS for transmission of Mental Hygiene reports from medical providers to the NYS Office of Mental Health, from which the information is disseminated to various state and local agencies and offices including the NY State Police. To date, an estimated 75,000 people have been reported to the State by their medical providers, but less than 1% of those people have been notified of the report. Everyone else is in the dark.

Patient reports through IS-ARS originate from medical providers under NY Mental Hygiene Law §9.46, one of the new provisions of the "SAFE Act." The report does not become part of the patient's medical record, and efforts to date have failed to yield individual information using the Freedom of Information Act.

"You shouldn't have to start a federal lawsuit to gain access to information about yourself from a secret database used by the State Police," says Paloma A. Capanna, an attorney and Director of Legal Affairs for SCOPE.

To bring public attention to the secret reporting system, SCOPE is asking people to complete and submit FOILs to the NYS Police to demand individual records.

"Everyone has a right to know if the NYS Police has them on a secret list," says SCOPE President Aldstadt.

For your copy of a fill-in-the-blank FOIL, go to www.SCOPENY.org or contact SCOPE at (716) 941-3286.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★
 ★ **Help start 2016 off Right** ★
 ★ **Defeat the politicians trying to** ★
 ★ **steal YOUR** ★
 ★ **Second Amendment Rights!** ★
 ★ **Donate to SCOPE -PAC Page 3** ★
 ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

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 to renew.

2015 SCOPE Banquet Awards

At the 2015 SCOPE Banquet we celebrated 50 years of fighting for the Second Amendment in New York State. We were proud to present a number of awards to those patriots who went above and beyond trying to preserve our Right To Keep And Bear Arms.

Defender of Freedom Award. Presented by Stephen Aldstadt to Rob Astorino.

Thomas Paine – For Excellence in Defense of the Second Amendment Award. Presented by Tommy Thompson to David Dipietro.

Legislator of the Year Award. Presented by Paloma Capanna to Peter Lopez.

Defender of the Constitution Award. Presented by Chris Moss to Paloma Capanna.

Distinguished Service Award. Presented by Joe McAdams to Carl Leas.

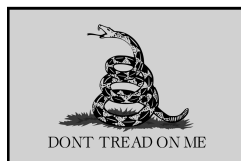
Lifetime Achievement Award. Presented by Budd Schroeder to Michael Mastrogiovanni.

Media Service Award. Presented by Budd Schroeder to Rod Watson.

Leadership Award. Presented by Stephen Aldstadt to John McHenry.

President's Awards. Presented by Stephen Aldstadt to Bill Fox, Kevin Sisson, John Peracciny and Les Wilson.

In these trying times it is important to recognize those men and women who stand fast against the tide trying to sweep away our rights. Congratulations to the recipients and thank you for your service to SCOPE, our State and Country.



Mr. Associate Justice Thomas has spoken

By Paloma A. Capanna
Attorney & Policy Analyst

In a most rare instance, Justice Thomas has made his voice heard. Of the nine Justices of SCOTUS, Justice Thomas is perhaps best known for sitting through hours of oral arguments by attorneys, without asking a single question or uttering a single opinion. Even his demeanor on the bench is a model of judicial stoicism.

So imagine how precious and how rare the gift that Justice Thomas has just conferred upon the Second Amendment through his written dissent against seven other of his fellow Justices in their recent decision to deny certiorari to a case from the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, *Friedman vs. City of Highland Park*, involving a municipal "assault weapons" ban. Many of you will have been tracking the case of *New York State Rifle and Pistol Association vs. Cuomo*, filed to challenge the constitutionality of the NY "assault weapons" ban. The *Friedman* case involves a very similar ban. The *Friedman* case arrived at SCOTUS on its motion to be heard by the nation's high court, slightly ahead of *NYSRPA vs. Cuomo*, the motion for which is due for filing by mid-January 2016.

In addition to it being rare for Justice Thomas to speak out, it is rare for any Justice to write a dissent on a denial of certiorari. Typically, the denials are published in a long, grocery style list, with no discussion. Justice Thomas made three essential points in his dissent. Here is the most important point he made:

"If a broad ban on firearms can be upheld based on conjecture that the public might feel safer (while being no safer at all), then the Second Amendment guarantees nothing."

This statement is the alarm bell that the Bill of Rights is in peril at the very fort where it should be the most safe and secure.

And he is right.

If we as a nation have reached a point where the legislature can enact a law abridging our civil liberties and the court does not hold the government in check, then we are one significant step closer to tyranny. Our very system of government is dependent upon not only the separation of powers of the three branches, but also of the active competition for power between the branches through the system of checks and balances.

Thus far, three states and one municipality have enacted "assault weapons" bans in the past three years. Each of those laws has been stormed with litigation by individuals, FFLs, and Second Amendment groups, through the federal courts.

In now four District Court decisions, three Circuit Court of Ap-

peals decisions, and one SCOTUS decision, not one judge among twenty-two judges has the proper legal analysis been performed. I include among the twenty-two count even Justice Thomas and Justice Scalia, who joined Justice Thomas in his dissent. Not a single judge has evaluated the motions for summary judgment brought by the government requesting dismissal of the plaintiffs' cases using the legally proscribed route of evaluation. Instead, twenty judges have spoken with emotion about events in the news and two judges have criticized their colleagues.

Even Justice Thomas in his most eloquent dissent fails to examine the municipality's claims of "evidence," even while lamenting that his colleagues rubber-stamped a law that may have no more value than making people "feel" better about violence and loss of life.

Have we reached a point at which judges no longer can perform their responsibilities of office in a dispassionate and rational manner? Has the federal judiciary lost sight of its primary responsibility to the U.S. Constitution, over any one person, event, or political scheme?

Pray not, dear friends, that the third branch, too, has fallen for its proximity to the very words through which our personal liberties are enshrined, could signal the call for a changing of the guard.

Citation: *Arie S. Friedman, et al. v. City of Highland Park, Illinois*, 577 U.S. ____ (2015).

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If you would like to advertise, please call or e-mail SCOPE and we will be happy to assist you in composing and placing an ad.

Stephen J. Aldstadt
(315) 27SCOPE
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(Continued from page 1)

of sales, quantity of firearms, or amount of profit or time invested that triggers the licensure requirement. Instead, determining whether you are "engaged in the business" of dealing in firearms requires looking at the specific facts and circumstances of your activities."

It is both expensive and time consuming to obtain a Federal Firearms License. The Administration hopes to put a damper on unrecorded private sales especially at gun shows. Whether it will amount to much more than a scare tactic or drive private sales into the shadows of civil disobedience remains to be seen. The fact is that it will do nothing to stop illegal sales as criminals seldom conduct their criminal activities according to the law. It would not have stopped the high profile shootings like Newtown.

You may recall the Clinton Administration actually closed down about 2/3 of the Federally Licensed Gun Dealers through zoning regulations because they weren't selling through a storefront.

The mental health portion of this action requiring reporting is much more troubling. First it will change the doctor patient confidentiality, in effect making your doctor a federal informant on your mental and physical health. This will significantly change HIPPA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) privacy rules.

Until this executive action there was strict privacy on a persons medical records. Now when you go to the doctor your information could be reported to the FBI. Are you feeling angry or depressed? Do you need or have you been treated for a psychological issue? All is now required to be reported to the FBI's background check database. This will also include veterans files and those on Social Security Disability recipients who are disabled due to a psychological factor or cannot take care of their own affairs for whatever

reason.

This will most likely swell the FBI database, potentially exempting large numbers of citizens from owning a firearm under this executive action.

In a Town Meeting on CNN two days later Obama expounded on his new gun control measures and took questions from the audience. One woman (a rape victim) wanted to know why he was making it harder for her to defend her family and herself with a firearm. The President assured her that the new measures would not make it more difficult for her to purchase a gun.

A minute later he answered another question by saying these new regulations would make it more difficult and expensive to purchase a gun. Adding that was a small price to pay to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and mentally unstable individuals.

That is known as speaking out of both sides of your mouth. Sort of reminded me of the Affordable Health Care Act. You can keep your doctor and your premiums will go down. I suspect there are a few pairs of badly scorched pants in the Presidents closet.

It will be interesting to see if the woman who wanted to protect

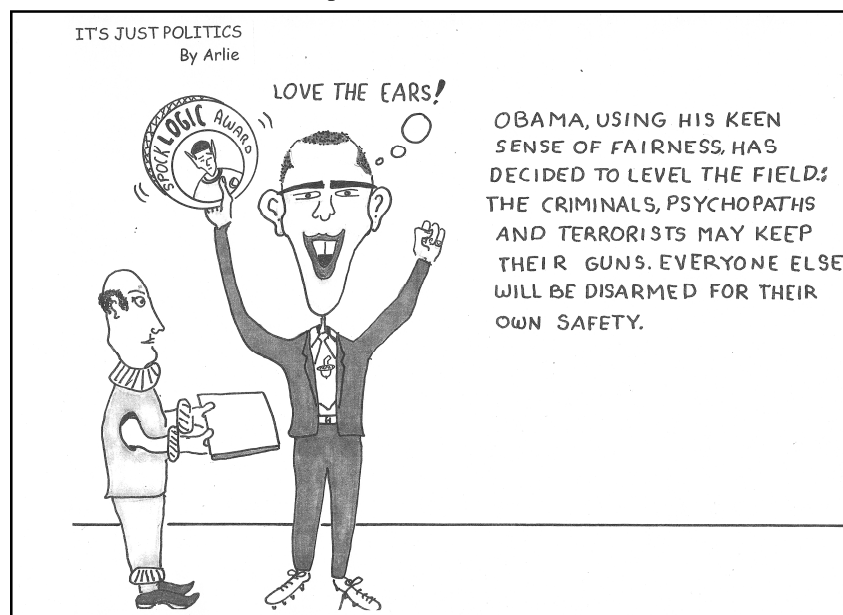
her and her family will be allowed to buy (or keep) a gun, as it is likely she had been treated some sort of counseling and possibly given medication for the psychological trauma. Treatment that likely would put her on the FBI list and not allowing her to purchase a gun under Obama's new rules.

What will happen if there are any firearms in a home where a member of the family is now on the FBI list. It is not unthinkable that they may require the confiscation of all guns in the home even those owned by other family members.

It is unlikely any lawsuits will be filed quickly enough to be ruled on before a new president is elected. Our best hope to erase this executive action is with the next president. Odds are good they will rescind it if a Republican is elected, not so much should a Democrat win.

The big question is how many records will be collected and added to the FBI database. Records that even if this executive action is stopped by the next president, may well be kept by the FBI, BATF or other federal agency.

Our one best choice to defeat this is to be united and vote next election.



The Second Amendment: In Legal Brief

from Paloma A. Capanna, Attorney & Policy Analyst
Director of Legal Affairs for SCOPE
rev. 01/16/2016

SCOPE (501c4) will be splitting off the “SCOPE Legal Defense Foundation” (501c3) to create a tax-deductible opportunity to gain financial support for the defense of the Second Amendment and other valuable civil liberties.

Final call is January 31, 2016 to join SCOPE and 135+ groups on the Brief *Amicus Curiae* for the *NYSRPA vs. Cuomo* lawsuit, now on appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Pay attention to NYS Senate Bill 6279 – attempted use of “Terrorist Watchlist” at the state level to confiscate permits and firearms.

Federal Court US Supreme Court

1. New York State Rifle & Pistol Association, et al. vs. Cuomo, et al.

Case: 1:2013-cv-00291 (federal court; 2nd Circuit).

Complaint filed: 03/21/2013.

Plaintiffs include: NYSRPA, Beikirch’s (East Rochester); Mr. William Nojay (AD-133).

Claims: 2nd Amendment; Equal Protection Clause (14th Amendment); Due Process Clause (5th Amendment, 14th Amendment); Commerce Clause (Art. I, Sec. 8).

Nature of case: “assault weapons ban.”

Current status: the Plaintiffs’ Motion to the U.S. Supreme Court is due February 18, 2016; our Brief *Amicus Cu-*

riae will be filed 30 days thereafter; SCOTUS must first grant *certiorari* (permission) before the case can be heard on appeal.

Federal Court Western District of New York, Rochester Division

2. Montgomery, et al. vs. Cuomo, et al.

Case: 6:14-cv-06709-CJS (federal court; Western District of NY, Rochester Division).

Complaint filed: 12/18/2014.

Plaintiffs include: Donald Montgomery, Lois Reed, A.J. Carter, Karl Bechler.

Claims include: Privacy, Equal Protection Clause (14th Amendment); Due Process Clause (4th, 5th, and 14th Amendments); 2nd Amendment.

Nature of case: MHL §9.46 reporting system; MHL §9.41 false reporting of “involuntary commitment to a mental institution.”

Current status: awaiting decision from Justice Siragusa, oral arguments mid-September 2015, additional submissions completed at court request by mid-October 2015; pending are the Defendants’ Motion to Dismiss and the Plaintiffs’ Motion to Seal Exhibits; the Plaintiffs’ Motion for Preliminary Injunction is filed but is deferred by the Court, pending its decision on the Defendants’ Motion to Dismiss.

3. Larry Pratt, et al. vs. Loretta Lynch, U.S. Attorney General, et al.

Case: 6:15-cv-6765-FPG.

Complaint filed: 12/22/2015; Amended Complaint filed 01/11/2016
Claims include: 2nd Amendment, Due Process Clause (5th Amendment), Search & Seizure (4th Amendment), Equal Protection Clause (14th Amend-

ment), and the Administrative Procedure Act.

Nature of the case: FBI use of NICS data to cross-check against the “Terrorist Watchlist,” methods for getting information of ATF Form 4473 including make, model, and serial number of firearm, sharing of data with foreign governments and private contractors, training FBI and ATF field agents on how to acquire information to which agency was not entitled, equating “gun owner” with “terrorist.”

Current status: Amended Complaint is out for service; the U.S. government gets a 60-day responsive period.

Additional resources:

Federal court information:
www.UScourts.gov

2015 filings to US District Courts nationwide: 303,820

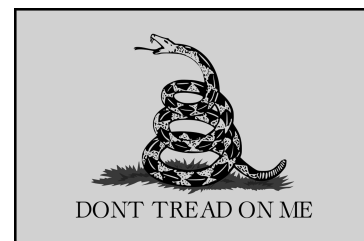
Filings of cases with United States as a defendant: 39,465 (13%)

2015 appeals filed from District Court to US Courts of Appeals nationwide: 55,623

Average number per year of requests for writ of certiorari: 10,000

Average number accepted **per year** by the Supreme Court of the United States: 75-80

US Supreme Court cases, including MP3 versions of oral arguments:
www.oyez.org



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Adirondack Federation of Sports Clubs, Inc.
Alabama Hunt Club
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American Legion Riders Post 355
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B R & G Conservation Club
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Clinton Fish & Game Club
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Dalton Gang Sportsmen Club, Inc.
Dansville Fish & Game Protective Assoc., Inc
Deer Search of WNY, Inc.
Delchenego Rod & Gun Club, Inc.
Depew Rod & Gun Club
Dorie Miller Rifle and Pistol Club
Dunham's Bay Fish & Game Club
Dutchess County Pistol Association
Dutchess County Sportsmen's Association
East Aurora Fish & Game Club Inc
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Elbridge Rod & Gun Club, Inc.
Elma Conservation Club
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Evans Rod & Gun Club
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Hol-Field Rod & Gun Club
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Indian Lake/Blue Mountain Fish & Game Assoc.
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Lime Lake Sportsman's Club, Inc.
Little Beard Club Inc
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Long Lake Fish & Game Club
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Middleburgh Rod & Gun Club, Inc.
Millgrove Sportsmen's Club, Inc.
Mohawk Rifle & Pistol Club Inc
Monroe Chester Sportsmen Club Inc
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New York Houndsmen Conservation Association
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(Continued on page 11)

SCOPE Business Associate Membership

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Application on page 16

REPEAL THE S.A.F.E. ACT

SCOPE



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We remember Larry Stachura

It is with deep sadness that SCOPE recognizes the unexpected passing of Larry Stachura (12/30/2015). Larry was a very memorable member of the Buffalo Gun Center (Cheektowaga, NY).

I've known Larry for 20+ years, he was kind, friendly and always helpful with technical advice on reloading and firearms purchases. Many visits included discussions on Second Amendment politics. Larry was a constant SCOPE promoter.

Larry will be deeply missed by the people who've gotten to know him over the years. God Bless ya Larry.

Mike Stoklosa (Elma, NY; Alden Rod & Gun Club)

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(Continued from page 10)

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This is an educational forum with the purpose of rekindling the spirit of the Founding Fathers. We, through much deliberation and dedication, bring a message to the public of the How and the Why our country was founded and how far America has drifted from her moorings. The three main pillars of our society that we address and that have succumbed to the "politically correct" agenda are The Family, The Faith, and The Freedoms we have been endowed with by our Creator.

Our hope and prayer is that once again the fires of Patriotism will be ignited in the hearts of Americans who love this country, love their freedom and desire to worship the God of creation that drove our forefathers to sacrifice life, honor and fortune for our future. People who will stand up and be heard, people that will be moved to action, a people who will make a difference! May we, the silent patriots, be aroused and in turn burn with a heartfelt fire to give that same measure of sacrifice for the future of this once, and maybe yet again, great nation for future generations.

We look forward to sharing our message with churches, organizations, colleges, etc. . . .

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SCOPE Legal Defense Fund

Please consider a donation to the SCOPE Legal Defense Fund. Recent battles have had a substantial impact on our funds, and the new NY SAFE Act lawsuit will need to be funded. Please help SCOPE continue fighting New York's anti-gun laws through law suits that need to be funded. We must fight the anti-gun politicians on all fronts. This is especially important with the enactment of the SAFE Act. **Send your donations to,**

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Government Lists

By William R Fox Sr
Genesee County Scope Chair

This letter is in reference to some of our elected officials who are demanding that anyone who is on the no-fly list be blocked from buying a firearm and, possibly, have their firearms confiscated.

Sounds like a great idea for everyone's safety doesn't it? The people of this country really need to think about this.

You ask why? You don't agree with this statement?

How does one get on this list? Are there definite guidelines on how someone is placed upon it? Mistakes have been pointed out; such as the late Senator Ted Kennedy and even US military members being on the list.

Is it because you might not agree with the politicians or our leaders about how things should be done? (Note: Remember they work for us.) Is it because of your religious beliefs? Is it because of how your name is spelled or how it sounds?

Is it because of how many firearms you buy?

I don't know how it's done and that's what scares me. I don't think anybody does.

What are the guidelines and who sets them?

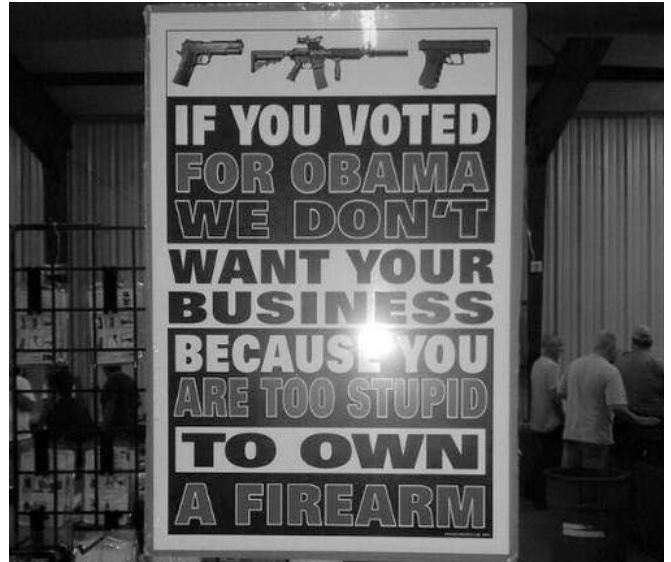
Ok, let's say you find out that you are on this list. How do you get off of it? If you are able to correct the error, at what cost will it be to you and your family-both emotionally and financially? What are the guidelines for defending yourself against something you knew nothing about? People, we need to really think about this because there are so many questions that our leaders don't seem to think, or don't care to think, about.

All of this points out one definite, dangerous fact...our Constitutional rights are unapologetically being infringed upon by the government. They are blatantly disregarding the people's right to due process. The American Civil Liberties Union is currently suing the Obama administration because of this violation of our rights.

People in this country are scared of what they don't understand.

Please take the time to educate yourself and then let your elected officials know where you stand.

One man's opinion.



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UNIVERSAL BACKGROUND CHECKS WON'T STOP CRIMINALS

By Budd Schroeder

As expected, the State of the Union and State of the State speeches had the president and governor of New York both mentioning their intentions to "strengthen gun control laws." Neither went into detail about their push to infringe more on Second Amendment rights. It wasn't necessary because the president's program is similar to the SAFE act already known to be ineffective when it comes to the criminal misuse of firearms. The term "gun violence" is the buzz word phrase used by those who think slogans will solve the problems of criminal activity.

Using rounded numbers the president mentioned 30,000 gun deaths a year and two thirds of them were suicides. So, 20,000 people used a gun to take their own life. From a logical point of view, Japan has more than double our suicide rate and their citizens have one of the lowest rates of gun ownership per capita in the industrial countries. Obviously having a gun is just another way to take a person's own life along with cutting tools, poisons, ropes, jumping off buildings, etc.

That leaves about 10,000 deaths involving firearms. If that was broken down into categories it would include accidents (which are far down on the list of deaths), justifiable homicides, and just plain homicides. A homicide is the intentional taking of a life, so that includes the actions of gang warfare, armed robberies, home invasions and other reasons resulting in one person killing another.

The shootings that get the most publicity are the "mass murders" that are committed by terrorists and other crazy and evil people. Drug and alcohol abuse is often a factor in

these homicides. The guns used in these crimes were obtained by legal and illegal means. The anti-gun crowd keeps asking for universal background checks to keep prohibited people from getting guns and they think this will prevent criminals and people with mental problems from obtaining firearms.

This makes as much sense as thinking the ban on heroin, cocaine, crystal meth, and other illegal drugs is the solution for the runaway drug problem. About four times as many people die from overdoses of these drugs than by gunfire, so look at how well the ban is working. It isn't! Add to the number of drug dealers who use guns as part of their business dealings and the idea that the two big problems are related should be seriously considered.

Obviously the anti-gun politicians believe in the old adage that in politics, perception is reality, so, if they can con the public into believing the gun laws they are proposing will have a positive effect on the criminal misuse of guns and the people are dumb enough to think they will work, that is all that is necessary for them to do. Whether or not it works is immaterial as long as it has the potential to generate votes for the politicians.

The other problem with the SAFE act is that it denies a constitutional right by ignoring a first amendment right. The Amish can't buy a gun with the universal background check because it requires a photo ID to get the NICS check. The Amish don't have personal photo anything because it is contrary to their religious beliefs. Nobody can describe the Amish as a violent danger to society. In fact, they are some of the most gentle and non-violent people in the world.

However, the politicians don't care about that. The Amish are not noted for being politically active and forming a significant voting bloc. After all, to the professional politician, the two most important events in their career are election and reelection.

They don't worry too much about the rights of non-voters. As this columnist has often reminded the readers that politics has little to do with good government. It is all about power and money! The politicians who really work for the benefits of their constituents are smothered by the corruption that reeks throughout the legislative chambers.

The big reason that gun laws don't work is because CRIMINALS DON'T OBEY LAWS! If there are going to be effective gun laws they have to be focused on the criminal misuse of guns, not the possession of guns by honest, law-abiding citizens. As a suggestion, they might consider the use of a gun in a violent crime to have an additional penalty. For example, if a criminal commits a robbery, make the use of a gun an additional penalty. The use of a weapon raises the level of the felony and does give longer sentences, but if a gun was used there should be additional time added to the sentence. No concurrent sentences, but rather the sentences have to run consecutively.

There is a provision in the federal law that calls for a mandatory five year sentence if a felon is caught with a gun. No plea bargains allowed. It is called Project Exile and is seldom used. A law without enforcement is nothing more than advice. There are more than 20,000 gun laws on the books and obviously they are not being used properly. If the present laws were enforced it would have a greater effect on the criminal misuse of guns than trying to hoodwink the public with slogans that won't work.

This is an election year and we don't need new gun laws. What we really need is a change to politicians who are willing to pass laws that will be effective, not just shouting slogans that they hope will get them elected. We, the people, can make the difference.



Obama's new list

By Attilio A. Contini

Spare me the crocodile tears. Really, think about it. If Obama was actually concerned about the so called need to keep guns out of the hands of criminals, why did he wait three years? Seven years? Why didn't he go before Congress and plead his case with the sob story he gave us on January 5th? Why didn't he ask Congress to sit down with him and propose a compromise solution that would actually work rather than the same old restrictions that never work?

He wants background checks, so do I. But they must be against a data base that only contains the names of individuals who should not be permitted to own or buy guns! He should be making sure the names of convicted felons, drug dealers, including addicts, those that have a history of mental instability and a tendency towards violence that

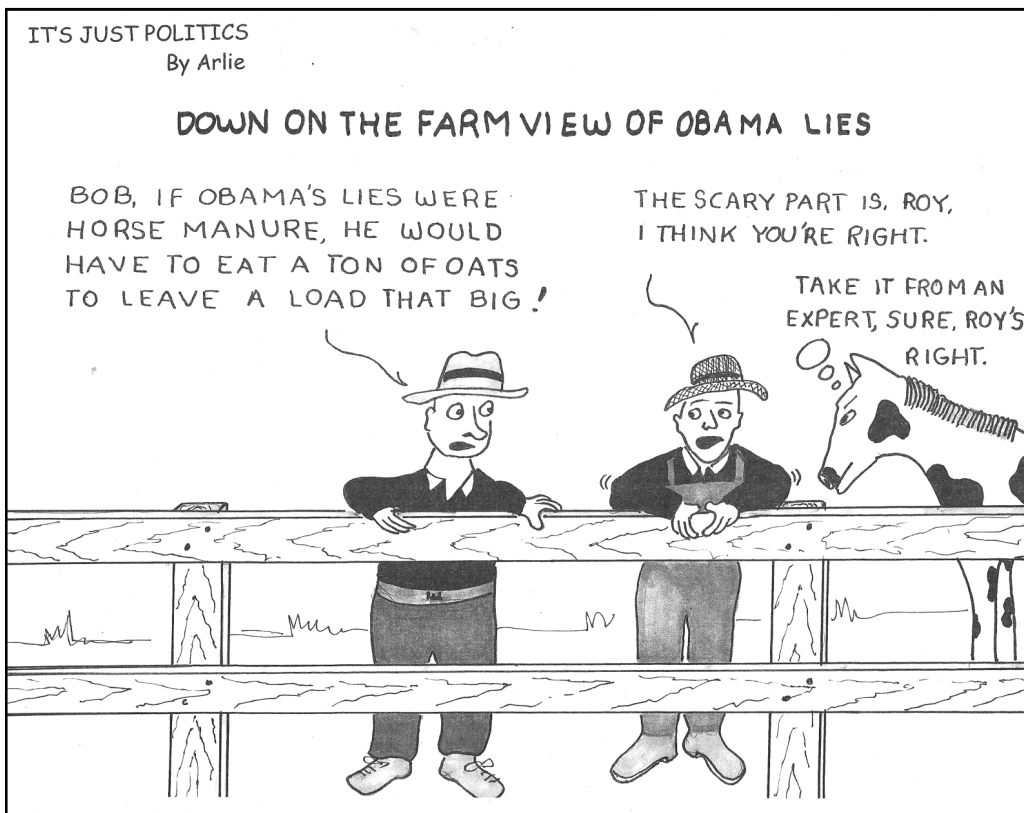
would cause them to be a threat to themselves and others, and most important, those who associate with and have ties to terrorist groups in particular Islamic Jihadists.

He has put little old ladies and law abiding citizens on watch lists. How about admitting that radical Muslims are terrorists? He and his oath breaking friends such as Cuomo, are assembling a massive database that contains the names of very few individuals who should not have guns, and is of little value other than to harass, tax, and make difficult for law abiding citizens to purchase and own guns, and pave the way for the mass confiscation of our guns.

One has to ask, how can they be so stupid as to not realize or understand that the database they are (have been) creating is almost useless in accomplishing their alleged goal. The answer is their actual goal is not to prevent mass shootings and crime; it is to give them the means to disarm and control law abiding citi-

zens. This is why so many of the gun control advocates are the same radical progressive, left wing people who despise our free democratic form of government and are "dramatically changing" it. This is why these same people think little old ladies who pray in front of abortion mills are criminals, but refuse to admit radical Muslims are terrorists.

Guns are as safe as they need to be. There is no need to create smart guns or make them difficult to use. Look at what the President and his henchmen have been doing the last seven years and tell me why we shouldn't have reason and concern about our Constitutional rights, in particular the second amendment. It is time to stop blaming guns and ask why are the terrorist sickos committing these brutal senseless mass murders. Moral decay, the entertainment industry, mass media, and the Radical Islamic attack on our Western society are the primary reasons.



SCOPE Tax Day Life Membership Drive

Have you been thinking about a SCOPE Life Membership?
This year you can use your income tax refund to pay for a SCOPE Life Membership at a

Special Discounted Rate!

Send this form to:
S.C.O.P.E. Life Membership
P.O. Box 602
Tonawanda NY 14151-0602

- Life Membership \$300.00
- Endowment Membership \$400.00
- Benefactor Membership \$500.00
- Upgrade Life to Endowment \$100.00
- Upgrade Life to Benefactor \$200.00
- Upgrade Endowment to Benefactor \$100.00

Please accept my additional donation to the SCOPE Legal Defense Fund \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Name _____
Date of Birth _____
Address _____
City _____
State, Zip Code _____
Email _____
County _____
Registered to Vote? Y/N _____

Must be post marked between March 15, 2016 and June 15, 2016

WE THE PEOPLE OF NEW YORK, INC.

INFORMED CITIZENS AND LIBERTY-MINDED GROUPS WORKING TOGETHER

**HOLDING GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABLE TO THE RULE OF LAW – OUR STATE AND
FEDERAL CONSTITUTIONS**

**Independent - Non-Political Not-for-Profit - Permanent
OF, BY AND FOR WE THE PEOPLE**

**OUR PLAN is built on the concept that many citizens, each personally committed to the Cause of
Liberty, can amass and exert an enormous collective influence.**

**2458 RIDGE ROAD
QUEENSBURY, NY 12804**

wethepeopleofny.org - bob@givemeliberty.org - 518 656 3578



SCOPE wishes to Thank TROY Defense for their generous donation of four Pump Action Carbines.

Troy Defense is a Massachusetts Company that is doing what it can to support our fight in New York. They have donated four pump action NY SAFE compliant rifles (pictured below) to SCOPE. SCOPE appreciates the support and will use the rifles in raffles to the membership. We at SCOPE are asking the membership to support Troy Defense.

Visit their website at TROYDEFENSE.COM

Troy Defense supports SCOPE and all gun owners. They are committed to preserving our Second Amendment Rights.

www.troydefense.com/

Troy Sporting Rifle – Pump Action



SCOPE Business Associate Members

The following are business members of SCOPE. If your business would like to become a SCOPE business member please fill out the application below.

180 Degrees by VLK
5443 Transit Rd
Depew NY 14043-3234
716-341-1767

A.R. Pierrepont Co., Inc.
154 Berkeley St
Rochester NY 14607-3003
585-473-3225

Accuracy Performance & Function, Inc.
PO Box 410
Walworth NY 14568
315-986-1717

All Pets Veterinary Services
Dr Mark Lane
1435 State Rt 17M
Chester NY 10918-1056
845-469-4662

Al's Certified Welding
231 Fellows Rd
Fairport NY 14450
585-377-2392

AmClaims Public Ins Adjusters
2279 Preisman Dr
Schenectady NY 12309
855-578-2542

Association of Former NYS Troopers, Inc.
PO Box 602
Hamlin NY 14464
585-964-3317

B & B Repair Service Inc.
14 Second St
Canisteo NY 14823
607-698-2876

B & E Electric
4466 Kipp Rd
Canandaigua NY 14424

Batavia Marine & Sporting Supplies
411 W Main St
Batavia NY 14020
585-343-4869

Bell Security & Investigations, Inc.
60 Willowbend Dr
Penfield NY 14526
585-249-0459

Big Tree Cattle Company
878 Rt 20A
Strykersville NY 14145
716-861-1303

Bill Fox & Son Construction & Remodeling, LLC
9346 South St Rd
LeRoy NY 14482
585-356-4992

Bonded Collection Services
PO Box 305
Fairport NY 14450
585-223-2089

Bullseye Shooters Supply
453 S Hamilton St
Painted Post NY 14870
607-962-14

Cannioto Builders
33 Hunt Rd
Rockstream NY 14878
585-216-5626

Cast Away Charters & Guide Service
12 Hummingbird Rd
Coudersport PA 16915

Ciminelli & Ciminelli PPLC
421 Penbrooke Dr, Ste 2
Penfield NY 14526-2045
585-235-0980

Cobleskill Outdoor Sports
116 France Ln
Cobleskill NY 12043
518-234-2400

Corning Catering, Inc.
2199 Ginnan Rd
Corning NY 14830
607-962-2106

Creekside Morgans, LLC
60529 Route 415
Avoca NY 14809-9540
631-988-6303

Custom 31 Grapics Shop
220 E Main St
Palmyra NY 14522
315-573-4170

D&J Construction West, LLC
7562 McCarriger Rd
Ovid NY 14521
607-869-9466

DD's Ranch, LLC
12120 Westwood Rd
Alden NY 14004
716-937-7779

Dick's Country Store Gun City & Music Oasis
7429 US Rt 11
Churubusco NY 12923
518-497-6962

Donahoo-Consulting, LLC
PO Box 70
Jefferson Valley NY 10535
914-455-4099

Durham Valley Liquor Store
395 Rt 20B
E Durham NY 12423
518-634-7132

G. Chipman Insurance Agency
360 Grant Ave Rd
Auburn NY 13021
315-258-0381

(Continued on page 21)

SHOOTER'S COMMITTEE ON POLITICAL EDUCATION (SCOPE, INC)

PO 602, Tonawanda NY 14150 716-846-5448

Business Associate Membership Application

Date of Application _____ Donation, Annual \$50 _____ Annual Sponsor \$250 _____

Business Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Fax _____

Mailing address if different _____

Contact Name & Title _____

Secondary Contact _____

Website _____ Email _____

Type of business (gun shop, sporting goods, etc.) _____

(Donations to SCOPE are not refundable or tax deductible)

Harold's Welding Shop 1164 E Swamp Rd Penn Yan NY 14527 585-554-5178	36 Grace St Binghamton NY 13905	S&S Auto Body, Ken-Ton Inc. 321 Englewood Ave Buffalo NY 14223-2819 716-834-0183	The Gun Lady 41 Front St Port Jervis NY 12771 845-858-4990
Harv's Harley Davidson 3120 Kittering Rd Macedon NY 14502 585-377-0711	Mongiolo's Auto 6115 Robinson Rd Lockport NY 14094 716-625-6125	Sardinia Mini Storage PO Box 158 Sardinia NY 14134 716-807-9963	The Valley Gun Shop, LLC 1600 Davis Rd W Falls NY 14170 716-652-6673
Hills Valleys & Streams 1600 Cedar St Elmira NY 14904 607-767-6253	Mountainside Outdoor Supply 5972 US Rt 11 Homer NY 13077 607-749-5714	Seneca Gun Sports 4705 Ste Rt 14 Rock Stream NY 14878 607-243-7243	Thunderbird Arms 7461 Peavy Rd Angelica NY 14709 585-466-3090
Homes by Malta, Inc. 972 Prosser Hill Rd Jamestown NY 14701-9386 716-664-0025	Oyster Bay Insurance PO Box 630 Oyster Bay NY 11771-0630 516-922-9131	Sheldon W Boyce, Jr. 31 E Main St Ste 2000 Rochester NY 14614 585-454-2000	Turnbull Mfg. Co., Inc. 6680 Rt 5 and 20 Bloomfield NY 14469 585-657-6338
Hunters Landing 8348 Lewiston Rd Batavia NY 14020 585-407-8506	Paloma A Capanna, Attorney 633 Lake Rd Webster NY 14580 585-377-7268	Spors Truck & Auto Repair & Restoration 7041 Boston Colden Rd Boston NY 14025 716-941-5550	Valor Training Group 1250 Scottsville Rd Ste 85 Rochester NY 14624
JC Guns 25 Malvern Curve Tonawanda NY 14150 716-868-6328	Payne's Trailer Sales 4567 State Rt 36 Canisteo NY 14823 607-698-2487	Sporting Clays for Charity PO Box 138 Saddle River NJ 07458 201-327-0385	Walton's Service Center, Inc. 1634 Rt 54 Penn Yan NY 14527 315-536-6923
John Henrich Company, Inc. 2686 Green St Eden NY 14057 716-992-3985	Point Pleasant Firemen's Association 55 Ewer Ave Irondequoit NY 14622 585-323-2030	State Farm Agent Thomas Spaulding 7518 S State St Ste 4 Lowville NY 13367 315-874-4101	Warsaw Dry Cleaners 102 S Academy St Wyoming NY 14591 585-495-6370
Just Holster It, LLC 13269 Broadway St Alden NY 14004 888-456-6173	Powers Taxidermy 2 Elmwood Pl Canisteo NY 14823 607-698-9205	Strong Side Defensive Firearms Training 5316 Franklin Rd Marion NY 14505 585-506-2978	Wilderness Lands, LLC 10 Stone Pine Ln Queensbury NY 12804 798-6265
Law Office of Frederick M Rarick 384 W Main St Batavia NY 14020 585-219-4900	Precision Armament Div of PM Research Inc 4110 Niles Hill Rd Wellsville NY 14895 585-593-5637	T.J.'s Lawns Plus, Inc. 16 Hoard Dr Phoenix NY 13041 315-458-5296	Williamson Hardware, Inc. PO Box 163 Williamson NY 14589 315-589-4011
Lincoln Electro Mechanic Corp. 2908 State Rt 209 Kingston NY 12401 845-339-5686	Red Sun Builders LLC 172 Gifford Rd Greenville NY 12083 518-966-4271	The Custom Shop Gun Shop PO Box 410 Walworth NY 14568 315-986-1717	York Penn Shows PO Box 9340 Frewsburg NY 14738 716-569-6810
Luanne Sciotti, Realty USA 600 N Greenbush Rd Rensselaer NY 12144 518-221-8756	Reed Storage LLC PO Box 822 Carthage NY 13619 315-644-4529	The Firing Pin LLC 8240 Buffalo Rd Bergen NY 14416 585-494-0333	Please use a SCOPE member business whenever you can. Don't forget to tell them you found their business in the SCOPE newsletter.
Mike's Guns & Ammo 118 John St Horseheads NY 14845 607-739-1814 Mills Creek Merchandising	RJK Guns & Stuff 868 Hyde St Whitney Point NY 13862 607-692-3346	The Gun & Archery Shop 150 Brookhaven Dr E Berne NY 12059 518-872-1527	Get Your Repeal The SAFE Act sign on page 20.



Biographies of candidates running for SCOPE elections

Stephen J. Aldstadt

Nominated to the NRA Board of Directors. NRA Endowment Member. NRA Certified Instructor; Basic Rifle, Pistol, Shotgun, RSO. Erie County Reserve Deputy Sheriff. Holds several state CCW Licenses.

Twenty years of dedicated Second Amendment Activism. Member of National Shooting Sports Foundation, New York State Rifle and Pistol Association, SAFE (Sportsmen's Association for Firearms Education), Safari Club International, West Falls Conservation Society, Iroquois Arms Collectors Association, New York Crossbow Coalition, Second Amendment Foundation - Awarded 2014 "Defender of Liberty". Chairman of Firearms and Ammunition Committee for New York State Conservation Council.

President S.C.O.P.E. - 2004 Distinguished Service Award, 2012 Thomas Paine Award. Executive Board member New York Sportsman's Advisory Council. 2012 Inductee New York Outdoorsmen Hall of Fame. Co-Founder of Teen Shooting Academy. Director and immediate past president, Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, awarded Lifetime Achievement 2008.

Boy Scouts Merit Badge Councilor for Rifle and Shotgun. 2015 Leadership Award from New York Oath Keepers. 2015 Patriot Award from Orange Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs.

Joe McAdams

My list of activities are as follows:

- Life member of SCOPE
- SCOPE banquet committee member

since 1999

- SCOPE program book coordinator since 1999
- SCOPE Finance Committee member since 2010
- SCOPE Coordinator since 2010
- Endowment Life Member of the NRA
- Annual member of NYSRP
- Director of the Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs
- Webmaster for the Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs
- Former Director and active member of the Erie County Conservation Society

I have been active with SCOPE since 1999 and have always volunteered where needed. I have worked with Steve Aldstadt and other SCOPE committee and chapters to create marketing standards for application of the SCOPE logo on signage and memorabilia.

I am outspoken and not afraid to say what is needed to be said and heard, but I am also a team player and can take direction. While I do volunteer with many other organizations, SCOPE and our mission has always been my highest concern.

I have a MS degree in Network Engineering and hold numerous certifications. I live in Niagara Falls, NY and I am planning a move to Lancaster sometime next year. I am an active hunter, gun collector and sportsman and I am very passionate about protecting our 2nd Amendment rights.

I believe I have a lot to contribute as Director and would be honored to be re-elected.

Harold W. "Budd" Schroeder

Budd Schroeder is the longest serving member of SCOPE. He joined as soon as the organization incorporated in 1965 and has been an officer and director ever since. He

served 16 terms as president and several years as Chairman Of The Board. He has been a vocal supporter for Second Amendment rights appearing on radio and TV for commentary of the laws. He has been the speaker at many political and sportsmen's meetings and rallies. He also has written numerous columns and letters to the editor in defending the Constitution and for more than three decades has written the column "The Right Side" for the Front Page group of newspapers.

Schroeder is a member of the Executive Committee of the Erie County Conservative Party and is a State Committeeman. He knows all the legislators in the Western District on a first name basis and keeps in contact with them whenever the gun rights issue becomes newsworthy.

After 30 years as a member of the Erie County Sheriff's Office Scientific Staff (reserve) he retired as a lieutenant. He was a staff sergeant in the Army and was a member of the Fort Bragg Pistol Team. After discharge he became a NRA Certified Training Counselor to teach pistol, rifle, shotgun, personal protection and Refuse To Be A Victim courses. Budd also served on the NRA Board of Director for six terms.

Kevin E. Sisson

Kevin is a native New Yorker, raised on a farm in Schoharie County, New York, where he learned early the values of self-discipline and working with ones' hands.

He served as a missionary for two years in the Western United States beginning in 1984. Kevin is a proud father of three sons, Justin, Kyle, and Tanner.

Kevin began his career in construction/structural concrete in 1987, rising to the position of Superintendent in 2009. He has built bridges throughout Eastern NY.

At the time our NYS Legis-

OFFICIAL S.C.O.P.E. 2016 BALLOT

S.C.O.P.E. ELECTIONS FOR AT-LARGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

There are 5 seats up for election. Please vote for **any 5** from the following list and/or you may write in a member's name who is not listed, provided they are currently a member in good standing. Clip and mail your ballot as per the directions below. You are welcome and encouraged to attend the April annual members' meeting. See page 3 for location and time.

[] **Stephen Aldstadt**, [] **Joe McAdams** , [] **Jim Nowotny**, [] **Budd Schroeder**
 [] **Kevin Sisson** , [] **Donald H. Smith**, [] _____

- You must be a member in good standing with a current active membership to vote.
- Ballots must be **postmarked no later than April 3, 2016**.

Important: Leave your address label on the reverse side, clip out and send Ballot to:

SCOPE, 8316 Irish Rd., Colden, NY 14033

Instructions:

**Use the above ballot to vote for the 5 candidates of your choice.
 Clip the ballot out and mail it by April 3, 2015 to:**

SCOPE Ballot, 8316 Irish Rd., Colden, NY 14033

Important: Leave your address label on the reverse side

lature was fatigued into passing the "SAFE Act," Kevin was serving as a Town Councilman in his hometown. In his words, "I could not but speak." Since this time, Kevin has spoken at dozens of public forums, town hall meetings, county legislature meetings, and rallies. Kevin believes that the answers we will find in the future are none other than those held within the will and resolve of the people. In his words, the answers will come from our own efforts: "We The People are the Governors of Our State."

A member of SCOPE, NYS-RPA, Gun Owners of America, the National Rifle Association, the Second Amendment Foundation, and the Northeast Carpenters Political Action Team.

Donald H. Smith

I am interested in continuing as a member of SCOPE's State BOD. My initial experience has enabled me to better understand the present and future needs of the organization.

My goals include:

- Remain as a member of the Wayne County SCOPE Business Committee.
- Create and serve as chairman of a Wayne County SCOPE Political Communications Committee [PCC] involving volunteer members from Wayne and other chapters. The committee members will be in personal contact with elected officials at the local, state and federal levels.
- Initiate a planned political education campaign via PCC involving

meetings to be held at legislators' local and Albany offices.

- Maintain an email distribution list to disburse alerts and updates involving issues and legislation impacting our civil and Constitutional rights.
- Continue to promote SCOPE via distribution of SCOPE signs, Firing Lines and publications relating to a variety of current issues.
- Persist in the formation of new SCOPE Committees.



From, SCOPE, PO BOX 602, TONAWANDA, NY, 14151-0602
Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT
U.S. Postage
PAID
Webster, NY
Permit # 91

Firing Lines page 24

Your membership expiration date is on the label, please renew today!

**YOU INSURE YOUR CAR, YOUR HOME, EVEN
YOUR HEALTH - WELL HOW ABOUT
INSURING YOUR 2ND AMENDMENT RIGHTS?**

SCOPE THE RIGHT INSURANCE!

**SO DON'T DELAY
SIGN UP TODAY!**



Donate to SCOPE
Make an on-line donation
and receive this yard sign
by mail to demonstrate your
support for SCOPE and the
2nd Amendment

**REPEAL
THE S.A.F.E. ACT**

SCOPE
SHOOTERS COMMITTEE ON POLITICAL EDUCATION
DEFEND YOUR RIGHTS
SCOPENY.ORG

See Details at
www.SCOPENY.org

Membership dues: Annual - \$25 3- Year Annual - \$70 S.C.O.P.E. Patch - \$5
 Sponsor - \$50 3- Year Sponsor - \$140 Senior Life (65+)- \$250 with proof of Age
 Life - \$600 Endowment - \$800 Benefactor - \$1000
 New Member Renewal Outside Window Decal \$2

Check Appropriate Boxes
 Mail to: S.C.O.P.E. (Shooters Committee On Political Education) PO Box 602, Tonawanda, NY 14151-0602
 Make Checks Payable to: S.C.O.P.E., Inc. (*Do Not Send Cash*)
Please Print

Name _____ Date of Birth _____
 Address _____ Phone (____) _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____ County _____
 Email Address _____

Please check the boxes that apply: Will you serve on Committees? Yes No
 Are you registered to Vote? Yes No

Revised November 11, 2013
 Contributions, gifts or membership dues made or paid to SCOPE are not refundable or transferable and are not deductible as charitable contributions for Federal Income Tax purposes.