Happy New Year?

While we all hope for a very happy and prosperous New Year, it isn’t looking too good for our right to keep and bear arms. In 2008, we were cautiously overjoyed with the United States Supreme Court ruling that upheld the Second Amendment protected an individual right. However, the fact that the Court only made a 5 to 4 decision is frightening. (When discussions were going around about 8 years ago about supporting George Bush for election, some pointed to possible Supreme Court appointments. If we have nothing else to thank President Bush for, we can certainly find heart in his SC picks.)

Likewise, the November 2008 elections were not favorable to our cause. Quoting from an e-mail alert from Sarah Brady, Chair of the Brady Campaign, sent shortly after the November election:

“We Won, the NRA Lost, Now Let’s Get Busy

“Dear XXXXX,

“Jim and I couldn’t be more pleased and proud of what you helped make happen this week. We have a tremendous opportunity with our new leaders.

“I can tell you: it hasn’t been this good for quite a while!

“The NRA is reeling from their election defeats. They lost in states where they spent millions on ad campaigns and endorsements. Now they are quickly rebuilding their war chest to fight us all the way.

“You know me as a do-er. I like to make things happen — especially when it results in saving lives. And as much as I want to breathe a sigh of relief after this week’s election, we need to get busy.”

She goes on to ask for people to send them money to help them fight the NRA and us.

In Colorado, the Democrats hold the State Senate, State House, and Governor. PPFC members will need to remain committed and strong. We can have an impact. Please renew your membership. We also need to rebuild our Small Donor Committee. You can only contribute $50 per year.

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CU Students Sue Over Concealed Carry
In 2003, the Colorado State Assembly enacted changes to the concealed carry law to make it a standard, statewide, shall issue law. In the new law, the legislature banned concealed carry on public K-12 schools but specifically allowed concealed carry on public college and university campuses. CU regents asked for a ruling from then-Colorado Attorney General Ken Salazar (to be Obama’s Secretary of Interior) if the STATE law applied to them. Salazar ruled the regents did not have to comply with state law and could ban concealed carry on campus. Concerned with their safety, students as UCCS have tried, unsuccessfully, to get the “policy” overturned. They have now filed suit in an El Paso County District Court to get the policy overturned. We hope to have an update at the January PPFC meeting on this and to see if we can find a way to help in this effort.

PPFC Elections
Next January, we will be holding elections for the following positions: Vice President, Secretary, Director of Membership, Legislative Director, PAC Steering Committee Chair, and 4 At-Large PAC Steering Committee members. The Board recommends the following candidates:

Vice President: Bob Heinrich
Secretary: Amy Mullaney
Membership: Dan Wandell
Legislative: Doug Davis
PAC Chair: Jeff Crank
PAC At-Large: Amy Lathen
John McFarland
Patrick Carter
Steve Hasbrouck
We will also take nominations from the floor before voting.

PPFC Holiday Dinner
We had a great turn out for our annual holiday dinner. Thanks to all members who turned out, the elected officials who attended, and all who brought food. The PPFC presented District Attorney John Newsome a plaque for his support of our rights during his term.