Colorado Gun Bills Live and Die Along Party Lines

On February 2nd the Colorado House State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee (“Kill Committee”) heard 5 bills that would have repealed the 2013 attack on our right to keep and bear arms or would have improved our rights. After more than 8 hours of testimony, the “no surprise” result was party line votes on 4 of the bills and Republican Dan Thurlow (R-Mesa) joined the 6 Democrats to kill a bill that would have required the Colorado Bureau of Investigation to provide the certificate required for the transfer of a machine gun, destructive device, and certain other firearms. The other four bills would have repealed the 15-round magazine limit, extended the “make my day” home protection to businesses, repealed the background check on private transfers, and provided civil liability protection to businesses that allow concealed carry firearms on their premises. PPFC Legislative Director, Michael Schlierf, and PPFC Treasurer, Bernie Herpin, were among the many people who testified on one or more of the bills. They were joined by David Kopel, Research Director of the Independence Institute, RMGO members, and several law enforcement officials supporting these bills.

To show what a difference a Republican majority can make in supporting our rights, while the attack on our rights was being waged by House Democrats, Senate Republicans passed a bill in the Judiciary Committee that will repeal the background check and fee on private transfers (no surprise: Sen. Merrfield voted no). After it passes the full Senate, it will go to the House were it will likely die in the House Kill Committee.

This action underscores, in vivid terms, way it is imperative that PPFC members continue to work on getting Republicans elected in all positions.

El Paso County Sheriff’s Office Concealed Carry Update

Laurie Thomas of the El Paso County Sheriff’s Office will give PPFC members an update on their concealed handgun permit program and process at the PPFC February 12th membership meeting. This will be an informative presentation for our members; especially, those who hold or are

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considering getting an CHP. With a new Sheriff in charge, it is important that we learn about any changes in the program and what the renewal procedures will be.

**Annual Colorado Springs Friends of NRA Dinner**
The 20th annual Colorado Springs Friends of NRA dinner will be held on Thursday, March 26th, starting at 5:30PM, at the Swan House Manor, 5515 Palmer Park Blvd (about 2 blocks west of Powers). This is the annual fundraiser for the NRA Foundation which helps fund firearm education, youth and women shooting sports, range development, and many other programs. Half of all money raised stays in our community. The NRA Foundation has given PPFC a grant for the last several years for our Women on Target clinics which introduce women to the shooting sports—a very successful program.

Information and a ticket order form are available on the PPFC website. You can also pre-purchase tickets for the ever popular bucket drawings. If you get them by March 12th, you will get 2-for-1!

There will be a great buffet dinner and many terrific prizes, including lots of firearms. Tickets are $40 and you do NOT have to be an NRA member to attend. If you have questions, call Dick Gandolf at 719-310-6414.

**Renew and Stay Involved**
If the member expiration date above your address is not 12/31/15 or later, your membership has expired. We need YOUR membership to ensure that PPFC remains a powerful voice in protecting our rights. PLEASE renew your membership now! You can renew, at our meeting, on-line on the PPFC website, or mail a check to PPFC at the above address. Dues are only $20 for individual and $30 for family memberships.

Important Colorado Springs City Council and Mayoral elections will take place this April. We will have a new mayor and up to 5 council members. We have invited candidates to our March 12th meeting and the PPFC PAC Steering Committee (PAC SC) will be making endorsements soon. You can help the PPFC support candidates by contributing to the PPFC PAC and SDC. Small Donor Committee donations are limited to only $50 per year, but the SDC can contribute higher amounts to candidates than we can from the PAC. Please consider donating to the PAC and SDC. You can do that on-line, at our meetings, or by mailing a check to the above address.

Thanks to those members elected to officer and PAC SC positions at the January meeting.

**PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!**