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NRA Workshop Feb 5, 2011

first speaker

Suzanne Anglewicz, Manager, Political & Legislative Activities, NRA-ILA

second speaker

Darin Goens, NRA-ILA Michigan Liaison

third speaker

Suzanne Anglewicz, Manager, Political & Legislative Activities, NRA-ILA

fourth speaker

Krista Cupp, Grassroots Coordinator, NRA-ILA

[0:00:00]

Speaker 1:

Good morning again. Thanks for braving the cold and joining us this morning at Cabela's and I want to thank Chad and the folks here at Cabela's for having us back. This is always a great event. This is my home state. I haven't lived in Michigan for five years but I will always be a Michigan girl. So, it's always good to come home.

My name is Suzanne Anglewicz. Yes, I should start there. I am the manager of political and legislative activities for the NRA-ILA and I'm here this morning with a couple other folks from NRA Headquarters. Krista Cupp is our Grassroots Coordinator in the back **[0:00:29] [Inaudible]** and also Darin Goens is joining us this year. He is the lobbyist for the State of Michigan. He does a lot of travelling. He works for Michigan lawmakers. So, you're gonna hear from them a little bit later about some more specific pieces of legislation and I'm sure you have questions and are curious about.

Well, we're here this morning to talk about Grassroots activism. You know as gun owners we are uniquely situated because I know right now Grassroots activism has really had a huge boost. Everybody is getting involved in tea parties and Grassroots efforts and it's great to see. But see the thing about gun owners as we have mastered this for a very, very long time. This isn't new to us being Grassroots activist because unlike a lot of other issues our issue isn't new. It's not the issue of the day. This is a constant-- constant battle for us. I'm going all the time because we are always on the defensive. Very rarely do we get to stop and really celebrate the Second Amendment like we really want to because we're

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so busy trying to defend the Second Amendment, protect the Second Amendment and then we may get the chance to promote it.

So, as the NRA being kind of the premiere Grassroots Organization and everybody knows that about the NRA members we really have to constantly hold workshops and travel and talk about Grassroots activism, find new ways because again it's a day in and day out battle for the Second Amendment.

So what we're gonna do today is talk about some of the tried and true methods of Grassroots activism. And I hope really that you'll take this information that we talked about today and you'll take it back to your communities. You will share it with your fellow hunters, your gun owners, those that maybe don't even own a firearm. They have never shot one in their life but they support the Second Amendment under law and constitutional nature of what it means as an individual right.

So, we're really hoping that for the folks that didn't make it out today that you'll take this information back to them and share it with them and so again I appreciate you all being here this morning. It's a cold Saturday.

So, we have a lot to discuss and I want to start with talking about NRA's role in Grassroots politics. What's really great about NRA is that we have a motto that has really withstood in time as far as Grassroots organizing. Our goal is the continuous recruitment of members, education of members about different issues and legislation and politics, the mobilization of all our members and then the activation of members. So, these four things all basically form a very strong Second Amendment community.

So, when you think about our ability and our responsibility to develop a strong and sustainable pro Second Amendment base we have 80-90 million gun owners in this country. Where is everybody is what I'm wondering? We've got four million NRA members. Four million. But there are 80-90 million gun owners in this country.

So, our responsibility in our job is to activate those people and again we're uniquely situated to find them and so what we're gonna do today is tell you how do you find these people. How do you talk to them? Engage them in the issue. I know that most of you are probably great activist but just by virtue of being here this morning you came out to hear

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us talk about this but our goal really is to get back to your communities and talk to others about it.

I can't tell you how many times. Even here in Michigan I'd go to gun shops and talk to folks and I don't want anything to do with the political stuff. I'm not a political activist. I don't want anything to do with that. We're not asking people to jump in and become political activist and **[0:03:51] [Inaudible]**. We're not asking them to do that. Every little bit counts and so today we're gonna give you a couple ideas that we don't expect everybody to do everything but everybody can do something. Just one thing and that's what Grassroots politics is about.

So, basically everybody knows that NRA success is largely a result of Grassroots lobbying. We've got lobbyists. You're gonna hear from one of them today. They do a fantastic job. But that's one person and he has six or seven states they have to focus on.

Everybody knows about NRA members. You guys are our lobbyists. You are the true lobbyists. You are passionate. You're educated about the issue and that's why nobody wants to mess with the NRA. It's not because of why I am up here. It's not because of our staff at NRA headquarters are our lobbyists. We're pretty small shop.

People are usually pretty surprised at how small ILA is sometimes. But what really is the strength. The reason why we're the most powerful lobby in the country is because of our members and why we only have four million which sounds small but in the context of 80-90 million we are extremely powerful and that's because you guys show up to events like this. So everything we're gonna talk about again today is gonna be about recruitment.

[0:05:00]

Speaker 1: Education, mobilization and activation. So everything we talked about today is gonna be focusing on these things so we hope that you'll undertake one or two or three or maybe all of these different things when you head back.

One of the things we like to talk about most are the gun owners natural resources. Our motto especially for our Grassroots folks is you got to hunt where the ducks are. We are so uniquely situated as gun owners

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because we have built in natural resources. We can utilize them because we know exactly what they are. These are gun shops, gun shows, shooting ranges and sportsman's clubs. We know exactly where to find 80-90 million gun owners. We know where we're gonna find them.

Unlike the other side there's no anti-gun shops. There's no anti-gun shows. So what's our excuse for not getting these people into default? So, we know where to find these folks. So, when we talk about Grassroots activism these are the places we're gonna start engaging people in conversation. We're gonna chat them up about you know the upcoming elections. Michigan has got a lot of legislative efforts right now. Every chance you can get why not talk about it. Maybe they don't want to be political but it doesn't hurt to bring up the fact hey, did you know there is this piece of legislation or this guy is an NRA endorsed candidate. Did you know that?

So, these are the places that you have to start talking about this stuff. You know I get that maybe you know you and your hunting buddies don't want to be out there talking about legislation but you always have an opportunity.

Again, this is where you're going to find your pro-gun volunteers, pro-gun voters and all of your Second Amendment supporters. So, once you've identified the people that you need to identify to engage them in the Grassroots game then you need to educate them and the issues on legislation and that's what we're going to do now is we're gonna kind of start off with some focus on Michigan's specific legislations.

So, I'm gonna bring Darin Goens up. He's our Michigan lobbyist for the NRA-ILA and he's gonna talk about a couple of different issues and he's gonna take some questions and had your questions and answer for a little bit too as well. So, here's Darin Goens. **[Applause]**.

Speaker 2: Alright. Let me try this out. Is it working?

Audience: Not too good.

Speaker 2: Not too good. There we go. I noticed Suzanne it was a little bit hard to hear in the back of the room so I thought I'd give this a try.

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My name is Darin Goens. I'm a state liaisoner. I guess as most people like to say lobbyist for the National Rifle Association. I've done this for five years actually just starting my six session in Michigan. I also handle several other states North and South Dakota, Colorado, Michigan of course and then I've got some new assignments in New York, Vermont and Rhode Island and I just came in from Rhode Island the night before and let me tell you it's good to be at Cabela's and see a roomful of gunnies because in the Northeast United States it's a completely different ball game.

So, it's good for me to go on and do those sorts of things and then come here because it reminds me every day why I do this. Because you see what happens when they do start to reappeal your gun rights and they put restrictions on things I just looked around in a couple of aisles in the store the things you know that I have at home. In those states those things are completely illegal. There's stuff on the shelves there I know that's already restricted in those states and as Suzanne said this is an important fight. This is important because our future is at stake. Our constitutional right and when they take one thing they're back for the next session in those states to take something else and if you don't hold the line gradually it's down the line. It's gonna be a losing cause. We looked nationally we had a couple of big Supreme Court cases that went in our favor.

During that same time actually almost simultaneously our president in the United States appointed two Supreme Court justices that would completely undo that. So, for anybody to rest on their laurels and think that this is a safe issue for us because we're winning in places and we're accomplishing some good things I won't minimize that at all but for anyone to be complacent I would strictly urge against that.

Like I said I see you know living and working **[09:23] [Inaudible]** how it goes and it's a slippery slope and for those of-- you know some of the folks on the other side of the aisle during the last election and you know we're completely non-partisan but you know the anti-gunners said, oh, the NRA they are just spreading fear. It's not about fear. It's about reality if you go to those places. But in Michigan things are very different and this is a good state. This is actually one of the best states that I worked. We've got more other things accomplished out here. Things that I think all gun owners are proud of and the thing that I appreciate about what Krista and Suzanne do.

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[0:10:00]

Speaker 2: Is my job becomes a lot easier because of what they do and that is getting you guys informed, getting immobilized so that when we have legislation up at the capitol you guys are making those phone calls and emails and I can't tell you what a difference that makes. I mean that entirely is our power. I mean the news media likes to talk about you know the NRA putting money into races and using political clout. Guess what? Our political clout is sitting in this room. It's you guys. Because without you guys making those phone calls or doing those emails I can go and knock on doors at the capitol and those guys you know there's other people who gave them money, there's other people you know to do that kind of thing but the bottom line is when gun owners call up and say they're angry in their constituents and gun owners do vote. I mean everybody knows that. They do vote. They put on bumper stickers. They go walk in parades and they're very active. We're an active group and without that that's where our clout comes from and that's where our ability to ensure that the Second Amendment is preserved comes from.

And I would like to turn the page now with some of the things in Michigan. I'm not up here to speak. I'm just a voice for you guys to hear. The best benefit I think that comes from these things are things that you guys are curious about and it's an opportunity for us to have a dialogue and for you to ask questions about what's going on here in your home state.

I don't do federal legislation but you know I try to keep up on some of the federal stuff if you guys have questions but I am heavily immersed in the state stuff so that's where my expertise is gonna be.

In Michigan like I said since I've taken over five or six years ago here as a lobbyist we have accomplished some great things. The first one on the docket for me was Castle Doctrine and Michigan got the Castle Doctrine passed and like all the other gun bills whether it's concealed carry or now the safe zone discussion you know the thing I fought in committee you know some of the state police groups and NRA gunners and other groups come up and say oh, this is gonna be blood in the streets, wild west and you know I've just heard it time and time again no matter anytime a gun bill comes up or we're talking about law abiding citizens having an additional right you know the panic mode goes into full effect and they

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start you know politicizing it and using language like that and guess what we've had Castle Doctrine here for I think it's been about five years and not a problem.

I mean it's amazing even some of the folks in the opposition said wow, this turned out much better than we thought. I mean guys are acting responsibly. You don't hear about you know I remember some of the **[0:12:34] [Inaudible]** examples I've heard here and in the states where we're still trying to pass this about. Well, what if you don't like your neighbor and he brings back the rake and he's trespassing and your shooting you know I mean crazy stuff like that. Well, guess what? I mean that's not reality and we laughed at those things in committee but it's the gun owners who have time in time are proven again on concealed carry Castle Doctrine. Guess what? You don't have to be afraid of the guy that goes and fills up paperwork per minute.

The guy that you got to be afraid about is the guy that ignores that and goes in the alley behind 7-Eleven and buy something illegal and goes and breaks the law. Every year we go up to North Dakota and do **[0:13:16] [Inaudible]** hunting. I'm from the Dakotas and there's a couple of guys actually from just across **[0:13:21] [Inaudible]** in Ontario and they come back and you know you he said to me. He goes one year I think I brought a handgun with me and he said why do you need that and I said well, you know in the United States it's not a **[0:13:38] [Inaudible]** needs. It's alright. I mean I don't have to prove that I need this.

You know but some of these things are foreign to them but it does make me think and so it's just interesting how the mentality changes. But you know moving on I want to keep going here but Castle Doctrine was one of the major things and then the State of Emergency Legislation that we passed to prevent basically the Katrina disaster where you had the police confiscating guns from law abiding gun owners. We fixed that in Michigan by passing the State of Emergency Legislation.

We've also worked on Youth Hunting initiatives. We've done several things from hunters. Youth hunting initiative is one where we're reducing barriers to getting kids in the field. Michigan is an interesting example and I really was immersed in this for almost a full year when NRA was fighting the hunting fee increase and it's one thing if they come and say, you know what there's inflationary pressures and we need to bump up the hunting license two or three dollars. But his license when I

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went to the first meeting they were doubling, tripling and in some cases quadrupling license fees and this is a time when we were going through an economic recession. I know for a fact. I had phone calls from guys in Michigan and said, listen I lost my job.

[0:15:00]

Speaker 2:

I'm literally hunting for food for sustenance and these guys are you know raising my fees three and four times and it was also a time when ammunition was you know there was a run on ammunition and supplies became scarce, price went up so we were literally pricing hunters out of the market and I think that the direction that the DNR wanted to go was absolutely the wrong direction and it was a fright.

You might not believe this but of all the concealed carry, the Castle Doctrine issues, the toughest issue I fought in any of my states to this point was fighting the DNR here on the hunting fee increase. I mean it was just they need it and you know I do understand that the department needs money and they need money to you know manage the resource but at the same time it seemed like we we're not getting a very good reception when we said hey, let's look at other things. You know there are other solutions to raising money and on top of that people need to remember it through the Federal Pittman-Robertson moneys that every time you buy something in the store fishing or hunting gear. Fishing is Dingle-Johnson. But there's an excess tax on that and that money the Federal Government collects and it comes back to the states for habitat development. So, already these open spaces, the parks. A lot of this habitat is already financed on the tax of hunters and fisherman and sportsman.

So, that was one of the things that we were glad that we were able to prevent but I'm guessing is budgetary pressures increase that will be something that comes back. The other thing that we did is the post purchase safety inspection on handguns. We got rid of that.

Now, I got a lot of phone calls on that saying, oh, it doesn't go far enough. I will be the first one to admit it doesn't go far enough. But sometimes you know you got to take what you can get and the political climate in Lansing for years the majority is-- I mean they were solid pro-gun. We had just enough votes but especially in a house that was a **[0:16:55]** **[Inaudible]** in the governor's office. It was hit or miss. I mean she did

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sign a lot of bills for us but as Attorney General she was against concealed carry and a lot of other things. So, really it was hard to push too far forward there for a two or three year period but that was one of the things that we did with the intention. I told these guys when they called they said listen, two of the big things are up there registration and reappeal of permit to purchase. Those are unequated relics of old gun control that just no longer needed.

In terms of registration I think there's only about six states in the country that didn't have registration left and coincidentally it seems like it's the states closest to Canada, the ones at Northeast Michigan. Everybody knows Canada **[0:17:41] [Inaudible]** with registration. They've dumped billions down that **[0:17:44] [Inaudible]** you know this neighborhood is in trial or wherever is dangerous as ever. I mean registration just does not work and in Michigan-- I mean everybody knows that the economy has been a little rough and that's probably putting it lightly but to pour that money into registration with absolutely no relevance to crime it's just pointless and then the reappeal permit to purchase.

It was interesting one time I was in Lansing and I had some free time and I went to Gander Mountain should stay at the Cabela's but I did **[0:18:17] [Inaudible]. [Laughing]**. So I went in there and it looked like a husband and wife or guy and his girlfriend where she was interested and is also looking at I think the ones with the pink handles which I thought were kind of cool at that time. So, she says well, what do I need to do buy this gun and I thought you know why I'm a lobbyist. I'm always up for a little educational endeavor so I'm sitting there listening to her and are listening to the sales person and I was at lost after like five minutes and I mean I do this stuff for a living but I mean the forms and you need to go to the sheriff's office and you need this card. I mean it was absolutely ridiculous and she had worked in a way it was designed to work as one that Brady Bill passed.

I mean you know we had our problems with it at that time but basically we have an **[0:19:16] [Inaudible]** check now. This stuff is obsolete because its instant computerized check and it should work like in Colorado or the Dakotas when I have brought my guns. So go in, you fill out your federal paperwork, they run it through the system if you're cleared no problem. Now out the door you go with the gun. There's no waiting period. There's none of that.

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People need to understand why these relics exist. Back in the day in the 60s, 70s or earlier than that some of these non-contiguous purchase I'm trying to undo one in South Dakota now that says you got to live in a contiguous state to buy a shotgun or a rifle. The 48-hour waiting period is the permit to purchase. There maybe was a justification for it in the early days because if a sheriff had to investigate you, you couldn't jump on the internet.

[0:20:00]

Speaker 2:

You couldn't Google search anybody. I mean these databases were non-existent and it's to the point now works an instant check but after the Virginia **[0:20:10] [Inaudible]** part of the negotiations we worked on with the next improvement act actually made those checks better by requiring states to submit certain mental health records.

Now, we came into that discussion and we said alright if you're gonna do that there needs to be due process, there's a need to be court adjudicated process for getting your rights reestablished and so that was what we got out of the deal basically. If they're going to require the reporting and then also the grant moneys that states were eligible for, for reporting it so it wasn't an unfounded mandate. And I'm really, really starting to feel **[0:20:54] [Inaudible]** and I guess that's what happens when you hang out in state houses too much.

This session and I'll jump right into this and I got to tell you, you know with six states or seven states and things are just getting started here in terms of legislative session. I don't know these bills inside and out like I will in about two months but the major issues right now as everybody knows is discussion with senators around the safe zones and I mean I think it's pretty clear cut I mean we believe we have a constitutional right to carry for self-protection and we don't believe that if you cross an imaginary line into one of these regions then all of a sudden you become an unsafe person. That just doesn't make sense. We trust you to carry in the **[0:21:39] [Inaudible]** Store or the Wal-Mart wherever but then we tell you, you got to pick up your kid at daycare and all of a sudden you're a dangerous person.

I mean again its classic gun control where all the emphasis is putting more restrictions on the guy that's got a permit in his wallet to carry rather than going out and catching the criminals and prosecuting him and

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that's where law enforcement needs to be concerned. So the safe zone thing is in my mind it's pretty simplistic and that's not to say it's gonna be easy to pass. It's gonna be anything but because it's the imagery that's involved and that's it entirely.

In the light of these issues the thing that we combat is the emotions of it. You know in Vermont a couple of kids commit suicide. Tragedy. It's a tragedy. But now they are introducing mandatory stores. So, guess what? That affects everybody locking their guns up their home and making it useless for self-defense. I mean we've seen this in Arizona.

Tragic event. But the guy is a crazy guy and you know it doesn't matter what kind of gun was you have on the books. Guys like that are still gonna do stuff. I mean you can't uninvent the gun and they're gonna go back and you know get them illegally or do whatever and while that stuff is tragic we don't need to have any knee jerk reactions that don't solve anything. They just put restrictions on the rest of our constitutional rights and I mean now out of Arizona the major things you're gonna start seeing hopefully not here but in some states like Connecticut are magazine capacity.

Now, you tell me what's the difference if you have eight, 10, 12, 20. You got your pockets full of magazines. I mean it's one of those things that's gonna make no difference but more importantly than any of that is the fact that guess what a guy is not gonna go you know what I'm willing to commit murder but I want to stay straight with the gun laws. **[Laughter]**. I'm gonna kill the guy but I want to make sure I'm not violating any gun laws. I mean its lunacy. And with that I think I covered everything I want to talk about and probably some more. So, now we're gonna hear what you guys want to talk about. Any questions? We'll start here right in the front and I'll work my way back.

Audience: I would like to address the situation of our stores that put a sign that say no guns allowed in here and the Michigan Association posts those places that **[0:24:14] [Inaudible]** recognize their right to do that but I think that perhaps that they should get a **[0:24:23] [Inaudible]** or a law that would say any place, that says any store or whatever that said you cannot carry your weapon with you that they must be responsible for your safety. They must have an **[0:24:38] [Inaudible]**. I'm 82 years old and it makes me **[0:24:46] [Inaudible]**. Right. And young females and so forth are the

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prime targets getting out of the stores or restaurants at nine or 11 o'clock or whatever.

[0:25:00]

Audience: They're not allowed to protect themselves. They should be able to leave the store that close at one. I don't know this. I come from **[0:25:11] 7 [Inaudible]** and we have a nice shopping center at **[0:25:14] [Inaudible]** one of the big shopping centers. Very modern and last week **[0:25:24] [Inaudible]** they are listening **[0:25:27] [Inaudible]** was the place that tell you should not carry a weapon. You know they have something like 12 entrances to a **[0:25:36] [Inaudible]** park. Only three of them have a sign that say that you cannot carry a weapon **[0:25:45] [Inaudible]** along with 20 other things that you cannot do. **[25:53] [Inaudible]** I think we should have a law that says that if you're going to allow people at your store that you should have a sign that's at least a foot tall **[0:26:07] [Inaudible]**. Thank you.

Speaker 2: Well, I think you said it all. I don't know what I need to answer anything other than that sounds like exactly what my dad says at states that have gun control. He said the government should you know write you a check when you know pay for your hospital bills or funerals or whatever. They should be responsible if they cannot provide. If they're removing the ability of you to protect yourself from you doing it then they should be liable the whole way through and I see your point and it is-- this is one of the reasons the work that we do is so important is because for the guy who's got the permit in his wallet he is carrying. It's very difficult. I mean to know oh, I can go here. I can't go here. I can go here. And you're walking around the entrances with a magnifying glass you know looking at the fine print to see if you can carry it there or not and there are private property restrictions and it makes the patch work even more confusing. The safe zones certainly make it more confusing.

One of the things that we worked on our last session we had a couple of bills introduced that didn't go anywhere but that doesn't mean you know that issue has gone away. For us the NRA works on this work of protection parking lot bills where you know you can't fire someone for taking a gun to work and also it address **[0:27:30] [Inaudible]** which would address the customers in. Let me tell you that was a lobbying fight here. You had every group come out of the woodwork who wanted an exemption. Whether it was the railroads. Whether it was the power

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companies. Whether it was nuclear facilities. I mean it just went on and on and it was me against 30 lobbyists on that.

So, before we got too far into that debate we just postpone that and especially after the election it looked like we had an opportunity to get some of these things done but I think it bring up a very good point. I agree with you 100%. Yes, sir.

Audience: Reappeal the permit to purchase. Is that across the board for everybody or strictly people with **[0:28:14] [Inaudible]**.

Speaker 2: No, we want to go across the board. This has been the interesting thing in Michigan. This is the politics that I have to deal with. Whether it's reappealing permit to purchase or an exemption for safe zones what happens up at the capitol is that groups will come forward and say you know whether it's the prosecutors, the judges whoever say that I can't carve out this. They said they carved out special groups and so I think the way this came up last session in reappeal permit to purchase is some law enforcement groups came and said well, you know we don't want to go through this and I said well, wait a minute I said you know I agree with you permit to purchase is **[0:29:01] [Inaudible]** let's get rid of it for everybody and then go whoa. So, to me you know we're not gonna carve out and create different classes of people and say your constitutional rights is different than a judge or a prosecutor or whoever. So, no we want to get rid of reappeal that permits purchase for everyone.

Audience: One thing from the **[0:29:25] [Inaudible]**. If you go get a permit and purchasing they give you a written test. It's actually why you know statewide or is that something **[0:29:36] [Inaudible]**.

Speaker 2: Yeah. There are...

Audience: **[0:29:40] [Inaudible]**.

Speaker 2: Yeah. If I remember in Michigan it's a 10 question test and you got to get eight or nine. You guys probably get seven and you can only take it like two or three times. So, yeah but that's statewide. Yeah. But that's part of what I mean we're working on.

[0:30:00]

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Speaker 2: Get rid of business. It's crazy. I'll take the next question.

Audience: **[0:30:04] [Inaudible]**

Speaker 2: Yup. Go ahead.

Audience: I'm here alone because all my friends are **[0:30:11] [Inaudible]**. **[Laughter]**. I'm liberal in a lot of respects but I just **[0:30:20] [Inaudible]** I took a class CCW class a year ago **[0:30:26] [Inaudible]** to do that again this year. But I'm just really shocked at some of the things that people say now that I'm trying to engage in conversations.

So, you all are going to gun shows trying to convince people maybe give the NRA \$30 a year. This should be so easy. I mean they should all be on work but these people you know one of my friends said-- I told her I was in favor of the right to cure and she said I don't want one more idiot out there with a gun and she turned around and walked away.

So, this is what I'm committed to have conversations with and I need facts and I need arguments and I need arguments where I can remain calm and say what about this. So I just want-- one more minute. So, my friend was going to come today who I give her credit. Well, she backed out. She said **[0:31:24] [Inaudible]** if somebody broke in I said what about your right to defend yourself. She said well, I really believe that if somebody broke into my house that I could talk him out of harming me. **[Laughter]**.

She might be able to that. I said okay that's not gonna work. She's a little paranoid so I said okay [Barb], what about the right to defend yourself against your government you know like in the case of Germany, Cambodia where the citizens were first disarmed and then you know murdered. Then she was interested. She said well, I don't think I'm going to agree with anything that I hear but I am willing to go and here and I thought that's the closest I got to get anybody involved and she's not here. **[Laughter]**.

Speaker 2: Good work. It's **[0:32:17] [Inaudible]**. Yes, sir.

Audience: **[0:32:22] [Inaudible]** permit to purchase. **[0:32:27] [Inaudible]** in fact order an age limit.

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Speaker 2: You know I'm trying to go back on that. The bills as far as I know haven't been reintroduced so we're working off from what we had last year. So, it's been several months since I dove into that but I don't think that we did anything with the age limits.

Audience: Well, I made bad choices you know recovering alcohol **[0:33:00] [Inaudible]** and because of that I cannot go into the store to purchase a firearm because of my criminal's background you know. It comes out **[0:33:11] [Inaudible]**. It doesn't matter what I did. It's categorized. Whatever is under due felony which I don't know what I was under **[0:33:23] [Inaudible]**. You know there's something we can do to where you know it's **[0:33:30] [Inaudible]** all drunks out of their own category other than being **[0:33:38] [Inaudible]**. You know I mean I'm not a bank robber or anything. You know what I'm what saying.

Speaker 2: Yeah.

Audience: But because I have been an old drunk I cannot go into a store and purchase a gun.

Speaker 2: Now, that's a good point and that really is you know we always take these things into consideration when we're dealing with other bills when they want to say oh, if you violate this it's a felony. I feel like you know I got to tell you and I mean I want to be hard on criminals and I'm sure you do too.

Audience: Yeah.

Speaker 2: But the thing is there is a difference between you know a violent offence and a violent crime and you know there's somebody that's a white collar criminal for example and so every time that they want to slap you know felony on you know violation of this or that you really need to examine it. When we're saying that someone's a felon it's a pretty serious deal.

Incidentally I'm working on an issue in another state on muzzle loaders because muzzle loaders aren't considered firearms and so some of the guys that are in **[0:34:43] [Inaudible]** North Dakota you know want to make sure that they stay classified as non-firearms because they still like to hunt and it's the only way that they can go out and hunt. So, we're very cognizant to that. We have to obviously walk a very fine line from a PR angle because of the guys that do have violent crimes in their past.

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[0:35:00]

Speaker 2: I mean you know I don't want to go under the DUI thing. It is what it is but certainly you know I don't categorize that in the same category someone that's robbing 7-Elevens and you know it would be nice that after so many years there was a process that you know some court adjudication where if you've got a clean record you can get some of those things either **[0:35:26] [Inaudible]** rehabilitated. No it's a very legitimate comment so. I discussed the report back.

Audience: How are you doing in trying to educate attorneys as well as judges in the States especially Michigan because you know getting the laws and the books **[0:35:46] [Inaudible]** aspect then to properly interpret it and properly respect it as another matter altogether and I have actually been involved with some court dealings where we even heard the judge say we have a gun problem. So, you know it gives the image to me at least that guns are running around with doing these various crimes by the individuals or you know get the imagery as they are also given a lot of...even the prosecutors are going way out of their way to really snap out on anyone that even thinks about using the gun or etcetera. So, what kinds of efforts are in your way that we can educate the attorneys and the judges more in depth way that they will understand?

Speaker 2: Yeah, that's a good question. That's a challenge on many levels and one that you did mention that also was an issue is the police officers. I mean pulling it over I mean the thing in Michigan that I get calls about all the time are you know when you get pulled over you're supposed to instantly say you know I'm a permit holder and you know that definition of what's instantaneous or immediately you know some of the law enforcement I don't know they always carried that out the way that they should but the attorneys and the judges that also is a valid point.

I got to be honest with you. I don't deal with that element as much because I you know passed the laws and unfortunately there are other departments that deal with that. I do know that we have a litigation team. In fact there was just in Michigan there is a case that I got a call from a guy and I referred him and so what they do is his attorneys then spoke with some Michigan council that we had here to help his attorney in their gun case.

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In terms of the judges, I'm not entirely certain you know what we do to educate them. I guess I would say part of it too is there is a little bit responsibility on them because you know they're doing the court proceedings and need to be educated too. But I don't know. Maybe Suzanne or Krista would have a better answer for that. I just know that we have legal staff there that does work with a lawyer referral service and some other things to help people but again that's after you know you're in court for one reason or another but you know maybe someone else here would have a better answer because I realized I'm not hitting your question 100%.

Audience: You know we have got referrals from the NRA.

Speaker 2: Yeah.

Audience: But it sort of got thinking that this is where you get practical situations. Okay, so you have the law but whose gonna respect the law like you have your gun, your CPL but whose really gonna respect it now. It's the classic politics throughout our history where even the presidents and you know Jackson was given a mandate by the congress but he said **[0:38:45] [Inaudible]** you know. So, you have this reoccurring political battle even after the legislations are passed.

Speaker 2: Oh, absolutely. I mean one of the examples was after Castle Doctrine. I mean we didn't know how judges and attorneys and prosecutors were gonna...you know was the prosecutor gonna go oh, you know under Castle Doctrine expire they go and say you know it's kind of close. We're gonna move forward with the case. So, you're absolutely right on that point is that after you passed some of these laws then there is the implementation and if there is someone that can better answer that you know we'll cover that.

Audience: First of all you're not going to be able educate judges because they are the law and they are the final arbitrators so just we can't get to them. I never have a problem with the devil I know. In Ohio we have a pro-gun general assembly now. We have a pro-gun governor. The attorney general is **[0:39:45] [Inaudible]** as he says he goes with the **[0:39:46] [Inaudible]** it just depends which copy was **[0:39:49] [Inaudible]**. My question is in Michigan with the new legislator with the new Attorney General I think were fine. The governor I believe is still an unknown **[0:39:57] [Inaudible]** I don't know if you have any other information.

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[0:40:00]

Speaker 2: Yeah, I mean he didn't do the questionnaire and I talked to him and to their credit they were very willing to have a discussion with me. I think we'll maybe have the benefit later of having the lieutenant governor here. I heard that **[0:40:16] [Brian Kelly]** maybe here later. So, you know that would be a good opportunity and certainly Brian has been excellent on our issue. He has been an A+.

Yes, it is at this point an unknown quantity. He didn't do the candidate survey because he made this policy of not doing it for any of the groups. But he did privately tell me that and Brian and I had lengthy discussions with him that you know they are willing to have discussions with us and I got to think that that's a better open door than what we have for the last eight years.

So, I'm certainly encouraged by it. I think he surrounded himself with some good people, some folks that I know and so hopefully we can make some **[0:40:54] [Inaudible]** there.

I guess on the flip side I've got no reason to believe that he would have any sort of animosity toward the issue either but it's a good point. Overall, Michigan politically things on our issue I think improved substantially. You know not necessarily the partisan nature of it but some of the seats you know where we elected folks. There were some good gains. Okay. **[0:41:21] [Inaudible]** He's been trying hard.

Audience: Okay. **[0:41:23] [Inaudible]**.

Speaker 2: Well, on the first question. Yes, I have heard about you know we obviously know about the secretary estate issue which is kind of been under current for years but now it's getting a little bit more adamant and that largely has to do with some of the local gun boards being bad and they feel like if they have a standardized process under you know centralized that it would be better.

Now, the thing that I always caution is that's if you have a good secretary estate. What happens if you have a bad secretary estate then you've got the bad local gun boards magnified for everyone. So, I don't really want to speak too much on that issue though because we're still going through

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that bill and I don't know that we've taken a formal position on that yet. So, I mean certainly these local gun boards are-- there is a hand form that we've had nightmares with so if there's a way to fix that issue you know we're **[0:42:37] [Inaudible]** and then your second question I have absolutely no idea. I've not heard anything about on medical marijuana if people were being disqualified for that reason alone so.

Audience: Yeah, I want you **[0:42:51] [Inaudible]**. The way I understand it the states that we have that are reciprocal with CPL there are still about one thousand imaginary barrier that would basically make us criminals if we got caught carrying a handgun within **[0:43:18] [Inaudible]**. So I guess my question is there any movement towards either reappealing that or amending it to allow a legal CPL carrier to carry within zone down state. I mean there are times that I go to Toledo **[0:43:39] [Inaudible]** that I know are legal in Ohio but if I just have to be in a just a free school zone I could be sent to prison for five years and that to me is not right. If you have a reciprocal agreement with another state I think it can cover that too.

Speaker 2: Yeah, that is a tough question. You go to the arbitrator boundaries. My understanding of the federal law and how it interacts is that those boundaries are set up but if a state for example. It can be fixed at the state level by allowing them...I just talked to—i can't remember which state it was but in one of the states where they were actually allowed to carry in schools.

Audience: We are here.

Speaker 2: Yeah.

Audience: On school ground. We're exempt from that but if you go in Ohio.

Speaker 2: Oh, I see what you're saying. You're talking about the reciprocity angle of it. Yeah. And I don't know you start getting in the multi-state agreements then and that becomes tough because I agree with you though if you recognize a permit from another state you know all the rules that apply to those citizens should apply to the reciprocity states for sure but those things get very complicated and that's why we're kind of gone with the you know the national carry at the federal level and that looks like it's getting some—can I take one pointer from Suzanne.

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[0:45:00]

Audience: This is the question regarding federal. I mean I'm sure you heard of **[0:45:04] [Inaudible]**. Well, it's my understanding that it was the reviewed and voted annually by the congress but I hadn't heard any news about this since 2008. Is it permanent now?

Speaker 2: Yeah, and that one I really am gonna have to plead ignorance on. That's one of the federal issues that I really don't know a whole lot about and I apologize for that but in my realm of keeping all the states straight the federal stuff gets but you're right. I mean in terms of—I haven't heard anything about it for quite a while and there hasn't been anything in our Grassroots alerts either but again if there's someone else here that can better answer that I'm all for it. So, Suzanne you've given me the angry look.

Speaker 1: No. We will certainly have time after the workshop. We just want to get things move in and get the rest of the workshop end but we'll be around for question and answer after as well. So, all of your questions will be answered.

Speaker 2: Thank you everyone. I always appreciate these discussions. **[Applause]**.

Speaker 1: I just want to do a couple of follow ups really quick because **[0:46:12] [Inaudible]** we might have some additional information. There was a question about how to present arguments and to give facts and statistics. If you're around later this afternoon we have a program called NRA University. And that's exactly what we're gonna do. We're gonna talk about the gun **[0:46:26] [Inaudible]** and how to debunk them, the arguments, all of the FBI crime statistics, percentages. So, if you're around later this afternoon I believe it starts at 2:30. NRA University would be a great opportunity to learn really specifically about facts and arguments and how to be a really good debater for your cause.

There is also a question about attorneys. I can tell you that by education I'm an attorney. I went to Cooley. So, I stayed here for a long time. Michigan State in Cooley. So, every year or twice a year we have a law symposium for attorneys specifically and of course judges are a different story but twice a year we put on a huge program for attorneys that want to learn more about how to practice Second Amendment law, how to get involved here in Michigan but we do this all over the country.

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So, if you keep in touch with the Grassroots division I can give you the information. Twice a year we did one in Chicago which I thought was fun because we got to bring it to **[0:47:17] [Inaudible]** right at its own turf and talk about the McDonald case and practitioners as lawyers and we do one at our annual meeting every year which this year was in Pittsburg so it's not too far for you also.

Again, twice a year we have really great legal seminars for attorneys and people that want to kind of become those warriors in the legal field and then lastly there was a question about right to carry you talked about in other states. It's very interesting because just this past week at headquarters we have been discussing that particular issue that in Michigan you can carry them at schools if you have an out of state permit so keep kind of posted with the Grassroots division on our website because that's something that everyone's talking about right know about those sort of things. So we should have more information about that type of legislation shortly.

Audience: I know there haven't been many **[0:48:03] [Inaudible]**.

Speaker 1: Not at all actually.

Audience: **[0:48:06] [Inaudible]** case pending right now.

Speaker 1: Exactly and when you have one case and you want to start to make a legislative change opposed to a legal change so you have to sort of figure out what's the best way to go after it. Do you go legally or do it legislatively. But that is something that has been sorted. I know Krista did a lot of research in the last couple of weeks on that because she was presented with that same question so we have been really talking a lot about it. So, hopefully in the next coming weeks we'll have some more information about that.

Audience: What **[0:48:39] [Inaudible]** additional penalties for someone who already had committed a crime in the school zone.

Speaker 1: Right. It's complicated because you have a federal piece overwriting legislation which there are certain states that do not have specifics. So, it's a very complex legislative scenario where you have a federal law but you have taken considerations.

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Audience: Can you just give civil amendment that says if you're in a state that has reciprocal agreement with your state that you will be...

Speaker 1: And those are done to the attorney generals so that makes it a whole other ball game but again we're gonna—interestingly there's gonna be lot of exploration on that.

Audience: Anybody that's legal.

Speaker 1: Right.

Audience: Become a criminal **[0:49:21] [Inaudible]**.

Speaker 1: Of course, absolutely. So, but just a couple of follow ups and now we're gonna move. We talked a lot about Michigan and we thanked Darin for taking the time. He travels a lot. He's got a lot of states. So, we appreciate him here taking about Michigan.

We're gonna switch gears and talk a little bit on the federal level even for those that have crossed the border from Ohio so this will be relevant to everybody. But one of the things I want to talk about is H.R.308 which is the Large Capacity Ammunition Feeding Device Act. Who here knows Carolyn McCarthy is? I'm sure most people have heard her name. I'm surprised if you haven't. Carolyn McCarthy has been in congress for 14 years and this woman's main goal.

[0:50:00]

Speaker 1: Her most aggressive legislative efforts have been what she calls assault weapons which are semi-automatic firearms and to limit obviously magazines no more than 10 rounds. 2003, 2005, 2007 she tried it permanently. She wanted to make the Clinton gun ban reinstated and make it permanent. I mean basically all semi-automatic firearms and then of course anything over 10 rounds. So, she's back and this is her obviously right in following the tragedy in Tucson. This was her piece of legislation that has been introduced. Again, its Large Capacity Ammunition Feeding Device Act.

Basically, what this will do is ban the manufacturer and the sale and the importation of any new magazines over 10 rounds. They would also

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make millions, tens of millions of gun owners at risk for prosecution. I have a lot of 30 round magazines from **[0:50:51] [Inaudible]**. I have them kind of laying around some places. I can walk oh there's one there. I got them all over the house. It's kind of laying on. They thought oh my goodness I'm at risk for prosecution because one of the things is even though there would be a grandfather clause that if you already own them I thought let me grab my little magazines here **[0:51:08] [Inaudible]** and look at them. Now, there is single one of them was stamped with a date.

So, how would you possibly know if this was made before this legislation or after this legislation? So, again its very nonsense to call but that doesn't sort of rebut the fact that criminals are law breakers by definition. They're going to find 30 rounds magazines, 20 round magazines. They're going to find magazines and they're not gonna stop and say well, if I can only have nine bullets I'm not gonna commit this crime but if I can have 12 well then here I go.

So, it is so nonsense to cross the board but I think the scariest part is that it really opens a lot of criminal prosecution and so we are obviously going to work really hard against this. Luckily Carolyn McCarthy and all of her crazy schemes have never had success with reinstating the gun ban or the magazine. However, in the wake of a tragedy when **[0:52:00] [Inaudible]** somehow the media has made it about a 30 round magazine. They have made about 31 round magazine. They have made about that so now that has more attraction than it has previously. So, we are gonna be very diligent about what happens with this bill and we need all of you.

We're gonna talk about specific Grassroots methods starting now. We need everyone to write their representatives. Let them know again. You know we're always on the defensive. We have an opportunity to be the offensive sometimes. So we really need to get everyone to flood their lawmakers now before there's any attraction to this bill or whatsoever. So, don't forget H.R. 308.

Now, after talking about this a lot of people think well, what does Obama has to say about this. What does President Obama have to say about this? What's his plan? Well, a lot of people were pleased to see that he didn't make any mention of gun control in his State of Union address. I have to tell you that means absolutely nothing because based on President Obama's ability record when he was in Illinois as a senator and in the state he is one of the most anti—even though he has not done

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anything overtly as president coming in as president one of the most anti-gun presidents if not the most that we've ever had.

So, there has been some rumors. I know Newsweek last week if anyone saw it they said that now is the time that he's going to in the coming weeks unveil a gun control package in a separate address. That he held off on that on purpose. So, while we don't know what that is. We don't know what his gun control package will look like. We're not going to speculate what it could be but I can tell you this. Hours after he was elected president. Hours, there was a transition website about the president-elect and on there were all of his initiatives about what he wanted to do as a president. On there was gun control listed as a subheading. There were four points under it and one of them was to reinstitute the assault weapons ban and magazine capacity bans.

As soon as we found it and send it to our members the page disappeared but we have a thing called print screen where you can keep something so of course we made it into a fact sheet carried out to everybody but that was a few years ago now but we know his intent. We know that maybe the timing wasn't right but we know that the door has opened in a tragic way. So we are going be really on alert right now for what may happen in the coming weeks with this rumor of his gun control package in a separate address of the nation.

So, we are going to be very, very cautious and make sure that we address it every step of the way. So, we have a website NRA-ILA.org. All of this stuff bit by bit, update by update will be on that website. So be sure to check that consistently. So now that you have a focus on what's happening here in Michigan on a state level some of the things that Darin's gonna be working on in the coming months you know what some of our big things that we're on the lookout for at headquarters. Now, we're gonna talk what do you with this information. So, now we've sort of educated you on what's happening now what do you do. Well, let's talk about contesting the lawmakers first and foremost.

[0:55:00]

Speaker 1:

I can tell you that this is so, so very important. The more personal you can be the better. Personal communication is sort of a dying art with the age of emails and texting and Facebook. Nobody shakes your hand and looks you in the eye anymore. Nobody meets face to face with their

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lawmakers anymore and that go as much further way and no offense if folks thinks this is great but I want to say we got a lot of calls from people. Oh, why don't you just give us a postcard that's already pre-written so we can just mail it with our name on it? It doesn't work. That is the least effective Grassroots mechanism out there because it's even less personal than an email. Because we need people to say I'm a constituent. I vote. I'm an American citizen with rights and this is how I feel about this bill. So, we really need to be careful.

You know emails and phone calls are great but you want to personalize them as much as possible. Again, know the issue. We have got fact sheets on our website again NRA-ILA.org. Fact sheets with talking points about every single piece of legislation in your state that we're working on and everything's on a federal level and you can always call us and we will talk to you all day long. We talked to members and educate them in all the issues. Make sure you share your information with ILA. You know Krista and I we travel all over the country talking to members, educating them on legislation. It's not that easy to read but we want to know what you're hearing because we can't be ever here all the time. We can't be in every little community. There's a lot of small communities with hunting ordinances or trying to ban certain things. We rely on you just as much as you may rely on NRA. We need information from you.

So, anytime you do make contact with the lawmaker we want to know what they said. If you call them out or you ask them a question and they said something that you didn't really expect we want to know what they said. And if you're wondering about...now I know we just passed an election and we're not going to focus a lot on election related stuff because we're gonna focus more on legislation but if you're wondering how your lawmaker stand before you contact them because that's going to change the tone of how you contact a lawmaker. If they're a friend well you want to get them to be proactive. You want to say hey, why don't you co-sponsor this. Why don't you get involved and introduced this or get on this sort of wave here. If they're anti you want to give them facts. You want to tell them that they're wrong politely and explain to them this is why you're wrong.

So if you wonder where your lawmaker stand we have the NRA Political Victory Fund and NRAPVF.org and we grade every single lawmaker at the state and federal level based on their voting records, based on communications they've made, based with the lobbyist, their interactions

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they've had with them. They are assigned to grade. So, if you need to check and wonder well, I don't know what my congressman is or my state representatives **[0:57:43] [Inaudible]** because that will dictate how you reach out to them. So, feel free to check this website for grades or contact us and we can let you know.

Now, again there are a lot of different forms of communication when it comes to contacting your lawmakers and let's talk about some of those again. Emails, phone calls, letters are fantastic. They're quick and just by sheer value I mean there's nothing better than hearing that you shut down their server or their email system or their phone lines are completely clogged.

We have a guy that works as a coordinator and he worked in the senate and he was like there was nothing worse when NRA would put out an alert and they would just flood the phones; it blocked the phones, the emails that's Grassroots activism. It really truly is because they know that okay we need—maybe we didn't know about this issue but we need to know about it now. So, by sheer value those are really important. But I want to talk about personal meetings and town hall meetings because this is something that I have had extraordinary experience with. It was a couple of years ago I was just starting. I have been with NRA for about five years and now when I just started and Connecticut is one my states and we got calls that they were trying to be on hunting in this teeny, teeny little town and they were going to have a meeting at the fire hall about you know with this ordinance about bending and hunting within a certain area and we found out about it so we blasted you know an email, blast all of our members and said hey, they're having a meeting.

Well, people outside of the towns said we're going too because this could happen in my town even though it's the one next door or 40 miles away it can happen in mine. Well, that night we started getting reports about hundreds and hundreds of NRA members had come to this small town in this little fire hall and they were going there because they wanted to have a say and the fire marshall came in and said I got to shut this down. There's too many people here and you know NRA found out about it they told their members. The members came from all over so they shut down the meeting and they said we've got to find a larger venue.

Well, that just gave NRA more time to get more members at their meeting. **[Laughter]**. So the board knew this. The council knew this and

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they thought oh, boy. So in the time that they shut down the meeting looking for a new venue they dropped the ordinance altogether because they just knew we can't do this. This is never gonna fly in this little town. And so that was such a great experience for Grassroots activism because it really does work.

[1:00:00]

Speaker 1:

So, these are the things that town hall meetings and personal meetings. There's so much more personal and they really have a larger effect. So a couple of things to kind to keep in mind when you guys are contacting your lawmakers. Always address the lawmaker appropriately. I know they're frustrating. I know we don't really like many of them but be appropriate but always, always know that you're a voting constituent. The first thing you want to say is I'm a voting constituent in your district because their ear just gets bigger as soon as they know that you're a voter.

You want a reference. A bill number. An issue. I know we all have a lot to say. We're very angry about a lot of different issues but you want to be specific about this, when they reference the bill and this is one specifically I'm gonna talk about and you want to use our fact sheets from talking points and again use us.

We have sample letters on our website. You don't have to write it from scratch. We can provide you with any of that information. Keep a letter to one topic. We found that this is the most effective way to kind of keep on focused on something and emails obviously was gonna be shorter than a letter would be but this is really, really important.

You always want to describe how does this bill affect me as a gun owner, as a parent, as a father having to protect my family and my home with firearm, as somebody who wants as a young woman who wants to carry, those that you want to specifically say this is how this bill will affect me and this is why it's important to me and always try to make it as personal as possible. I'll get with you in just a second.

So, always try. Again personalization is the key. I mean we worked with a lot of folks who worked on the hill, they worked in those offices and they tell us there was you know form postcards. Nothing happens with them. Nothing happens with them. So, you really want to kind of really

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get out down there and hold them accountable for what they're gonna say and to hold them accountable that you want to request a written response.

Now, this is important not only for your own notification but for us at NRA headquarters especially for the lobbyists when it comes the time to make those grades. To make those you know political donations or grades we get folks that-- we might be surprised of what they had to say about a specific bill and then we can hold this up and say well, you may have answered that on the questionnaire. You may have told me that but here's a letter you wrote to me and you said the exact opposite or you said this but at the town hall meeting you said that. You have to hold them accountable and call them out. Don't say anything to get elected. But when you have something written in paper they can't escape from that. So, always, always ask for something written in response and feel free to send it on to us because we always keep those types of things. And again-- but be aware that there could be 10 responses but it still works. It's still counts for something. It's coming out of their office and it's what they're particular about.

So, these are just a few tips about contacting your lawmakers and things to keep in mind and I'm sure many of you do this but if you have any questions or you want sample letters or talking points and that sort of thing we will always, always answer your call.

The last thing I'm gonna talk about before I turned over is letters to the editor. Now a day's not many folks read the newspapers but between the Sports sections and the Opinion sections-- really the two highest read portions of the newspaper and letters to the editor are just a superb form. It's free media coverage especially when you want to talk about legislation because your fellow neighbors might see your name and think hey, that guy lives down the street from me. That's how he feels.

I wonder without legislations about you know his family. His kids play with my kids. We're really much the same. He supports legislation. I wondered maybe I'll look into it. It especially helps during elections and when you're talking about lawmakers and sales but its free media coverage about our issue. It's hard to penetrate into the media with NRA and Second Amendment stuff. We don't have much of a fighting chance to get into the mainstream. So, any chance you can get to write those letters is really important.

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Conform to the paper's guidelines. Again, you know I've written-- gosh so many letters. The Detroit News and the Free Press since I was in high school and I think twice in my entire lifetime that I get anything published.

So, the best shot you have is to conform with their guidelines which is normally short, concise, to the point, 200 words and again we have sample letters to the editor on our website that you can use. We will always help you with that. And again don't be disappointed if you're not published. Just keep on trying because they do get through. When they do get through they have an immediate and big, big impact.

We have sample letters and contact information so all you do is type in. You go to our website NRA-ILA. At the very top it says write your representatives, write your media. Click on that, put in your zip code, all of your local newspapers whether it's The Oakland Press or the **[1:04:37 Inaudible]**. All of those will show up along with The Detroit News, The Free Press and those sorts of things.

So, it's very, very easy. The addresses are there. We'll make it as easy as possible and we'll help you out to write them as well and again they're very effective. So, those are just a couple of the tried and true Grassroots methods that we hope that you'll discuss with folks and if you get some time to actually do it yourself. They're very effective.

[1:05:00]

Speaker 1: Now, I'm gonna turn it over to Krista Cupp and she's gonna talk more specifically about how to build pro-gun networks especially when you live here in your own communities and across the State of Michigan. Alright. **[Applause]**.

Speaker 4: Good morning everyone.

Audience: Good morning.

Speaker 4: Thank you. Alright. This morning I'm gonna talk about elections. Alright. We know that elections have consequences. We, as gun owners and Second Amendment supporters know probably more than anyone else that elections have consequences.

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Now, they can have good ones like we had in 2009 where in Virginia we won 97% of our endorsed candidates or we can have bad consequences like in 2008 when America elected an incredibly anti-gun President Barack Obama. So, for those of you who are thinking in your head okay, it's a little early to be talking about elections. It's 2011. We just got done with 10. But right now is the perfect time to start building that pro-gun network.

Now, how many in here today have been to a gun store, not including today here at Cabela's, have been to a gun store shooting range in the last month? Okay. How many in here have family or friends that are pro-gun? Okay, that's where we're gonna start.

So, today I want to talk about really four things. The first, how do we get people to the polls because we struggle with that. I'm gonna talk about voter registration and how we can really improve that. The second thing is social media and networking. It's huge. It has literally changed the phase of politics as we know it and we as gun owners have to get better at it.

The third thing is as many of you know this year is NRA's 140th birthday and in our 140 years we have come up with just a few programs to help with this and so we want to reach out to those individuals who are gun owners and Second Amendment supporters who are not necessarily NRA members. As Suzanne said there are about four million NRA members yet there are about 80-90 million gun owners. It's not you we're worried about. It's the rest of the 76-86 million gun owners out there who don't know the kinds of attacks **[1:07:34] [Inaudible]** today.

So, we have to build that pro-gun network to give the information out there, to make people knowledgeable about what's going on surrounding the issue and what we can do to help it.

So, let's just get started first with voter registration. Okay, so here in Michigan in 2010 42% was a voter turnout. Okay, so let's break it down 7.2 million were registered, 7.6 are of voting age but only 3.2 million actually voted.

Okay, I'm gonna be honest with you. I am not altruistic. I don't want everyone voting. I don't want my anti-gun neighbor voting or my liberal

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friends voting. I want us to be going to the polls. I want us to vote for that pro-gun moniker. But what can we do to really encourage that. Well, first we have to understand why people don't go to the polls.

Now, today it's easier than it's ever been. Now, in 2008 the **[1:08:43]** **[Inaudible]** study on why people didn't go to the polls. You can't read it all and go through it. Illness, or disability or other I can address that but I can't address too busy, not interested or their vote doesn't matter, they just like the candidates or the issues, out of town, it was inconvenient or they forgot.

Alright. So, too busy. I mean that's just ridiculous. How many of you have heard of early voting? How many have heard about absentee voting? Alright. It is now so incredibly easy to get to the polls whether it's on Election Day or it's not. You're able to cast your vote and it's easy. They mail it to you. You fill out some forms. You turn it in. You could do it at 2:00am while you're surfing the web. It's that easy.

Not interested. If you own a firearm then you obviously have an issue. You have a reason to go to the polls. You have a reason to vote. So, that excuse doesn't work. You're out of town. Again, absentee voting. It's so easy. Transportation. There are hundreds.

[1:10:00]

Speaker 4: Probably thousands of organizations that will drive you to the polls. Anybody you call. If you call the Republican Headquarters, the Democrat Headquarters, the Libertarian Headquarters don't take you to the polls so that is not an excuse either. Plus with absentee voting you don't have to drive anywhere. They mail it to you.

And finally forgot. Alright. If you live in this world-- If you live in the United States you cannot go to an intersection. You can't go to a grocery store. You can't turn your TV on. You can't turn your radio on without knowing there's an election. Bottom line. But on top of that if you're an NRA member I get the mail just as much as you do. It fills my mailbox. I get it. But you know that there's an election coming up. We do a very good job at making sure you know when it is and what candidates we think are gonna be the best on this issue.

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Now, we have had some help with voter registration. Our good friend here Chuck Norris, my favorite, is now the spokesman for Trigger The Vote. Trigger The Vote encourages gun owners to not only register to vote but to get their family and friends who are pro-gun individuals or Second Amendment supporters to get them registered to really spread the word.

Now, I am not nearly as qualified to talk about Trigger The Vote than Chuck Norris so I'm going to let him go ahead and talk about this program.

Chuck Norris: **[1:11:44] [Inaudible]**. You're in good company. Clearly people have forgotten our nation was founded **[1:12:00] [Inaudible]**. I voted for the candidate **[1:12:14] [Inaudible]**.

Speaker 4: So these are the kinds of videos. There's tons of videos on the website. You can go on there. It's www.triggerthevote.org. Go on there and send Chuck your story about you know registering a pro-gun friend or registering a family member. Send them an email. I promise you I know it sounds ridiculous but he does go through those and we highlight those on the website.

So, check out that website. Check out our NRA-ILA.org. Of course you know and I don't have to tell you how incredibly important Facebook, You Tube and Twitter have become but what I do have to tell you is that like I said in 2008 we didn't mobilized our people using social media. We didn't do that and so in 2012 if we're going to be successful we're gonna have to get better at it.

You see new political technology has literally changed the phase of how we do things. If there's a bill going through in Lansing or on a federal level I can put it up on Facebook and in a matter of literally two seconds millions of people can see it. They can see what to do, where the bill is and even what sort of chance it has. I can put that information on there but not only that if I'm a fan of NRA's Facebook page I will get that information but then I can repost it. So if my 400 friends on Facebook-- if they see that and only 10 of my friends on Facebook respread the word and then 10 of their friends can you see the exponential growth in using the internet, in using social media and new technology? It's credible how many people we can reach.

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Today, there are about 103 million Facebook users from the United States. Now, a raise of hand here. How many people are on Facebook? Okay, so quite a few of you. I never thought I would see the day that I added my mom or quite frankly my dad as a friend on Facebook. But in 2009 the largest demographic that grew on Facebook was 55 and older. It grew 922%.

[1:15:00]

Speaker 4:

The second largest growing demographic is 35-54 growing 328%. So, it's not just to keep up with your friends or to see what so and so is doing now. It has become so imperative for our road back to victory. We have to use this. It's no longer an option for us. We have to use this new technology to get the message out there, to educate people, to recruit them to help us and to spread the word.

Now, our Facebook page. I saw a number of you had your hands up for Facebook users. How many are fans of the Facebook page for NRA? Okay, so each and every one of you today. You can even probably do it on your phones right now and add NRA as your Facebook fan or your Facebook friend. We're gonna send you all the information that you need to know and it's gonna be free.

You know 2008 was the first billion dollar election. Billion with a B. If we can send this information out for free that only means that we're able to reach that many more people for things like commercials, radio, print ads so use this technology to your advantage.

The second thing is that and I have to plug this because I do a thing on You Tube every week called the NRA-ILA Grassroots News Minute. Does anyone in here seen it? Okay, a couple of you. Yehey, that makes me happy.

We use You Tube just like everyone else. I'm sure most of you in here have watched a video on You Tube of somebody tripping and falling or some music video that you wanted to see but actually the second most watched videos on You Tube aside from music and entertainment are politics and current events. Again, that's because it's free. We don't have to spend any money doing it. We don't have to use those vital resources that are going towards lobbying efforts that are going towards

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political campaigns or making sure that individuals know what's going on by getting it in the mail. So we're able to use this technology.

Now, I'm gonna show you one of my favorite videos on You Tube right now on the NRA channel. Now, on the NRA channel we have about over 300 videos right now and here is one of them.

Video Presentation: **[1:17:46]**

Speaker 4: Okay, so today I want you guys to go on You Tube. I want you to find NRA channel. All you have to do in the search line is take an NRA. It will come up. You can go through. You can see debates. You can see commercials. You can see all of these things and for the woman who was asking for arguments against her liberal friends that's gonna be the key because you can send that on. It's gonna have facts, statistics and all the things that you need to do to educate people about this issue because once they're educated then they want to become active.

The problem here is that people don't know the kinds of attacks you face every day. So we have to make sure that we're educating the 76-86 million gun owners out there and we can use ways like social networking, new media, You Tube, Facebook, Twitter, all of these things.

Now, as I said before NRA has been around for 140 years this November and in the 140 years we've come up with a few things that we think are just incredibly important to build that Grassroots network. The first are Second Amendment Activists Centers.

[1:20:00]

Speaker 4: Now, a number of you who raised your hand said that you had been to a gun shooting range in the last month. Well, the Second Amendment Activists Centers are pro-gun businesses who agreed to put our information out on their counters so for instance gun loss, bumper stickers, information about state legislation, all the things we feel that are important to really spread the word about not only NRA but about the gun issue. And so what you can do is in turn if that business agrees to cooperate with us and they put our information out on the table we will give them free advertising. So, it's a win-win deal.

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So, for instance if Joe's Pawnshop puts our information on their table we will send an email out to members in that area letting them know not only where they can go to get this kind of information but who they need to support.

We want to build an alliance with these pro-gun businesses and business owners. It's incredibly important for our cause. Plus you get somebody going into Joe's Pawnshop who's not an NRA member and who's not educated on the issue, they pick it up, they see oh, wow there's an important bill going through Michigan legislature and we need to contact our lawmakers. It's that easy. The second program that if you look into your packets but you'd all take out this orange card right there. This is NRA-ILA frontlines.

Now, I know that since you're here today you want to be active. You want to take on an even more active role to protect the Second Amendment and this is how you can do it. An NRA-ILA frontlines volunteer means that when there's important bills going to the legislature or we need to make sure we contact folks in our area about a good candidate who's running, who's gonna be solid of the Second Amendment we're gonna contact you.

Now, because NRA membership is confidential which I am very thankful for we have to get this information separately. Okay, so fill this up. I want everyone to fill this up right now. If you don't have a pen pass pens around. We've got some that we can bring to you. Fill this out. Not only are you going to be working with your local EBC whom I will introduce in a little bit. But you'll have a direct line of communication with what is going on not only legislatively but politically.

Now, some of the benefits include you'll receive a weekly Grassroots alert. You heard Darin talked about the NRA-ILA Grassroots alert. Every single Friday we'll send you information about what's going on in your area, on a federal level, what we're doing with court cases. It's gonna give you the entire information from what's been going on that week surrounding the Second Amendment and NRA. Okay, so everybody fill those out so that we can pass that information out to you and let you know what's going on surrounding the Second Amendment.

Now, make sure that you mark Yes if you want to be contacted by your EBC who's going to be your local point of contact. Now EBCs-- while

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you're filling those out this is an incredibly important program that we have. We have one EBC in every congressional district across the country and these are essentially leaders of the volunteers. They live in the district. They know what's going on. They know what needs to happen.

Listen. I was born and raised in Southern Missouri. I don't come to Michigan expecting you to think that I know everything about Michigan. I'm just now starting to learn about hockey. So, I don't want to come into your territory and tell you how to do it because that wouldn't be right just like I wouldn't want somebody from DC coming to Missouri and telling us how to run things.

So, we've got these EBCs here to help us, to tell us what's going on, to give them the resources that they need to make a difference and so you would work directly with those EBCs and making phone calls, writing letters, working of phone bank for a pro-gun candidate. These are all things that are important and you know the smallest thing can help. Picking up the phone and making calls to five of your friends is huge. Because then they'll pick up the phone and calls five of their friends. So, every little bit counts and we rely on you to be able to help us with that.

[1:25:00]

Speaker 4: Now, we have two EBCs here today. If you guys want to stand up and introduce yourselves to the crowd. We have Mr. Don McCarthy here. Yehey. **[Applause]**. And Mr. Wayne Blank. **[Applause]**.

Now, the contact information for these EBCs is in your packet. I want you to find out who your EBC is. Now, remember it goes by congressional district. So find out who your EBC is, give them a call, tell them you want to help out it will get that pro-gun Grassroots network going.

Male 1: You forgot me.

Speaker 4: Oh, I'm sorry. Stand up.

Male: My name is Jonathan **[1:25:48] [Inaudible]** and I'm from the Michigan 9.

Speaker 4: Okay. **[Applause]**.

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Okay. Now, you. The task is before you. There are things you can do today to get involved. You can contact your lawmakers. Darin talked about enormous amount of issues that were faced here in Michigan. Not only that we're coming against some strong opposition when it comes to the federal level.

So, we have to make sure that we're contacting our lawmakers on a local level and on a federal level. Write a letter to the editor. It may not get published. That's okay. But if we keep trying—if we keep trying then we'll be able to get one or two in there and then maybe the next time a few more or we can use that resource to help us spread the word and that's what we're trying to do. We can spread the word to build the Grassroots network.

Register pro-gun community to vote. Make sure your family and friends are on pro-gun. Make sure they will register. Don't ask your liberal friends to register. Ask the ones who are gonna support us, who are gonna get involved, who are gonna take an active role to protect the Second Amendment. Sign up as a frontlines volunteer today. Okay.

I want everyone to make sure you fill out this card and turn it in because otherwise we can't let you know what's going on and we want to be able to contact you. We want to be able to send you those emails. We want to know if you're interested in taking an even more active role to protect the Second Amendment and help recruit Second Amendment Activists Centers.

You all have been in a gun store the last month. Go back in there. Find out if they're interested. I guarantee you, I, in the last year have signed up over 30 Second Amendment Activists Centers. It is literally the easiest thing you will ever do. They want to be involved. They want to take an active role. Find out if they're interested. Let us know. Contact your EBCs and we will give the information they need to build this Grassroots network and finally stay informed. Okay.

Most of the issues we talked about here today will be found on our website. NRA-ILA.org. Go to triggerthevote.org website. Go to NRA-PVF. It gives out political information on endorsed candidates and candidate grades and questionnaires.

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All that information is all online and remember when you go in there and you see a story or an event that's going on copy the link and put it on your Facebook page. Okay, put it on your Facebook page because then it grows. We can only expand our reach by doing these incredibly simple things. We just have to make sure that we're motivated and activated to do it. It's that simple. And finally I will leave our contact information up here if you have any questions or concerns about any of this we are there to help. I mean we are resourced to you.

We want to do everything we can to make sure that we're building that foundation so we can see success in 2012 and that's what this is all about. We have to gear up now to make sure we have people in place so when we see those pro-gun candidates; we're able to mobilize and activate to get them elected. At the polls, we want to make Darin's job easier. We want to make our federal lobbyist's job easier. So we don't have to worry if there's anti-gun legislation coming around because we've got good lawmakers in place to stop it and that's the whole point of this.

So, I'll conclude here.

[1:29:46]

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