

POINT BLANK

**STRAIGHT TALK
ABOUT WHAT YOU
CAN DO TO
PRESERVE YOUR
RIGHT TO KEEP AND
BEAR ARMS**



**June
2012**
Volume XXXVII No. 6

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CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS

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2A PROTECTION BILLS AS UN ARMS TREATY LOOMS

Two important Second Amendment protection bills are languishing, one in the Senate and the other in the House of Representatives, as action looms on the United Nations' proposed Small Arms Trade Treaty, and the Citizens Committee for the right to Keep and Bear Arms is urging gun owners to press Congress for action.

In the Senate, the proposed Second Amendment Sovereignty Act, S. 2205, has been referred to the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. This legislation, authored by Kansas Sen. Jerry Moran has 14 co-sponsors.

The U.N. will meet from July 2-27, 2012 to finalize the treaty. Timing is critical.

In the House, HR 3594, sponsored by Illinois Republican Congressman Joe Walsh, with the cooperation and assistance of CCRKBA staff, has 33 co-sponsors. Like the Senate bill, the Walsh measure has been referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Known as the Second Amendment Protection Act, Walsh's bill was introduced back in December, while Moran unveiled his legislation in March.

While Moran's proposal places prohibitions on the Obama administration's ability to influence Arms Trade Treaty negotiations, the Walsh measure would block U.N. funding unless the President certifies that the world body "has not taken any action to restrict, attempt to restrict, or otherwise adversely infringe upon the rights of individuals...to keep and bear arms, or abridge any of the other constitutionally protected rights" of U.S. citizens.

CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb, who will travel to the U.N. in July during the negotiations process, told Point Blank that it is imperative for gun owners to contact Congress and urge their representatives to take action on these measures.

"Ever since the Obama administration reversed long-standing opposition to U.S. participation in Arms Trade Treaty negotiations back in the fall of 2009," he recalled, "this treaty has been hanging over Second Amendment sovereignty like the sword of Damocles. The international gun grabbers have spent years looking for ways to gut the Second Amendment."

Gottlieb, who was a driving force behind the creation of the International Association for the Protection of Civilian Arms Rights (IAPCAR), has been laboring behind the scenes to thwart an attack on American gun rights.

"The most effective means of derailing any administration involvement in making this treaty a reality," he observed, "is by pushing both the Moran and Walsh bills. The Obama administration has got to understand that American firearms owners are serious about protecting the Second Amendment. Our friends on Capitol Hill need all the support they can get to underscore this."

IL STEALTH GUN CONTROL MEASURE BY ANTI-GUNNERS

The Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms is urging its Illinois members and fellow gun owners to call lawmakers in Springfield and warn them to not allow Chicago lawmakers and the State Police to hijack SB 1034, transforming it into a stealth gun control measure.

The original legislation has been replaced by language designed to severely impair the rights of law-abiding Illinois firearms owners, including new residents to the state. According to our colleagues at the Illinois State Rifle Association's Political Victory Fund, the legislation as currently written would:

- Expand the list of disqualifying misdemeanors that would prevent

an individual from owning firearms. Under this legislation, something as simple as a shouting match with one's brother over a football game could result in a revocation of one's right to own firearms.

- Allow representatives for the gun prohibition lobby to testify against issuance of FOID cards to individual citizens.
- Institute a 60-day "waiting period" during which new residents of Illinois would be prohibited from purchasing firearms or ammunition.
- Require disclosure of your Social Security number to obtain an FOID card.
- Require immediate notification of a residence change to the State Police,

even though a resident has 30 days to change the address on his/her driver's license.

"This legislative revision is the handiwork of Chicago anti-gunners looking to adopt onerous restrictions on the rights of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms," noted CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb. "Illinois gun owners should use the vote on this measure as a litmus test for every state lawmaker who will be claiming to support the Second Amendment come the campaign season this fall."

CITIZEN ACTION PROJECT

The 2012 general election is five months away. Now is the time to ensure you are ready to carry out a right -- and critical duty -- of citizenship: voting. Most state primaries for Congressional and state offices will occur in the next two months.

Is your voter registration up to date? Any name or address change required? (Address changes are especially important, as your Congressional or legislative district may have changed. In addition, redistricting after the 2010 census may have altered the district maps.) How about your family members? Shooting or hunting friends? Co-workers?

Voter registration processes vary a little bit by state. The state Secretary of State has overall responsibility for supervising the voting procedure in each state. The Secretary of State's web site should have information instructing you on how to register to vote, or how to update or amend your voting status.

The National Association of Secretaries of State web site (www.nass.org) has contact information for all 50 state Secretaries of State. Just click on the state menu under "Contact Roster" and direct web links, telephone numbers and snail-mail addresses will be displayed.

For those without internet access, look in your telephone directory's blue "government" pages to find your county offices, or visit your county hall. The Registrar of Voters is usually housed in the county hall.



POINT BLANK

"Straight talk about what you can do to preserve your right to keep and bear arms."

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MI MAN DESERVES PRAISE, NOT FIRING FOR TURNING IN ‘FOUND GUN’

Wayne County, MI employee John Chevillott should be honored, not fired for turning over a loaded gun to the police that he found while on the job, the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms said.

“This man was fired by the Wayne County Department of Public Services for doing the right thing,” said CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb. “We are stunned that this situation has continued for two weeks. Wayne County officials need to correct this nonsense.”

Chevillott found the gun while he was mowing the grass in the Brightmoor neighborhood, according to published reports. He picked up the gun, which had been damaged by a lawnmower

and held it hoping to turn it over to the police, after he called to report the discovery. When police didn’t respond, he kept the gun and drove it to a police station after his shift. The gun turned out to have been stolen in 2005.

“The police reportedly commended Chevillott,” Gottlieb noted, “but his bosses fired him for ‘violating policy.’ Since when is it policy in Wayne County, or anywhere else, to simply leave a loaded gun lying around where it might be picked up by a child? Are morons in charge in Wayne County?”

In addition to firing Chevillott, the county also suspended his supervisor for 30 days. The local labor union has filed a grievance on Chevillott’s behalf.

“The policy Chevillott violated forbids employees from having weapons while on the job,” Gottlieb observed, “but that’s aimed at the carrying of personal weapons, not picking up loose guns found on the job and turning them over to police. It doesn’t take a rocket scientist to see the difference, and for Mr. Chevillott’s bosses to take such an inflexible position suggests it is bullheaded stubbornness, and nothing else, that is guiding their decision.”

“Mr. Chevillott should be immediately reinstated with full back pay,” Gottlieb said. “He clearly exercised responsibility by taking that gun off the street. What he did demonstrates far more civic leadership than his bosses at Wayne County.”

CCRKBA MONITORS SELF DEFENSE LEGISLATION IN MICHIGAN

The Citizens’ Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms would like our members in the state of Michigan to be aware of a new bill that has just been introduced in the state legislature which would affect your right to self-defense.

House Bill 5644, introduced by several Democratic representatives, would repeal the state’s “Stand Your Ground” law.

According to the *Detroit Free Press*, the law was approved by a strong majority in 2006 and made it easier for citizens to use lethal force to protect themselves.

One co-sponsor indicated in a news conference that she felt a repeal of the law would curb the gun

violence problem in the state’s cities, including Detroit, where WJBK-TV reports that some residents of the Motor City see the streets of their city as being no different than the “wild, wild West” with police responding to greater numbers of violent crimes.

The *Free Press* reported the lawmakers indicated they were not aware of any case within the state that would have been affected under their proposed legislation, but this bill appears to be the latest attack on “Stand Your Ground” laws which has become a big issue around the country in the wake of the high-profile Trayvon Martin case in Florida, where neighborhood

watchman George Zimmerman is facing murder charges in the shooting death of Martin earlier this year. Zimmerman has claimed the shooting met the criteria under that state’s stand your ground law.

The bill has yet to be assigned into a committee, and the *Free Press* reported that the bill’s sponsors conceded that it faces a tough road in the state’s legislature.

WJBK reported this bill also would not affect the state’s Castle Doctrine law, which allows for greater leeway in the use of a firearm in self-defense while at home or on one’s private property.

CCRKBA will keep watch on this for you in Michigan.

LEGISLATIVE ROUND

The Citizens' Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms praised the governor of Florida and sharply criticized the mayor of Tampa over a dispute between the two leaders over whether people would be allowed to legally carry firearms in a protest security zone that is to be set up within the downtown core of the city during the Republican National Convention, scheduled for August.

In a letter to the governor, Tampa Mayor Bob Buckhorn asked for a waiver of Florida gun laws which would allow for the city to ban the carrying of firearms within this security area around the RNC's convention hall at the St. Pete Times Forum arena. Scott responded with his own letter stating, "The short answer to your request is found in the 2nd Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and in Article 1, Section 8 of the Florida Constitution." The governor's response earned kudos from CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb, who also suggested Mayor Buckhorn offer an apology to Florida gun owners.

"Mayor Buckhorn insulted tens of thousands of legally-armed Florida citizens who pose no threat at all to visiting Republican delegates," Gottlieb said. "You can't suspend someone's civil rights just because a political convention is coming to town. And to correct the mayor, firearms carried in accordance with the Florida statute do not pose any kind of threat to the public, and he knows it. He's a gun owner and he's got a concealed carry license."

The *Tampa Bay Times* quoted several "legal experts" who suggested, "(I)n the highly charged atmosphere of protests around the convention, someone with (a) concealed weapon could end up in an incident covered

by Florida's 'stand your ground' law, which is fueling the controversy over a neighborhood watch volunteer's fatal shooting of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin in Sanford." This brought an equally sharp criticism from Gottlieb.

"The mayor, the newspaper and those so-called 'legal experts' seem to suffer from the same paranoia," Gottlieb said. He continued, "Buckhorn is a Democrat and accused gunman George Zimmerman is a registered Democrat. Maybe the mayor is confused about which political party is coming to his city."

"Unlike members of his own party, Republicans are not afraid of the Second Amendment," Gottlieb said.

CCRKBA has harsh words for the Pennsylvania state police for their handling of a computer systems upgrade which forced the shutdown of the state's instant check system for gun purchases.

The shutdown lasted 60 hours from late May 19 to early May 22, and CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb called the shutdown "inexcusable." "Closing down the background check system, and thus suspending all firearms transactions and concealed carry license processing simply allows the Pennsylvania State Police to obstruct the gun rights of law-abiding citizens," said Gottlieb. "We are not reassured by a promise from the agency that it will expedite this computer system update in order to restore service as soon as possible. Access to the computers for background checks should not be suspended at all."

Gottlieb also suggested the state police find other ways to process these background check requests while the system is being worked on. "Surely," he continued, "the State Police can find alternate means of processing firearms transactions and permit applications

while the upgrade is in progress."

The shutdown, according to Gottlieb, exposes a problem with these systems if they do not have a backup mechanism. "We live in an age when computer upgrades should be accomplished considerably faster," Gottlieb said. "Locking down such a vital system that is important to so many Pennsylvania residents for 60 hours is not an 'inconvenience,' it's an outrage."

CCRKBA's chair used this as an opportunity to suggest the state stop doing background checks in-house and instead rely on the federal NICS system. "It is time to put the State Police out of the background check business, and turn over this important job to the NICS system operated by the FBI. They do their upgrades faster, and they deal with the entire country," Gottlieb said.

In Oklahoma, Governor Mary Fallin, signed into law state Senate Bill 1733, which allows Oklahoma concealed carry permit holders to carry their firearms openly.

With the bill's signing, Oklahoma becomes the 25th state to allow for the open carrying of firearms, with the state also joining a select number of states which allow for licensed open carry.

In a statement, the governor said she was pleased to sign the legislation. "As a strong supporter of the Second Amendment and a gun owner myself, I'm happy to sign this bill into law and grant law-abiding citizens the ability to openly carry firearms," Fallin said. "Senate Bill 1733 sends a strong message that Oklahoma values the rights of its citizens to defend themselves, their family and their property. It does so in a responsible way by requir-

UP STATE BY STATE

ing those citizens who choose to open-carry to undergo both firearms training and a background check."

The legislation, which was introduced by two Republican state lawmakers, also allows state residents to openly carry a firearm on their property without the need for a permit as a means of defending themselves or their property.

There will still be restrictions on where guns can be carried, with such places as public buildings, schools or college campuses, and sports stadiums when games are taking place still off limits to firearms. Additionally, private businesses can still bar firearms from their premises under this new law. The new law is set to take effect November 1.

This was not the only good piece of news to come out of Oklahoma recently, Gov. Fallin also signed a bill which will allow gun owners from states which don't require a carry permit to carry a gun concealed to do so within Oklahoma's borders. The law will require gun owners who take advantage of this to keep the firearm concealed and also have proof of ID showing they are a legal resident of one of those states.

The Governor also signed a bill that barred local governments from banning or confiscating firearms during a state of emergency.

In Louisiana legislation that would expand state constitutional gun rights protections has been introduced.

On May 2, 2012, a state house committee passed the bill and sent it to the full House for further consideration. SB 303, which passed on a 9-5 vote, would make the right to keep and bear arms in the state a fundamental right that shall not be infringed.

The committee made changes to the proposed legislation which will require it to go through further consideration by the state's Senate if the full House passes the bill.

The bill, as it is currently written, would also subject any gun control regulations which could run afoul of this new constitutional standard to what is known as "strict scrutiny", which could result in re-examination of current gun laws by state courts.

The legislation has caused concern among prosecutors, with one suggesting that criminals might challenge the state's gun laws if the bill passes as is. Louisiana State University officials, including those within their campus police department, have expressed concerns, and have stated their opposition to the bill.

A constitutional amendment, the legislation would need 2/3 approval by legislators, then a majority of voter in November. The Committee will be keeping a close eye on this for you.

The Citizens' Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms is watching developments in Illinois, where, among several gun-related bills being considered at the state's legislature, is one which would establish concealed carry firearms rights in the state.

The bill, sponsored by a lawmaker from Harrisburg, could be within days of being voted upon in the state's House.

The bill would allow for state concealed carry permits to be issued by local county sheriffs to Illinois citizens 21 or older provided they complete state-mandated training. The legislation has a number of co-sponsors, and has been working through the legislature for over a year.

Illinois has been a busy area recently on the gun rights front; in ad-

dition to this and the myriad of other bills being considered at the state's legislature, both pro and anti-gun, concerns have been raised about the state's Firearms Owner ID program which cast doubt on whether the program is doing its job of keeping guns out of the wrong hands.

The *Chicago Tribune* recently reported on an audit of the program, and of its findings that it has been hurt by bad recordkeeping and bureaucratic issues which could be allowing criminals and those who are mentally ill to obtain and keep an FOID card to legally purchase guns and ammunition. While the paper reported the audit found no specific instances of problems with the system, some are concerned as to the potential for problems.

"How are people going to explain away the fact that a horrific event occurred, and it turns out this person had diagnosed mental health issues and their card was not (taken away or) the information was never forwarded to the state police, so they never had the ability to take the card away?" said Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart to the paper.

The *Tribune* reported the audit found concerns about the system on both sides of the gun rights issue, with it showing faulty reporting of data and long delays in processing of requests and lack of communication with applicants about the status of their respective requests. The report said the issues surrounding the reporting of data stem from the failure of almost all local county circuit court clerks – except for three – to report instances of individuals who have been found to be seriously mentally ill; the paper stated that by law, those individuals are supposed to be declared ineligible to possess the cards.

FLORIDA ACTIVIST AND BLOGGER NAMED CCRKBA RIGHTS DEFENDER

Sean Caranna founded Florida Open Carry immediately after the U.S. Supreme Court held in *McDonald v. Chicago* that the Second Amendment applies to states and localities on June 28th 2010.

Six months later, Florida Carry, Inc. was born to expand the original mission of Florida Open Carry to include preemption, campus carry, and other issues facing gun owners. Sean is devoted to reforming Florida's gun, knife, and self-defense laws to protect the ownership and possession of defensive arms by law abiding citizens.

"My solemn oath, sworn before god, to protect and defend the Constitution had no expiration date. The word 'until' was nowhere in there." Says Mr. Caranna, "I am bound by my oath to do whatever I can to protect today's most widely abused civil right, the right to bear arms. My sworn duty to our cherished Bill of Rights demands it."

"Sean is a dedicated and effective activist," said Alan Gottlieb, Chairman of the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms. "We are looking forward to working with him and Florida Carry as we get ready for the 2012 Gun Rights Policy Conference in Orlando this fall," he continued.

Sean has writes a blog, All Nine Yards (www.allnineyards.com) and has done extensive research on Mayors Against Illegal Guns.

He recently wrote on his blog an expose: MAIG Coordinators Paid as City Employees, Saves Gun-Hater's Money.

Here's a great way to reduce overhead and be effective at running a national organization dedicated to infringing on

the gun rights of everyday people all at the same time... Have cities hire your people for you so that tax payers cover 1/4 of your people's salary and benefits, pay for most of their operational costs, and finance all of their other resources! It also embeds your people as leaders in city government so that you don't have to lobby there!

Sounds like another conspiracy theory from the tinfoil hat brigade... Right?

Back in March, while researching the repeal of some anti-gun ordinances, I stumbled across an Orlando City Council agenda item that grabbed my attention. It was, on its surface, just a mundane action item for the annual contract renewal of a city employee. But this city employee's job title was, well, unique...

Approving Employment Contract for the Grant-Funded Position of Mayors Against Illegal Guns Regional Coordinator. City of Orlando Website

The agenda included a budgetary breakdown for how a \$75,000 grant from the "United Against Illegal Guns Support Fund" was to be spent.

\$60,000 in salary and benefits for the "MAIG Regional Coordinator"

\$2,000 for Supplies

\$3,000 for "Contractual Services"

\$10,000 for Travel

Also attached was the Fiscal Impact statement. It showed that this employee's salary and benefits were expected to cost the city \$84,000 for the year. It allocated \$24,000 from the city's "General Fund" to cover the grant's shortfall.

The employee's resume was also attached.

Linda S. Vaughn

-Southeast U. S. Regional Director (thirteen states) for the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence

-Florida Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence

-Lobbyist for Mayors Against Illegal Guns, Florida Retail Federation, Early Childhood Association

-She "organized and activated the Floridians Against Workplace Violence Coalition for the sole purpose of defeating" the bill that protects parking lot storage of lawful guns in private vehicles.

-Mayors Against Illegal Guns – Lobbying to close the "gun show loophole" (prohibiting private sales of firearms) and to close the "terror gap" (depriving people of their right to keep and bear arms without due-process by putting them on the no-fly list).

This is also the same Linda S. Vaughn who was busted trying to bait people in to illegal gun transfers in 2004.

She is a long time anti-gun lobbyist in Florida who lives in Tallahassee.

So, Linda S. Vaughn is paid a salary of at least \$60,000 per year by the City of Orlando using grant funds provided by the Chicago based Joyce Foundation in collusion with New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg's Mayors Against Illegal Guns. She also receives city medical, dental and leave accrual benefits at taxpayer expense. Her authorized pay range tops out at \$228,113.60 for this job annually.

Mr. Caranna spent eight years in the U.S. Army as an Infantry NCO, including active duty service in Europe, Bosnia, and South America; he also served in the Florida Army National Guard. Since leaving the military he has worked in the computer imaging, simulation, and advanced information-technology fields.

Sean is also an avid private pilot, who enjoys the outdoors, and has been with his wife Cindy since 1999.

Mr. Caranna is an Executive Director of Florida Carry, Inc.

QUICK SHOTS

Gun rights activists in Monroe County, NY, are calling on local lawmakers to allow guns in local parks. According to WHEC-TV in Rochester, an organization known as SCOPE, the Shooters' Committee on Political Education, is behind the push to allow guns in parks, and a representative of that organization recently spoke to the county's council about their proposal. Currently, the law forbids firearms within parks.



A Korean War veteran probably never thought he'd have to get out his military service weapon again after having returned home from that long-ago war, but it came in handy when an intruder broke into his home. According to WPXI-TV in Pittsburgh, the elderly man confronted the 25-year old crook and used his German Luger service weapon to scare the intruder out of the place. The alleged miscreant was slightly injured as a result, and according to the TV station, was later apprehended by police.



A bill in New Hampshire's legislature that would have made concealed carry permits optional in the state for gun owners has been tabled for this year's session after the state's Senate recently voted it down. According to the *Nashua Telegraph*, the bill had been changed by a Senate committee and the full body voted it down 17-7. Several

senators who consider themselves pro-gun voted against this legislation, according to the paper, including one who voted it down in light of a recent shooting in which a child died.



According to the Spokane (WA) *Spokesman-Review*, the town of Potlatch, ID, tucked between Coeur D'Alene and Moscow in the northern Panhandle region of the state, is planning on advertising a piece of property that used to house an old sawmill with an eye on attracting firearms-related manufacturing or other outdoor recreation industries. The paper reports the land has been vacant for over 30 years, since the mill closed in 1981. "Idaho is a firearms-friendly state," said David Brown, mayor of Potlatch, which has 804 residents.



A quick-thinking armed citizen put an end to a potentially tragic incident recently in Salt Lake City. According to KTVX-TV, the armed person ordered a man to drop his knife after the man began attacking people in a grocery store. A store employee told the TV station two people had been seriously injured by the suspect before the armed hero showed up to put an end to the mayhem. Once the suspect put his knife down, reports the TV station, store employees and other customers were able to subdue the man and he was taken into custody by Salt Lake City police. It is not

known why the knife-wielding man went on his spree.



With gun sales increasing and concealed carry permit approvals rising around the country, another industry is looking to take advantage: clothing. The *New York Times* reports several companies, including well-known names such as Woolrich and Under Armour, are introducing new products, such as vests and jeans, which are designed to help the wearers easily conceal their firearms. The paper reports that demand for this type of clothing is increasing, largely fed by interest from major national sporting goods stores such as Cabela's and Dick's Sporting Goods.



According to the Great Falls Tribune, the House recently passed a spending bill for several federal departments, including the Department of Justice, but did so with an amendment in the legislation, offered by Montana Rep. Denny Rehberg, that withheld funding needed by the ATF in order to start the program.



The program, according to the paper, would require federally licensed gun dealers in states bordering Mexico to report sales of certain firearms within five business days.



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Come meet national gun rights leaders and your fellow grassroots activists at the 27th Annual Gun Rights Policy Conference (GRPC 2012) in Orlando, Florida. This is your once a year chance to network, get an insider's look and plan pro-gun rights strategies for the coming year.

Past GRPCs have outlined victory plans and made public the latest firearms trends. They allow you a first-hand chance to hear movement leaders and make your voice heard.

This year we'll take a look at critical issues such as: city gun bans, "smart" guns, concealed carry, federal legislation, BATFE policies, gun show regulation, state and local activity. We'll preview the upcoming Presidential and Congressional races and analyze Right to Keep and Bear Arms court cases.

The full roster of GRPC 2012 speakers has not yet been set. Past speakers have included: Alan Gottlieb, Joseph Tartaro, Eugene Volokh, Wayne LaPierre, Michael Reagan, Larry Elder, Cong. Joe Walsh, John Lott, Sandy Froman, Massad Ayoob, Tom Gresham, Alan Gura, Bob Barr, G. Gordon Liddy, Larry Pratt and many others. Check our web sites - www.saf.org or www.ccrkba.org for updates.

CONFERENCE and HUNDREDS OF DOLLARS WORTH OF MATERIALS ARE FREE!

Books, monographs and other materials—enough to start a Second Amendment library are free, as are Saturday luncheon, and Friday and Saturday evening receptions. Other meals, travel and lodging are to be paid by attendee. Hotel rooms can be reserved at the Hyatt Regency Orlando, Florida Airport at a special rate later in the summer. Registration and other details will be confirmed by email.

2012 Gun Rights Policy Conference / FREE

Yes, I want to attend. I understand that registration, conference materials and luncheon will be provided courtesy of CCRKBA and SAF. All other meals, lodging and airfare are to be paid by attendee.

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