



Concealed Carry Reform, NOW!

A division of Gun Owners Civil Rights Alliance

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YOU DID IT!

All of us helped pass the Minnesota Personal Protection Act in 2003!

Seven years of hard work came to fruition in April 2003, when the Minnesota Senate passed, and Governor Tim Pawlenty signed the Minnesota Personal Protection Act (MPPA). Finally, Minnesota has a “non-discretionary, shall-issue” carry law. Call it the “concealed carry” law if you like, but the state finally recognized a Minnesotan’s fundamental right to self defense using a firearm, with a fair and just law.

MPPA happened because of your efforts, not because of Concealed Carry Reform NOW. Everybody’s effort made the difference, no matter how humble. That included: letters to legislators, participating in party caucuses, letters to the newspaper editor, “talking up” MPPA with friends and neighbors, volunteering for pro-MPPA candidates... the list of simple acts goes on and on.

Be proud. You made the difference. This is grassroots action at it’s finest.

MPPA took effect in late May 2003. The opposition is furious and will strike back. Our task is to move forward. Let’s not forget how we did it, and how all of us did it, together.

Concealed Carry Reform NOW! is a volunteer organization

Concealed Carry Reform NOW relies on your contributions to pay for the printing and distribution of this newsletter. Each edition cost between \$7,000 and \$8,000 to create, print and have mailed to our mailing list. In addition, CCRN volunteers drive bundles of this newspaper to gun shops, shooting ranges

and hunting preserves for distribution. Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

Our goal is to help 100,000 Minnesota voters take action to defend the firearms rights of all Minnesotans.

**Look for our
Voter’s Guide
in Fall 2004!**

THREE ISSUES FOR 2004

MPPA Reciprocity, Shooting Range Preservation, and 3/16ths For Game & Fish

The next legislative session will be fast and furious. It starts in February 2004, lasts only a few months, and goes right into the 2004 election. Let's not be content with just passing the Minnesota Personal Protection Act (MPPA, the "new conceal and carry law"); let's do more:

1. Expand carry reciprocity with other states. Under MPPA, Minnesota recognizes carry permits from three states (Wyoming, Louisiana, and Michigan; hey, it was none before!). We must encourage legislators and the Department of Public Safety to expand that list.
2. Pass the Shooting Range Preservation Act (SRPA). This bill will prevent encroaching developers and anti-gun zealots from zoning and suing ranges out of existence. SRPA is a simple bill, treating ranges the same way we treat existing farmland. It should have passed years ago. And we have to watch SRPA closely: Some anti-gun legislators may try to weaken MPPA by attaching amendments to SRPA.
3. Move 3/16ths for Game And Fish ("3/16ths"). Times are tough for all of us, but Minnesota hunting and fishing has taken an unfair hit. "3/16ths" helps fix that: A state constitutional amendment dedicating 3/16ths of 1% in state sales taxes to fund game & fish projects. 3/16ths is dedicated economic development that will draw tourists, support small business, and maintain Minnesota's great outdoors for all (as gunowners, hunters, fishermen have always done). Accept no 1/2-cent substitutes (where the money can be diverted to non-sporting boondoggles), 3/16ths must be on the 2004 election ballot.

We need to keep after legislators and candidates on all three issues, starting now through Election Day, November 2004.

THREE THINGS TO DO

Attend your party caucus, volunteer time and effort, and donate money

1. Attend your party's precinct caucus. The caucuses are pure grassroots action in Minnesota. The caucuses will be held right in the middle of this legislative session, in March 2004.

The caucus is the place to quiz candidates about the Minnesota Personal Protection Act (MPPA), Shooting Range Preservation Act (SRPA), and 3/16ths for Game & Fish ("3/16ths"). It's also the place for party resolutions to support MPPA, SRPA, and 3/16ths.

At the caucus, you can become a delegate to the party convention. That gives you incredible power in shaping Minnesota's future. And it's fun! The Minnesota League of Women Voters "Precinct Caucus Guide," also in this newspaper, has the details.
2. Volunteer time and effort. Simple things make all the difference. During the legislative session:
 - Write your legislators.
 - Call your legislators.
 - Write letters to newspaper editors about the Minnesota Personal Protection Act, Shooting Range Preservation Act, or 3/16ths for Game & Fish.

When you find a good candidate that supports the Minnesota Personal Protection Act, Shooting Range Preservation Act, or 3/16ths for Game & Fish, help out:

 - Volunteer for the phone bank.
 - Do door-to-door literature drops.
 - Be a convention delegate.

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“GUNS BANNED” IN PRIVATE BUSINESSES, PERSONAL PROPERTY?

It’s their right and how opponents will use it to screw-up the Minnesota Personal Protection Act

You’ve seen “Guns banned from these premises” posted by some businesses. It is a business’ right and we have to respect that. And a business couldn’t do that under the “old” carry law.

Somehow, opponents think that’s screwed up and want to “re-open” the Minnesota Personal Protection Act to prove it. Let’s “close” this, right now:

1. If a business doesn’t want law-abiding carry permit holders money, they can simply post a sign, as stipulated by the MPPA.
2. If a law-abiding carry permit holder doesn’t see the sign and enters, the business may ask the carry permit holder to leave. Carry permit holders who respect a business’ wishes will leave.
3. If the carry permit holder doesn’t leave, the permit holder will get a visit from law enforcement.

The opposition claims every person entering a business must be personally told that “Guns are

banned here.” That’s wrong. What MPPA does is a lot like Minnesota trespass law:

- Post a sign.
- If you see them, ask them to leave.
- If they don’t leave, call law enforcement.

Want a similar example? It seems hunters and trappers have to respect property just like carry permit holders. Get out the 2003 Minnesota Hunting and Trapping Regulations, turn to page 10, that’s the section on Trespass Law, look under Restrictions, at the first and third points.

But the opposition wants to “re-open” MPPA and “close” this non-existent problem. If the opposition can “re-open” MPPA, they can slam the door on other parts. We think that’s the opposition’s goal.

The best way to stop this is to call Governor Tim Pawlenty, Speaker Steve Sviggum, and Senate Leader John Hottinger and let them know what you think.

CITY & COUNTY GUN BANS?

How the opposition will use this to repeal preemption

Some cities and counties are banning carry permit holders from public buildings. That’s against state law, can prohibit firearm safety and hunter education in public facilities, and will lead to a patchwork crazy quilt of gun laws.

CCRN plans a legal challenge; here’s why:

1. The local gun bans are against the law. In Minnesota, only state government and not local government can regulate firearms. That’s called “preemption” and ensures consistent firearm regulation throughout Minnesota. By passing these local bans, councilors and commissioners thumb their nose at state law.

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THREE THINGS TO DO (continued from page 2)

- Write a letter to the newspaper editor on behalf of the candidate.
- 3. Participate in Minnesota’s Political Contribution Refund Program. This is the best deal you will ever get. When you give money to a good candidate, you can get \$50 (\$100 for families) refunded to you.

It’s easy: Just contribute to a candidate. The candidate will supply a Political Contribution Refund form. Fill it out, mail it in, and get a check back from the state.

These are three easy things, stuff we can all do, to maintain MPPA and move ahead.

CITY & COUNTY GUN BANS? (continued from page 3)

2. Other states don't ban permit holders from public buildings. The Minnesota Personal Protection Act adopts rules just like fifteen other states (Alabama, Alaska, Idaho, Kentucky, Maine, Michigan, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wyoming). Find out more at the CCRN website:

http://www.mnccrn.org/alerts/pub_bldg.doc
(Microsoft Word)

http://www.mnccrn.org/alerts/pub_bldg.pdf
(Adobe Acrobat)

3. We must counteract the false claim that the state legislature banned permit holders from their buildings. Actually, all you have to do is let the Commissioner of Public Safety know you'll be entering the building.

That's true for courthouse complexes, too. Just let the sheriff know you'll be there. But for other parts of public facilities, carrying is "Nobody's business if you do."

4. The opposition's long-range goal is to make transporting a firearm impossible, even if you have a carry permit. We think the opposition wants to repeal preemption and make Minnesota a Massachusetts/New York mess of contradictory gun laws.

CCRN plans a lawsuit against these gun bans (we've already filed and won several minor, related lawsuits). It will be at the time and place of our choosing. And it won't be cheap. We're raising \$20,000 for our legal defense fund, the CCRN-LDF, to continue this fight.

HISTORY OF RIGHT-TO-CARRY IN MINNESOTA compiled by Alfred O. Fingulin

1974: Minnesota Is Just Like Vermont -- Minnesota enjoys a Vermont-style carry law. No permits, no restrictions on carry.

1975: Carry Permits Legislated; Issuance Discretionary -- A discretionary carry permit system is passed and signed by the governor. One of the authors is future governor Arne Carlson. Permits may be issued for reason of "personal safety hazards" or occupational need. Nobody thinks that discretion will be abused.

1980: Minnesota Supreme Court Upholds Discretionary Carry Permits -- The Atkinson Case comes up. The plaintiff applies for a carry permit, citing personal safety. The permit is denied. It is appealed all the way to the Minnesota Supreme Court. The Minnesota Supreme Court upholds the denial, actually admitting that discretion in determining a "personal safety hazard is obviously intended to restrict the class of person entitled to a carry permit." This gives legal sanction to future abuses.

1984: Firearms Regulation Abuses Increase -- Through this year, many Minnesota cities can write their own firearms regulations. Abuses by

Minneapolis and St Paul lead the legislature to pass a preemption law, reserving all firearms regulation to state government. Governor Rudy Perpich vetoes the bill. Minneapolis Mayor Don Fraser and St Paul Mayor George Latinmer promise to bring their cities' ordinances more in line with state law.

1985: Minnesota Becomes A Preemption State -- The abuses in Minneapolis and St. Paul continue; Mayor Fraser and Mayor Latinmer don't keep their word. The legislature passes a preemption bill again. This time, Governor Rudy Perpich signs the preemption bill.

1988: Minnesota Appeals Court Upholds Occupational Need -- The Hoffman Case comes up. The plaintiff, chief of a lumberyard, is required to obtain a carry permit and carry while working. The permit is denied; the police chief decides "there is no reason for a yardman to carry a gun while working." A Minnesota Appeals Court disagrees. Minnesota's carry law makes it clear that permits must be issued to those who must carry as a condition of employment. As one person would put it years later: "If you're guarding someone else's money, you get a permit. If you have to defend yourself, you can't."

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Permit to Carry a Pistol in Minnesota

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

[Taken in entirety from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety website]

These answers are for information purposes only, further clarification of the law may be addressed by referring directly to Minnesota State Statute 624.714

1. Where can I get a permit to carry a pistol?

For Minnesota residents, permits to carry a pistol may be obtained by submitting an application and other related documentation to the sheriff in the county where the applicant resides. Non-residents may apply to any Minnesota county sheriff.

2. What are the requirements for getting a permit to carry?

- a. Must be at least 21 years of age.
- b. Must complete an application form.
- c. Must not be prohibited from possessing a firearm.
- d. Must not be listed in the criminal gang investigation system.
- e. Must be a resident of the county from which you are requesting a permit if you reside in Minnesota. Non-residents may apply to any Minnesota county sheriff.
- f. Must provide certificate of completed authorized firearms training. Training by a certified instructor and completed within one year prior to applying for a permit to carry.

3. How long do I have to wait to get my permit?

The county sheriff must provide a response of issuance or denial within 30 days of the application date.

4. How long is my permit valid?

Permits are valid for 5 years from the date of issuance.

5. How do I renew my permit?

Permits may be renewed at the issuing county sheriff's office no sooner than 90 days prior to expiration of the current permit.

6. Where can I get an application?

Applications will be available at the county sheriff's office and on the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension's website at www.bca.state.mn.us/permittocarry

7. Where is my Minnesota permit valid?

Minnesota permits are valid throughout the state of Minnesota.

Individuals interested in obtaining information on whether or not their Minnesota permit to carry is valid in another state will have to contact that state directly to determine what the carry laws are.

8. What would prevent me from getting a permit to carry?

Any applicant that does not meet the criteria as listed in number 2 above is not eligible for a permit to carry a pistol. The sheriff can also deny the application if there is a substantial likelihood that the applicant is a danger to self or others if issued a permit to carry.

9. What is the cost for a permit to carry?

The fee for a permit to carry will be determined by the county sheriff, not to exceed \$100.00.

10. Where am I prohibited from carrying my pistol?

- a. School property.
- b. Public colleges and universities - may have policy restricting the carrying of weapons on their premises by employees and students while on campus.
- c. Private establishments - if posted that establishment bans guns on premises and person is personally informed of the posting.
- d. Places of employment, public or private, if employer restricts the carry or possession of firearms by its employees.

11. Do I need to have my permit with me when carrying my pistol?

Yes, the permit holder must have the permit card and a driver's license, state identification card, or other government-issued photo identification in immediate possession at all times when carrying a pistol and must display the permit card and identification document upon lawful demand by a peace officer.

12. What happens with my old permit?

Permits issued prior to May 28, 2003, remain in effect and are valid under the terms of issuance until the date of expiration applicable at the time of issuance. However, a person holding a permit that was issued prior to the May 28, 2003 may apply for a permit under the new law.

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WHO TO THANK FOR THE MINNESOTA PERSONAL PROTECTION ACT

It's time for "Thank You!" cards to the governor, and state representatives and state senators that voted for the Minnesota Personal Protection Act (MPPA). A real card, one that can be displayed in the office, means more to these folks than you can imagine.

We can also remind them about expanding MPPA's reciprocity with other states, passing Shooting Range Preservation Act (SRPA), and moving 3/16ths for Game & Fish to a vote.

Governor's Address

Governor Tim Pawlenty
State Capitol Bldg
St Paul, MN 55155

State Representatives Address

Rep [the state representative]
State Office Bldg
St Paul, MN 55155

State Senators Address

Senator [the state senator]
State Capitol Bldg
St Paul, MN 55155

State Representatives Voting "For" The Minnesota Personal Protection Act

<u>Dis</u>	<u>Representative</u>	<u>Hometown</u>	<u>Dis</u>	<u>Representative</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
01A	Maxine Penas	Badger	27A	Dan Dorman	Albert Lea
01B	Bernie L. Lieder	Crookston	27B	Jeff Anderson	Austin
02A	Kent Eken	Twin Valley	28A	Jerry Dempsey	Red Wing
02B	Doug Lindgren	Bagley	28B	Steve Sviggum	Kenyon
03A	Irv Anderson	International Falls	29A	Randy Demmer	Hayfield
03B	Loren A. Solberg	Grand Rapids	29B	Fran Bradley	Rochester
04A	Doug Fuller	Bemidji	30A	Carla Nelson	Rochester
04B	Larry Howes	Walker	30B	Bill Kuisle	Rochester
05A	Tom Rukavina	Virginia	31B	Gregory M. Davids	Preston
05B	Anthony Sertich	Chisholm	32A	Arlon Lindner	Corcoran
06A	David Dill	Crane Lake	32B	Kurt Zellers	Maple Grove
06B	Mary Murphy	Hermantown	33A	Steve Smith	Mound
08B	Judy Soderstrom	Mora	33B	Barb Sykora	Excelsior
09B	Paul Marquart	Dilworth	34A	Paul Kohls	Victoria
10A	Bud Nornes	Fergus Falls	34B	Joe Hoppe	Chaska
10B	Dean Simpson	New York Mills	35A	Michael Beard	Shakopee
11A	Torrey Westrom	Elbow Lake	35B	Mark Buesgens	Jordan
11B	Mary Ellen Otremba	Long Prairie	36A	Mary Liz Holberg	Lakeville
12A	Dale Walz	Brainerd	36B	Steve Strachan	Farmington
12B	Greg Blaine	Little Falls	37A	Chris Gerlach	Apple Valley
13A	Bud Heidgerken	Freeport	37B	Dennis Ozment	Rosemount
13B	Al Juhnke	Willmar	38A	Tim Wilkin	Eagan
14A	Dan Severson	Sauk Rapids	38B	Lynn Wardlow	Eagan
14B	Doug Stang	Cold Spring	40A	Duke Powell	Burnsville
15A	Jim Knoblach	St Cloud	41B	Alice Seagren	Bloomington
16A	Sondra Erickson	Princeton	42A	Peter Adolphson	Minnetonka
16B	Mark Olson	Big Lake	42B	Erik Paulsen	Eden Prairie
17A	Rob Eastlund	Isanti	43A	Jeff Johnson	Plymouth
17B	Peter Nelson	Lindstrom	45A	Lynne Osterman	New Hope
18A	Tony M Kielkucki	Lester Prairie	47A	Bill Haas	Champlin
18B	Dean Urdahl	Grove City	47B	Stephanie Olsen	Brooklyn Park
19A	Bruce Anderson	Buffalo Township	48A	Tom Hackbarth	Cedar
19B	Dick Borrell	Waverly	48B	Jim Abeler	Anoka
20B	Lyle J. Koenen	Maynard	49A	Chris Delaforest	Andover
21A	Marty Seifert	Marshall	49B	Kathy Tingelstad	Andover
21B	Brad Finstad	New Ulm	50B	Char Samuelson	New Brighton
22A	Doug Magnus	Slayton	51A	Andy Westerberg	Blaine
22B	Elaine Harder	Jackson	52A	Ray Vandever	Forest Lake
23A	Howard Swenson	Nicollet	53A	Phil Krinkie	Shoreview
24A	Bob Gunther	Fairmont	53B	Doug Meslow	White Bear Lake
24B	Tony Cornish	Good Thunder	54B	Carl Jacobson	Vadnais Heights
25A	Laura Brod	New Prague	56A	Eric Lipman	Lake Elmo
26A	Connie Ruth	Owatonna	56B	Karen Klinzing	Woodbury
26B	Lynda Boudreau	Faribault	57B	Denny McNamara	Hastings

State Senators Voting “For” The Minnesota Personal Protection Act

Dis	Senator	Hometown	Dis	Senator	Hometown
1	Leroy Stumpf	Thief River Falls	26	Dick Day	Owatonna
3	Tom Saxhaug	Grand Rapids	29	Dave Senjem	Rochester
4	Carrie Ruud	Breezy Point	30	Sheila Kiscaden	Rochester
5	David Tomassoni	Chisholm	31	Bob Kierlin	Winona
6	Thomas (Tom) Bakk	Cook	32	Warren Limmer	Maple Grove
9	Keith Langseth	Glyndon	33	Gen Olson	Minnetrissa
10	Cal Larson	Fergus Falls	34	Julianne Ortman	Chanhassen
11	Dallas C. Sams	Staples	35	Claire Robling	Prior Lake
12	Paul Koering	Fort Ripley	36	Pat Pariseau	Farmington
14	Michelle Fischbach	Paynesville	37	David L. Knutson	Burnsville
15	Dave Kleis	St Cloud	38	Mike McGinn	Eagan
16	Betsy Wergin	Princeton	42	David Hann	Eden Prairie
17	Sean Nienow	Cambridge	43	David Gaither	Plymouth
18	Steve Dille	Dassel	48	Mike Jungbauer	East Bethel
19	Mark Ourada	Buffalo	49	Debbie Johnson	Ham Lake
21	Dennis Frederickson	New Ulm	52	Michele Bachmann	Stillwater
22	Jim Vickerman	Tracy	53	Madelyn Reiter	Shoreview
24	Julie Rosen	Fairmont	56	Brian Leclair	Woodbury
25	Thomas Neuville	Northfield			

HISTORY OF RIGHT-TO-CARRY IN MINNESOTA (continued from page 4)

1991: Redefining Discretion -- Beginning slowly, Attorney General Skip Humphrey attempts to restrict discretion statewide. He lobbies Twin Cities Metro police chiefs to deny permits requested for personal safety. He encourages out-state cities to do the same, so he can claim “statewide uniformity.”

1995: Getting A Permit Depends On Where You Live, Who You Know -- During a House committee hearing, a police chief claims that he “doesn’t have to issue permits to carry, and won’t issue permits,” no matter what. The openly admitted bias and abuse outrages some House members. They introduce the Macklin Amendment. It’s a simple change: “may issue” becomes “must issue.” The Macklin Amendment is buried by other legislative business.

1996: Change Begins -- Early in the year, during the legislative session, Representative Hilda Bettermann and Senator Pat Pariseau author a “responsible, competent adults” shall-issue right-to-carry bill. The bill goes nowhere, but discussion begins.

Concealed Carry Reform NOW (CCRN) is organized. CCRN adopts a simple philosophy:

“If you want to do something, just do it.”
 “If you don’t agree 100%, that’s fine. Let’s work together and work it out.”
 “Remember: The goal is shall-issue right-to-carry, nothing less.”

A petition drive begins. During the election, a new issue shows up on candidate’s radar: shall-issue right-to-carry. “Where did that come from?” says one candidate. “Your voters,” replies a CCRNer who attended his party’s caucus.

1997: Buried In The In-Basket -- Representative Lynda Boudreau (Hilda Bettermann having retired) and Senator Pat Pariseau reintroduce a “responsible, competent adults” shall-issue right-to-carry bill. Representative Wes Skoglund stonewalls the shall-issue right-to-carry bill in a House committee; it never leaves his in-basket.

Attorney General Skip Humphrey promotes a “could-issue” carry bill. Two weeks later, he asks CCRN to “get onboard.” CCRN has the audacity to refuse. They tell AG Humphrey “it’s shall-issue or bust.”

A series of informal committee and town meetings
 (continued on page 8)

“If you want to lead, help lead.”

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (continued from page 5)

13. Can I get an emergency permit to carry?

Emergency permits may be issued by the sheriff if he/she determines that the person is in an emergency situation that may constitute an immediate risk to the safety of the person or someone residing in the person's household.

14. Can private establishments prohibit carrying pistols on their premises?

Yes, private establishments must post a notice banning guns on their premises as well as personally notifying patrons that guns are not allowed.

15. Can I prohibit firearms in my private residence?

The owner of the residence may prohibit firearms in their home.

16. Can my landlord restrict me from carrying or possessing firearms on residence premises?

Landlords may not restrict the lawful carry or possession of firearms by tenants or their guests.

17. Can my employer prohibit carrying pistols in the work place?

Yes, an employer may establish policies that restrict the carry or possession of firearms by its employees while employee is working.

HISTORY OF RIGHT-TO-CARRY IN MINNESOTA (continued from page 7)

are held throughout Minnesota, to gauge support for shall-issue right-to-carry. Turnout in favor surprises everyone, even supporters. Also surprising are the highly technical questions from supporters. They know their stuff, contribute, and a list of bill improvements begins.

The petition drive continues. Right-to-carry supporters staff tables at clubs, meetings, and county fairs. A statewide email network is organized and gains momentum. The twice yearly CCRN newspaper begins.

1998: The Issue That Won't Go Away -- During the legislative session, the stonewalling continues. But helpful suggestions pour in and right-to-carry is stronger for it. Informal committee & town meetings continue. So does volunteer work at clubs, meetings, and county fairs.

Two huge town-hall meetings in the Twin Cities occur. Support for right-to-carry is overwhelming (10 to 1). Nobody expected this. Overall, news coverage is surprisingly balanced.

CCRN members participate in Republican and DFL conventions. Right-to-carry resolutions are passed in

both Republican and DFL grassroots caucuses.

During the fall election, everyone is shocked. A vocally pro-carry third-party governor, Jesse Ventura, is elected. The moderately pro-carry Republican, Norm Coleman, takes second place. The anti-right-to-carry DFLer (that's what Democrats are called in Minnesota) former Attorney General Skip Humphrey, takes third. A pro-carry House is elected.

1999: Right-To-Carry Gets Heard -- Representative Boudreau and Senator Pariseau reintroduce right-to-carry bills. Dozens of bipartisan authors sign up. Formal committee hearings are held. Testimony is taken. Both sides fly in their experts. Changes make the bill even stronger.

The news media continues its balanced coverage. Letters from right-to-carry supporters inundate legislators. "Give us a fair hearing in the Senate" is the message.

The House passes right-to-carry. The DFL controlled Senate still refuses to deal with it.

2000: Some Stop Listening -- During the legislative (continued on page 10)

NO SURPRISE: GUN BILL PROTECTS OUR CIVIL RIGHTS

**by David M. Gross
and Alfred O. Fingulin**

David Lillehaug's Minneapolis Star-Tribune column of August 3, 2003 ("Stumbling on surprises in the new gun bill, and hoping for a few fixes") gets it all wrong. Mr. Lillehaug claims the Minnesota Citizen's Personal Protection Act (MPPA) has "troubling" provisions "tucked away" in the law.

The surprise is this: The MPPA is a civil rights law. It implements due process and equal protection for those taking responsibility for their personal protection.

What is more remarkable is the number of changes the MPPA did not make, as well as the few good changes the MPPA did make. Let's look at Mr. Lillehaug's claims.

Claim: The new law allows concealed or open carry.

No change from prior law. The MPPA's definition of "carry" remains identical. No "surprise" here, if your eyes are open.

Claim: Non-residents can get permits.

Nothing in prior law "tucked away" prohibitions on non-residents obtaining carry permits. Just ask the security guards, armored car drivers, and private detectives that resided in neighboring states and worked in Minnesota. The MPPA improves matters by explicitly defining how non-residents can obtain permits to carry.

Claim: You can carry any kind of gun.

This was not a stumbling block under prior law, either. Specifically, section 624.7181 was not changed by the MPPA.

Claim: The training isn't good enough.

The MPPA is a pleasant improvement over prior law. The MPPA requires instruction in firearms safety, legal aspects of carrying a firearm, and the laws of self-defense and deadly-force, as well as a shooting qualification. A refresher course must be taken every five years. Prior law accepted a DNR firearms safety certificate from a course taken once in a lifetime. Not anymore.

Claim: The trainers aren't good enough.

The MPPA makes explicit the accreditation required by instructors. Further, a sheriff may, also, accept other satisfactory evidence of training in the safe use of a pistol, just as in the prior law. This motivates law enforcement officers, and others (even lawyers), to share their experience, and their expertise, for their own profit as well as the good of the students and society. Or, as the Hennepin County Sheriff's Department is doing, help pay for their training facilities.

Claim: Dangerous people can get permits.

Prior law required people to show "need" for a carry permit. Justifying "needs" depended on where you lived and who you knew. Discrimination was rampant. The MPPA sets objective standards to deny a permit, and allows a sheriff to deny for evidence of dangerousness. If the facts are there, the sheriff can deny and be sustained on any appeal.

Objective standards and fair treatment are the major reasons for the MPPA. These prevent "surprising" decisions about who is, and is not, worthy of personal protection. Degrading requirements, like fingerprinting, are prohibited. None of this was "tucked away" during debate at the Capitol.

Claims: Guns will be on private property open to the public: parking lots, office buildings, malls, common areas, and places of public accommodation.

It seems Mr. Lillehaug believes discrimination should be allowed in self-defense at places where discrimination is not allowed based on race, creed, religion, origin, or affectional preferences. It is offensive to claim that responsibility for one's personal protection stops at your front door. That

(continued on page 10)

NO SURPRISE: (continued from page 9)

claim is similar to those who didn't want African-Americans to vote or won't rent to a couple because of their sexuality. The MPPA affirms that all people have a civil right to personal protection while out and about conducting their affairs of daily living and business.

But, MPPA did give private property owners, whose property is open to the public, the ability to ban firearms from their property. They couldn't do that before. Hopefully, such property owners will ensure their patrons' personal safety. Failure could lead to huge consequences, since the property owner forces them to rely on him.

Claim: Convicted felons can get their guns back.

Under prior law, convicted felons were automatically restored their firearms rights 10 years after completing their sentences. Under the MPPA, convicted felons must petition the court for the restoration of firearms rights. Mr. Lillehaug would prefer a lifetime scarlet letter.

And this is the MPPA's civil rights core: Law-abiding, trained citizens may take responsibility for their self-defense without stumbling blocks, and law-breakers must again prove they've taken responsibility for their own lives.

There's nothing "surprising" or "troubling" in all that.

HISTORY OF RIGHT-TO-CARRY IN MINNESOTA (continued from page 8)

session, Senate committees finally join in hearings. In the end, they do nothing. The pressure continues by supporters anyway.

Law enforcement organizations take a hard look at shall-issue right-to-carry. Many make good suggestions, but a vocal few see a threat to their management power. It seems like a Dilbert comic strip, and Dilbert's boss is in charge.

Governor Jesse Ventura gets his carry permit, but then seems uninterested in the boxes of petitions by people who want their permits.

Again, right-to-carry resolutions are passed in grassroots party caucuses. In the 2000 election, the pro-carry House majority increases.

2001: The House Listens, The Senate Bullies -- Representative Boudreau and Senator Pariseau again introduce right-to-carry bills. More hearings are held in House committees. Major changes are made in training requirements and property-rights areas.

The House passes right-to-carry again. The Senate engages in stonewalling. One committee dismisses the bill in a few minutes. Senate Majority Leader

Roger Moe stops the bill in another committee, by ensuring that the committee does not have members present to meet and discuss the bill. It's bullying at it's worst.

Legislators start getting a new message: "You've had hearings. You've had suggestions. You've had years. Quit stalling!"

2002: Let's Make A Deal -- During the legislative session, changes are made to address law enforcement concerns, including the return of limited discretion. It becomes clear that some folks are playing games; they will never support right-to-carry, no matter how many concessions are made.

Pro-right-to-carry forces put the pressure on the Senate. Even Senate leader Roger Moe is surprised. An attempt to "gut" the bill by a formerly pro-gunowner Senator Steve Murphy is made. The "gutting" fails.

Some senate candidates discover their grassroots political caucus support evaporating, because of their reluctance to support right-to-carry. These Senate candidates backpedal furiously.

(continued on page 12)

PRECINCT CAUCUS GUIDE

[Slightly condensed from the Minnesota League of Women Voters website.]

The precinct caucus is the grassroots level of major party activity in the state of Minnesota. The road to election day begins at the precinct caucus, which is held the first Tuesday in March of every election year. Major parties are required by law to hold precinct caucuses on “caucus night” complying with general rules and regulations. Each party determines its own specific procedures.

Everyone who lives within a voting precinct and is a qualified voter (or will be by the next election) may participate in one party’s precinct caucus in any one year.

Participants elect the caucus chair, precinct officers and delegates to the next level of party organization - county or district. They also introduce, discuss and vote on resolutions, which are statements of position on issues that can be influenced by state or national legislation. These are recommendations to a party for planks in its platform.

The precinct caucus is the first step on the road to the final selection of candidates and platforms. The next step is either a county or legislative district convention, followed by a congressional district convention, a state convention and finally in presidential election years, the national convention. At each level, issues and candidates are discussed and voted on by the delegates selected from the prior level.

Caucuses give you and your neighbors in the precinct an opportunity to discuss issues that are important to you - a chance to say how you would like to see a problem addressed. It is also your opportunity to influence the candidate selection within your party.

You can introduce resolutions prepared by yourself or groups that you support. It is in the precinct caucus that the formal process of candidate selection begins and here is your opportunity to speak for candidates who may be chosen to represent your party in the general election in November.

When you sign in at a caucus, you will be stating that you do support the basic tenets of that party, have

done so in the past or plan to in the next election. This is not a lifetime commitment, nor even an absolute requirement to vote for only one party at the general election.

Caucuses for the major parties (as defined by state law) occur the first Tuesday in March at 7:00 p.m. in every voting precinct of the state. (Note: The DFL has decided to try holding caucuses the following Saturday or Sunday.) The location of your precinct’s caucus will be announced in the newspapers the week before. You may also call your county auditor or party’s headquarters for this information.

Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party -
(651) 293-1200

Independence Party - (507) 387-2657

Republican Party - (651) 222-0022

For TDD service to contact the parties, you may call (metro) (651) 297-5353 or (greater Minnesota) 1-800-657-3529.

There are some variations in how a caucus operates, but all do so under state regulation and according to Robert’s Rules of Order.

Sign-in:

Upon arrival at the caucus site, you will be asked to sign your name and address on a sheet that states that the undersigned agree with party principles and intend to support party candidates in the coming election.

Before the caucus convenes:

Go early. This is the time when people are passing out copies of the resolutions they hope will be adopted and looking for support for delegates and candidates. If you want to be a part of this, come prepared. Bring copies of your own resolutions, try to bring people who support your positions to the caucus or identify supporters there.

Order of Business:

At 7:00 p.m., all caucuses in the state are convened.

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PRECINCT CAUCUS GUIDE

(continued from page 11)

1. The first order of business is the election of the caucus chair and the precinct officers. There are two-year positions involving campaign work, fund raising and organization. You may nominate yourself.

2. Next is the election of delegates and alternates to the county or district conventions. Election of delegates can begin no sooner than half-hour and no later than one hour after the start of the caucus.

You may nominate yourself or another who shares your views. It is important to question nominees about their qualifications and stands on issues. Ask the chair if each might make a short speech. Be prepared to make one if you decide to run. The number of delegates from each precinct is set by the party. All voting is by secret ballot.

Each party may use different rules for selecting delegates. The Republicans use the plurality method - nominees who get the most votes become the delegates. Winners take all. Alternates can either be those with fewer votes or be selected by separate balloting.

The DFL may use either the plurality method or proportional voting - a method that gives subgroups in the caucus a share of the delegates. Use of that method is voted on at the caucus. Those who wish

to form a subcaucus designate a candidate or an issue or both. There must be enough people in each group to entitle them to a delegate. The necessary numbers and the time limit for forming subcaucuses will be explained by the chair.

Some of the delegates will serve on committees to plan the next convention. In the DFL they are elected by the caucus or appointed by the chair. In the Republican Party, they are appointed by county or district officers.

The committees are: Credentials, Rules, and Resolutions. If you are chosen to be a delegate and would like to serve on a committee, inform the chair.

3. Resolutions relating to state or national issues that might be affected by legislation come next. They must be in written form. They are read, seconded, debated and voted on by a voice vote. There is a time limit for discussion both pro and con - the chair sets the rules of debate unless overturned by majority vote. If passed, resolutions are forwarded to the convention at the next level.

Caucus must last at least one hour. Adjournment occurs when all of the business is completed.

Further questions regarding the caucuses or the election in general may be directed to the Secretary of State's office at (651) 296-2803.

HISTORY OF RIGHT-TO-CARRY IN MINNESOTA (continued from page 10)

CCRN members participate in Republican and DFL conventions. During the election, right-to-carry becomes a "hot-button, litmus-test" issue for voters. Strong right-to-carry candidates win in the 2002 election. Lukewarm supporters don't win. Opponents can't make their scare tactics work. Years of grassroots work have finally paid off.

Minnesota now has a pro-right-to-carry House, Senate, and Governor.

2003: Nothing Is Impossible -- The Minnesota Citizens Personal Protection Act (MPPA) is introduced by Representative Boudreau and Senator Pariseau. After meeting with business, education,

law enforcement, and others, MPPA supporters make numerous modifications to the bill that concisely address everyone's concerns from the previous years.

Some still wrongly call MPPA "the most liberal carry law in the nation." The MPPA is not even close to what Minnesota citizens enjoyed back in 1974. The bill authors throw in the kitchen sink: a lifetime ban on firearm possession by some felons originally proposed by MPPA opponents.

MPPA passes the House by a comfortable bipartisan margin. The Senate leadership tries to stall again.

(continued on page 14)

MICHIGAN SUPREMES LET STAND PRO-CCW RULING

**From Gun Week -- Sept 24, 2003
by Dave Workman, Senior Editor**

[Note: This article is about Michigan, but could apply to Minnesota as well.]

Michigan gunowners are celebrating an important decision by that state's Supreme Court that lets stand a lower court ruling that cities cannot ban concealed handguns from public buildings.

The Sept. 2 refusal by the state's highest court to hear an appeal of the lower court ruling leaves anti-gun city administrators and city councils with no authority to ban law-abiding, licensed Michigan residents from carrying concealed guns in city halls, public libraries and other buildings.

The Michigan Coalition for Responsible Gun Owners (MCRGO), which spearheaded the legislative drive two years ago to reform the state's concealed carry law, was delighted with the decision. The case was an appeal by the city of Ferndale and other Michigan communities, which had passed bans on concealed carry in public buildings in 2001. Signs posted at the Ferndale city library and Saline City Hall banning guns were to have come down. Saline's ban was adopted earlier this year, and Saline Mayor Gretchen Driskell reportedly acknowledged that ordinance is now moot and will have to be repealed.

In May, a three-judge appeals court panel ruled unanimously against the city, noting that state law preempts local municipalities from passing such bans, and has since 1990, according to MCRGO attorney Carol Bambery. The Ferndale ruling sends a signal to other Michigan cities that they cannot arbitrarily pass regulations on where licensed citizens may or may not carry, but Bambery acknowledged that some cities are deliberately not getting that message.

Bambery told Gun Week that MCRGO has written letters to several communities advising them that their signs banning guns from public buildings were clearly in violation of state law.

"We are monitoring that," she said.

MCRGO Executive Director Chuck Perricone told

Gun Week, "We need to get out there and let these local officials know what they can and cannot do. They are going to lose in court. They have nothing to stand on, and they are misinterpreting statutes."

Perricone, a former state lawmaker, said many local officials are attempting to set up what amounts to fiefdoms, pressing their own gun ordinances despite state preemption.

"At the end of the day," he observed, "they are just plain afraid of guns. You've got others that don't understand them, and others who believe that any local unit of government should have the right to adopt any ordinance they see fit."

But Perricone offered a word of caution to such communities. "There is no municipality on earth that is an island," he stated.

State law also allows licensed residents of other states to carry their own state licenses while in Michigan.

Michigan's reformed concealed carry statute took effect July 2001, and immediately, anti-gun municipal officials tried to throw up roadblocks to prevent citizens from carrying in public buildings. Even in the wake of the high court's action, some local officials are still looking for ways to keep constituents unarmed on public property.

According to The Detroit Free Press, East Lansing City Manager Ted Staton said his office will study the decision in search of an avenue for appeal. He also suggested that the city may seek legislative action to expand municipal authority over gun regulations.

Bambery does not see that happening. She said when the legislature reformed the state's concealed carry law, state lawmakers debated the decade-old preemption statute, and left it alone. She said the decision to leave the preemption law as is was not an oversight.

She said another challenge on the horizon will be to force county gun boards to follow the state law.

"We've got county gun boards imposing more requirements than the state law allows them," Bambery said. "We've got one county requiring a physician's statement that you are mentally stable, and other counties that make you wait a long time and impose more fees."

HANDY WEBSITES TO BOOKMARK

“No Guns, No Money” Business Cards -- <http://www.mnccrn.org/alerts/no-guns.doc>

Minnesota House -- <http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/>

Minnesota Senate -- <http://www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/>

Governor’s Office -- <http://www.governor.state.mn.us/>

Dept of Public Safety -- <http://www.dps.state.mn.us/bca/bca.html>

Stay in touch with Concealed Carry Reform NOW!



On the web: <http://www.mnccrn.org/>

The latest news comes by email; join at http://www.mnccrn.org/about/member_form.html



Our voicemail line is (651) 636-4465

Inquires: Professor Joe Olson at jolson@gw.hamline.edu or (651) 523-2142

Leadership issues: Tim Grant at tgrant@citilink.com

News Media Professionals, contact: John Caile at (612) 240-6080 or

JohnCaile@aol.com

Nitty gritty legal questions? Contact: David Gross at (952) 545-1091 or

david.gross@tcq.net



Our mailing address: CCRN / PO Box 131254 / St. Paul, MN 55113

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HISTORY OF RIGHT-TO-CARRY IN MINNESOTA (continued from page 12)

The House combines MPPA with a game and fish bill. MPPA heads to the Senate.

The Senate holds the longest floor debate in 25 years. Every issue the Senate has avoided is addressed. Opponents again act like vaudeville theater comedians, and bad ones at that, voicing the same hysteria and doomsday predictions.

MPPA passes the Senate by a good bipartisan margin. Pro-MPPA DFLers stay strong, despite the browbeating of the MetroCrats. Some moderate Republicans find their concerns addressed and vote for the bill; some don't.

Governor Tim Pawlenty signs the bill.

28 May 2003: MPPA Takes Effect -- Citizens get trained and apply for permits to carry. Starting in mid-June, the first permits begin arriving. After so many years of discussion and debate, opponents paint MPPA as "rushed" and "hastily written."

Today: "It Ain't Over 'Till It's Over" -- In violation of the Minnesota's preemption law, anti-MPPA opponents persuade some cities and counties to ban permit-holders from public buildings. A legal challenge brews. Some cities, like Duluth, back off from outright prohibitions, putting up "We Don't Like Guns" signs. Such signs have no force in law.

But MPPA supporters know that no one is above the law.

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