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WE HAVE A NEW PHONE NUMBER!

Take note! It's 720-300-9957.

APRIL 16 LIE-INS

Our Chapter joined Protest Easy Guns in their lie-in on the first anniversary of the Virginia Tech shootings on April 16 on the east side of the Capitol building at noon.

A gong was rung as each victim's name was exclaimed. Out of about 50 protesters, 32 wore ribbons made by survivors and families of the victims. Protesters lay down silently for three minutes (signifying the brief amount of time it takes to buy a gun in the United States).

Lie-ins happened in Fort Collins, Boulder and Colorado Springs.

We lose 32 lives to gun violence every day—the equivalent to the Virginia Tech loss. It's time to do more to keep guns out of the hands of prohibited purchasers.

God Is Watching Us

Boy, did we get **your** attention! It's a shame that our legislature cannot protect our children and require adults to safely store their handguns. Could they fear mere lobbyists? Or the fact that it's an election year? Or is it the concept of responsibility that confuses them?

In an article, Making Accountability Accountable, on Huffington Post, George Lakoff defines what responsibility means to both conservatives and liberals.

On the conservative definition of responsibility, he writes: "In strict father morality, which forms the basis of conservative values, the father is the unquestionable moral authority to be obeyed. It is he who holds those under his authority accountable and metes out punishment accordingly. In the conservative worldview, there are legitimate authorities whose job is to hold others accountable and mete punishment for failures of individual responsibility. Their individual responsibility and whatever accountability they have is satisfied when they hold others beneath them accountable and carry out punishment." Therefore, it is right to hold children and teens responsible if they take their parents handgun and do harm to themselves or others. The adult is never held responsible because their authority has been ignored.

On the liberal definition of responsibility, Mr. Lakoff explains: "To progressives, one is accountable to those one is responsible for -- those affected and possibly harmed by one's actions." This means the adult is held responsible along with the child, if he is old enough, for any harm done when the child takes an unsecured handgun and causes harm. Moms **like** this definition! Besides, we doubt God would judge a child over an adult.

It's a disgrace that SB49 went nowhere. We especially liked the educational section of the bill which would have informed purchasers of the law, especially since Colorado does not require any training or knowledge of firearms when purchasing one. We feel most people want to do the right thing and will do so if informed. And, hey, if a small business owner can make an extra sale of a gun box, so be it.

We would like to thank Senator Sue Windels for displaying courage and leadership in carrying this bill along with all of its supporters.

Moms Go To Washington

Pat and Judy went to DC in April and joined more than 40 other Mom chapter leaders to share best practices and learn about the latest organization efforts. The Meeting's theme was "Building" -- both building our own Chapter and building in targeted areas around our state. They lobbied our legislators on Capitol Hill and took side trips to Gettysburg to view where Pat's ancestor fell in battle and to Jamestown where Pat viewed the remains of another ancestor's home.

Did You Know?

As reported here previously, U.S. Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne is going to review the long-held ban against bringing loaded weapons into national parks and wildlife areas. According to an article on Yahoo, "Don Barger, regional director for the National Parks Conservation Association, worries that easing gun restrictions will increase poaching. He also said the low crime rate in parks can't justify the need for greater access to guns for personal safety. 'The current regulation is reasonable and necessary,' he said. U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., agrees."

Illegal migration of deadly firearms has been moving across US Border into Mexico. "The same routes that are being used to traffic drugs north -- and the same organizations that have control over those routes -- are the same organizations that bring the money and the cash proceeds south as well as the guns and the ammunition," says Bill Newell, a special agent with the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. A .50-caliber rifle was used to kill a police commander in Juarez just across the border from El Paso.
www.cnn.com/2008/WORLD/americas/03/26/gun.smuggling/index.html

What's the matter with Kansas? Starting July 1, Kansans will be able to own machine guns, other fully automatic weapons, sawed-off shotguns and silencers. Gov. Kathleen Sebelius signed a bill on April 21 legalizing their possession. cjonline.com/stories/042108/bre_guns.shtml

Wal-Mart becomes a Responsible Firearms Retailer. According to an article in the Chattanooga, Wal-Mart will film its gun sales and create a computerized log of purchases. The log will also create a record and alert system that will record when a gun sold at a Wal-Mart is used in a crime. Should the (straw?) purchaser of that gun later try to buy another gun at Wal-Mart, the system would alert the sales clerk who could then refuse to make another sale. The retailer will also run background checks on its employees handling firearms. The company has agreed to a 10-point code with Mayors Against Illegal Guns as part of the Responsible Firearms Retail Partnership program. www.chattanooga.com/articles/article_125911.asp

The Senate and the House have passed their own versions of mental health-care parity bills (i.e. require plans that offer mental health benefits to have parity with the benefits covering physical ailments) The better bill is the House version which would require a mental health-care plan must cover a comprehensive list of disorders compiled by the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders.

In February, an openly gay junior high student was attacked and shot in the head and back by a classmate in the E.O. Green Junior High School in Oxnard, California.. According to the [Los Angeles Times](http://www.losangelestimes.com), the victim was harassed on a regular basis. He had been involved in an argument with a group of boys that included his alleged shooter, who is said by a witness to have specifically threatened him, on Monday. How does that song by Nanci Griffith go? , ***"If you poison your children with hatred, then hatred is all that they'll know."***

At the second annual National Campus Security Summit focus was on how to deal with mental health, and how to make campuses safer for students and faculty. According to an article on dbTechno.com, experts believe that mental illness is not focused on enough at college campuses. One of the two main causes of death amongst college students is suicide. People thinking about suicide can become extremely violent. Treatment of mental illness can be successful.

Join Us at the People's Fair

We'll have a booth where children help make our handprint banners and parents learn about the ASK program, www.paxusa.org. Come by and say hi! The People's Fair will be down in Civic Center Park on June 7 and 8. Hours are 10am - 8pm on Saturday and 10am - 7pm on Sunday. To learn more about the People's Fair, go to www.peoplesfair.com.

Arming Teachers Is Not the Answer

Says Patrick Fiel, ADT Security Services in an article on *SecurityInfoWatch.com*. Here's an excerpt:

“More guns are the last thing we need on our campuses. This ill-advised idea of arming teachers could lead to more shootings with innocent people being caught in the crossfire. There would be more opportunities for guns to be stolen or taken by force; and armed teachers would be unlikely to provide much of a difference when a student gunman has the advantage of surprise.

Teachers need to concentrate primarily on their job of educating students. But they can play a role in helping to identify troubled students that need counseling or professional psychological intervention.

Teachers (and staff, too) should take every threat and student tip of potential violence seriously and fully check up on each claim, never assume that any talk of violence is just an idle threat.

And if there is an active shooter on campus, teachers and staff need to let law enforcement officials handle the situation. Police officers have been fully trained on how and when to use their weapons. They have other tactical advantages, as well as trained hostage negotiators available, if necessary.”

www.securityinfowatch.com/article/article.jsp?siteSection=306&id=15062&pageNum=1

Americans Want Stronger Gun Laws

Mayors Against Illegal Guns, a bi-partisan coalition of more than 300 mayors, announced the results of a new poll that reveals that Americans see stopping gun violence as one of their most important goals.

The poll discovered that while most Americans believe in the individual right to own guns, they don't see that in conflict with the need to crack down on illegal guns, keep guns out of the hands of terrorists, and give police the tools they need to solve crimes. Of those people who are likely to vote for a candidate who wants to protect Second Amendment rights; 80 percent also support prohibiting suspected terrorists from purchasing guns and 77 percent want to require criminal background checks on all sales at gun shows.

Poll Results:

- 71% of Americans believe that stopping gun violence is a very important goal. Nearly 60% favor stricter gun laws.
- 89% favor prohibiting people on the terrorist watch list from purchasing guns—including 89 percent of gun owners.
- 87% favor requiring everyone who sells guns at gun shows to conduct criminal background checks on the purchasers—as do 83 percent of gun owners.
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Also, receiving wide-spread support:

- Requiring gun retailers to perform background checks on their own employees (91 percent favor overall; including 88 percent of gun owners)
- Prohibiting gun retailers whose licenses have been revoked from continuing to sell their guns without a background check (80 percent favor overall; including 80 percent of gun owners)
- Requiring gun retailers to inspect their inventories every year to report stolen or missing guns (86 percent favor overall; including 83 percent of gun owners)
- Requiring all gun owners to alert the police if their guns or lost or stolen (91 percent favor overall; including 88 percent of gun owners)

To download polling information, go to www.mayorsagainstillegalguns.org/downloads/pdf/polling_memo.pdf

Question of the Day

How do you spell prevention? (Like in preventing mass mall, school, college and church shootings)

PAX USA has provided a list of warning signs for a pending school shooting. We feel these warning signs can be applied to predict any mass shooting. Note that some warning signs like an interest in violent video games or movies should be considered overall in the context of the individual's behavior. Others, such as making a direct or indirect threat should prompt an immediate call to 911 or for school threats, **1-866-SPEAK-UP**, a free national hotline for students to anonymously report weapons threats.

Plans and preparation. Seems to be making plans, including posting violent language or images online and amassing weapons and/or explosive devices.

Rage. Has poor coping skills, including a low tolerance for frustration, anger management problems, and possible violent outbursts.

Extreme depression. Expression of hopelessness or despair. Exhibits signs of depression and/or desperation; expresses or demonstrates suicidal thoughts or a wish to be killed; shares paranoid or grandiose delusions or demonstrates a deterioration in ability to think coherently; may abuse drugs or alcohol (as part of larger depression-related behaviors); may have a history of mental health problems or have just experienced a life-altering event such as a breakup.

Violence. Shows an unusual interest in violence or pathological behavior, death, or weapons; shows an inappropriate obsession with prior school shootings (such as Columbine or Virginia Tech), has a history of violence, including stalking, bullying, destruction of property or violence against animals and people (e.g., fighting/hitting).

Externalization of blame. Externalization of blame. Expresses thoughts such as "Everyone is against me"; is an "injustice collector" mindful of every wrong he/she has experienced.

Narcissism. Have a low self-esteem and fragile ego.

Threats. Either directly or indirectly threatens the safety of others, including posting warning language or threats online. Especially when combined with access to weapons, this is a vitally serious warning sign. No threat should be considered a joke, and no student should try to handle a threat alone.

Intolerance. Demonstrates a lack of empathy for others and inappropriate emotional responses (such as laughing at things that should elicit sympathy or sadness).

New Behavior. Shows a marked change in behavior, including dressing differently, withdrawing from friends or activities, or taking more risks (generally in conjunction in other risk factors).

Guns. Has access to weapons, amasses weapons, and shows inappropriate fascination with weapons, explosive devices, and ammunition; may talk about guns at home or bring them to school.