

On Target

Winter 2016



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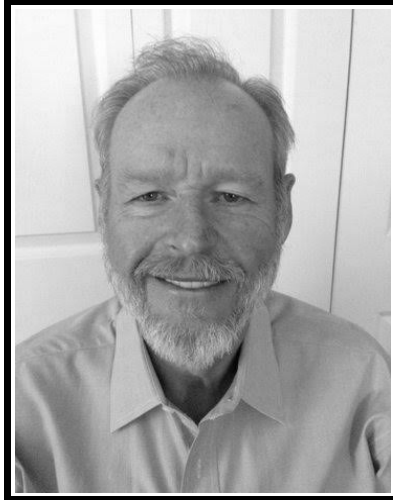
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Anyone paying attention to the recent presidential primary campaign can't help but notice -firearms policy is back in the news in a big way and will continue to be a top issue throughout the coming months.

Following the defeat of federal gun control legislation four years ago, the push to pass new regulations dampened and moved to the state and local level.

But radical gun control activists were organizing in stealth. Bankrolled by billionaire Michael Bloomberg and his manufactured groups

Everytown for Gun Safety and Moms Demand Action, they have engaged in polling and celebrity outreach. Their primary goal is "universal background checks" a prelude to the registration of all types of firearms and a ban on certain groups of people from possessing firearms, often without any criminal convictions. Common capacity magazine bans, taxes on firearms and ammunition, targeting firearms manufacturers through liability lawsuits, expanding pistol free zones, renewing the ban on certain modern rifles, and banning lead ammo are also sought.

MCRGO is responding to the threat by building our grassroots membership, offering new discounts to veterans, reaching out to instructors with the introduction of a better designed training program, and bringing more of their pistol safety training students into our fight as Michigan's number of active CPL holders passes the 500,000 mark, a ten-fold increase from where we were 15 years ago!

MCRGO-PAC will be busy this year, working to ensure that we increase our pro-gun majority in the state legislature to protect our recent gains in Michigan.

Your help is needed. Please encourage friends and family members who are gun owners to join the effort by becoming members of MCRGO. And please like MCRGO on Facebook and assist with our outreach on social media, a quickly expanding front in the war to secure our rights for future generations.

-MCRGO Chair & President Glen Griffith

Executive Director's Notes

MCRGO's mission targets three key areas: legislation, litigation, and education. The organization's major accomplishments over the past twenty years have been heavy on legislation and litigation with the achievement of shall-issue concealed carry, the Castle Doctrine, Stand Your Ground, CPL reform, preemption and its enforcement through landmark cases such as MCRGO vs. Ferndale.

The education component of the organization, apart from partnering with the NRA on the Eddie Eagle program and offering pistol safety training to legislators, has been primarily focused on member & public outreach on Michigan gun laws and issues through this newsletter, our web site, the Monday E'News, and social media, particularly Facebook.

MCRGO will soon significantly expand its educational mission by becoming a full training organization, offering a superior program at a competitive cost to instructors and their students. In doing so, we also hope to draw more concealed pistol license applicants to the fight to reform Michigan gun laws and defend their self defense rights.

Existing programs have come under fire in recent years for their lack of applicability to MCL 28.425j, the section of Michigan law that deals with training. Some instructors have been offering courses under the name of training organizations without appropriately teaching the course they are certified in. This has been a particular problem with the legal portion of the course, with people who are unlicensed attorneys offering legal advice that is often incorrect. Range times in some classes have been inadequate or even non-existent. We have had reports of classes lasting for less than two hours!

Though MCRGO has not offered general instruction in the past, it has long been accredited to do so by the Michigan State Police. Our board has struggled with this issue, particularly over the design and implementation of a training program, legal liability, and insurance. Last year, the MCRGO Board of Directors created a Education Subcommittee and began the process of developing a better training program than those currently being offered. We have made substantial progress and will be ready to move toward the implementation and instructor certification phase this spring.

The new MCRGO program will be designed around Michigan law focusing on carry outside the home. The legal portion will be taught in video modules by Michigan attorneys. The range portion will have exercises that go beyond the minimum required by Michigan law. This will be a one day course.

Unlike some existing programs that have high fees, MCRGO's program will certify instructors for \$200 with a \$20 annual renewal that will include MCRGO annual membership. The per student cost will initially be \$15 which will also include a one year membership to MCRGO. We hope to lower the student fee to \$10 once the program is up and running and initial expenses are paid. Instructors will set their own course fees.

Currently, most pistol safety training students leave their course with a certificate but no continued contact from their training organization or instructor. As a result, only half go on to obtain their CPL. Few become active in the grassroots political activity. By providing a heavily discounted membership to students in their first year, we will grow both MCRGO's membership and its political impact.

Please contact the MCRGO Education Subcommittee Chair, Rich Martin, with any questions you may have about the new program. He can be reached by e-mail at: rich@vipermi.com.

Brady Schickinger, Executive Director

MCRGO Expands Veterans Membership Discounts



This past fall, MCRGO's Board of Directors began a \$20 annual veterans members, a 33% discount from the standard \$30 price. The board also created a free lifetime membership for veterans with a 100% military related disability. Last month, the board expanded these discounts. We are now offering a \$500 lifetime veterans membership and a \$250 senior veterans lifetime membership. These discounted veteran memberships must be paid for by check or money order through the mail at present until we are able to incorporate them into our website system for payment by credit card or PayPal. The board also voted to extend all lifetime memberships to a surviving spouse.

On Target Moves to Electronic Distribution

With this issue of the Winter 2016 On Target newsletter, all members with an e-mail address on file will now receive the newsletter by e-mail rather than a printed copy by U.S. Mail. Members without an e-mail address will continue to receive a printed newsletter for the time being. Members with an e-mail address can continue to opt-in to receiving a printed copy by contacting MCRGO. This change comes from the suggestion of members and is a next step forward in modernizing MCRGO's member outreach. Sending the newsletter by e-mail will allow the organization to redirect saved funds for other purposes as well as to allow us to send the newsletter out immediately rather than experience a printing and mailing delay of several weeks. In several years, we hope to eliminate the printed version altogether and replace the quarterly newsletter with a monthly electronic edition that will provide more frequent updates on Michigan related firearms news.

Sen. Meekhof Selected as 2015 Legislator of the Year

Senator Arlan Meekhof (R-West Olive) was chosen by the MCRGO Board of Directors at its December 2015 Annual Meeting as the 2015 Legislator of the Year. Meekhof won the award for his work in pushing through Sen. Green's Concealed Pistol License Reform legislation after it was vetoed last January as well as for sponsoring Senate Bill 561, currently in progress, that would provide a general exemption to pistol free zones.

Michigan Coalition for Responsible Gun Owners (MCRGO)

P.O. Box 14014; Lansing, MI 48901 (517) 484-2746 www.mcrgo.org

Mission: *"Promoting the safe use and ownership of firearms through education, litigation, and legislation."*

Glen Griffith, Chair & President
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Rich Martin, Director

Sen. Mike Green, Director
Rep. Bill LaVoy, Director
Rep. Charles Brunner, Director
Steve Sanderson, Director
Charles Perricone, Director

Brady Schickinger, Executive Director

Jim Kleiman, Webmaster

2015-2016 Legislative Update

SB 364 & 365: Would exempt trigger locks, gun safes and lockboxes, and other home firearm safety devices from sales tax. Passed the full Senate 37-0 and is now pending in House Tax Policy Committee. MCRGO is neutral on these bills as they are primarily tax policy issues.

SB 442 & 561: Would prohibit openly carrying a pistol in one of the gun free zones specified in the concealed pistol permit law, with exceptions for the owner and security staff of one of those zones (which include bars and other privately owned venues). The bill would also authorize a process for individuals with permits to request an exemption that would allow concealed carry in a gun free zone, including a school. Passed the Senate Judiciary Committee and is now pending before the full Senate. Discussions of substitute language are ongoing. MCRGO strongly supports these bills and has made them our top priority for this session.

SB 478 & 479: Would expand a state pistol purchase mandate to all private gun purchases, including rifles and shotguns. This pistol permit regulatory regime was repealed for purchases from licensed gun dealers by a 2012 law, but the bill would restore it, and apply the mandate to private person-to-person sales including long guns. Pending in the Senate Judiciary Committee. MCRGO opposes this so called “universal background check”.

SB 545: Would add public libraries to a provision that prohibits regular citizens who have met the qualification and received a concealed pistol permit from carrying a pistol in specified places. Also, would ban open carry of firearms in those specified places. Pending in the Senate Government Operations Committee. MCRGO opposes.

SB 666: Would make it a crime to store or leave a firearm where it may be accessed by a minor, subject to five years in prison if a minor uses the gun to injure or kill himself or another, and lesser penalties if a minor takes the gun out in public, uses it in a threatening or careless manner, and more. Pending in the Senate Judiciary Committee. MCRGO opposes.

HB 4261: Would ban the open carry of firearms in gun free zones specified in the state concealed pistol license law, which include, schools, day care centers, stadiums, arenas, theaters, bars, churches, college dorms and classrooms, hospitals, casinos, and courts. Also, to add public libraries to this list. Pending in the House Judiciary Committee. MCRGO opposes.

HB 4535: Would exempt law enforcement officers from the law that prohibits purchasing a pistol from an individual unless a person gets a purchase permit from local police. A 2012 law repealed this requirement for pistols bought by civilians from a federally licensed firearms dealer. It passed the House on a vote of 102-3 and is pending in the Senate Judiciary Committee. MCRGO is neutral.

HB 4564 & 4565: Would remove various rules on transporting a firearm in various containers or places in a vehicle, and instead simply require that it be unloaded. Pending in the House Judiciary Committee. MCRGO supports.

HB 4590 & 4591: Would expand a state pistol purchase mandate to all private gun purchases, including rifles and shotguns. This pistol permit regulatory regime was repealed for purchases from licensed gun dealers by a 2012 law, but the bill would restore it, and apply the mandate to private person-to-person sales including long guns. The bill is similar to Senate Bills 478 & 479. Pending in the House Judiciary Committee. MCRGO opposes this so called “universal background check”.

HB 4593: Would exempt veterans from paying the concealed pistol license application and licensing fee. Pending in the House Appropriations Committee. MCRGO supports.

HB 4675: Would establish that if an individual requests his or her information be removed from a state pistol entry database, the State Police must remove that information within 14 days, and notify the individual by first-class mail that this has been done. Until a 2012 repeal, individuals were required to get a purchase permit from local police to buy a pistol. The current law no longer requires this for pistols purchased from a federally licensed firearms dealer, who run all purchases through a national “instant background check” database instead. Pending in the House Judiciary Committee. MCRGO supports.

HB 4795: Would authorize private lawsuits against a local government that violates a state preemption on local firearms ownership or use restrictions, which would allow plaintiffs to collect actual damages and costs if they prevail. Also, to authorize a \$5,000 civil fine against elected or appointed local officials who “knowingly and willfully” enact or enforce local restrictions that violate the state preemption. Pending in the House Local Government Committee. MCRGO supports.

HB 4807: Would make explicit in statute that a concealed pistol license is among the forms of valid photo identification for voting. Current law requires voters to show a drivers license, state ID card or “other generally recognized picture identification card”. MCRGO has not yet taken a position.

HB 4846: Would revise the “gun free zone” provision of the concealed pistol permit law to exempt uniformed members of the active duty military, National Guard or reserve forces. Pending in the House Judiciary Committee. MCRGO supports.

HB 4942 & 4943: Would authorize courts to prohibit an individual from buying a gun and order firearms to be seized from an individual based on a “reasonable cause to believe” that the person poses a “significant risk” of injury to himself or others. Family members, roommates or people in a close relationship with the target could petition a court to issue a “gun violence restraining order.” The bill prescribes standards and procedures for this, including an appeals process. Pending in the House Judiciary Committee. MCRGO opposes.

HB 4944: Would prohibit openly carrying a pistol in one of the gun free zones specified in the concealed pistol permit law, with exceptions for police and for the owner and security staff of one of those zones. Pending in the House Judiciary Committee. MCRGO opposes.

HB 5045: Would waive concealed pistol license application fees for veterans, retired police and retired jail and prison guards. Pending in the House Judiciary Committee. MCRGO has not yet taken a position.

HB 5195: Would provide penalties for storing or leaving a firearm where it may be accessed by a minor. Pending in the House Criminal Justice Committee. MCRGO opposes.

HB 5200: Would eliminate pistol free zones. Pending in the House Judiciary Committee. MCRGO has not yet taken a position on this recently introduced bill.

Pending Introduction: Legislation that will modify restrictions on who can purchase and possess a stun gun or Taser and where these can be carried. MCRGO has not yet taken a position.

Pending before the Natural Resources Commission: An amended conservation order that would repeal the prohibition on the use of sound suppressors for hunting. MCRGO supports.

Why Join MCRGO?

- The great majority of firearms laws that affect you come from our state constitution and state laws rather than the federal government. This includes our right to carry outside our homes both openly and concealed.
- Created 20 years ago by concealed pistol advocates in the successful fight to implement “shall-issue” concealed carry in Michigan, MCRGO is Michigan's largest non-profit, state-based firearms organization.
- MCRGO is the the most influential advocate to the Michigan Legislature for protecting and expanding your rights as a gun owner. It is the only organization that includes current and former legislators on its member elected Board of Directors. While other organizations react to firearms legislation, MCRGO is driving the legislative agenda.
- MCRGO is the only firearms organization in Michigan with paid full time staff available throughout the week to answer your questions. Our executive director has 21 years of experience working on firearms related legislation in the Michigan House of Representatives. Our attorney and spokesman is a nationally recognized gun rights advocate.
- MCRGO works in active cooperation with the National Rifle Association on a broad range of firearms and shooting sports issues and assists allied groups including Students for Concealed Carry, Michigan Open Carry, Michigan Gun Owners, gun clubs, sportsman's organizations and state and local law enforcement.

“Promoting the safe use and ownership of firearms through education, litigation and legislation.”

-MCRGO Mission Statement

What your membership dues include:

- The satisfaction of a good citizen in knowing that in addition to protecting your family, friends and neighbors by making the decision to carry concealed, you're also fighting to protect your and their constitutional rights to self defense. MCRGO membership puts you in the vanguard of Michigan concealed pistol license holders.
- Support of MCRGO's heavy involvement in the politics of maintaining and improving firearms rights. Politics is a game of numbers and every member is needed and appreciated.
- MCRGO's quarterly “On Target” newsletter providing detailed background on MCRGO's current work on efforts such as strengthening preemption laws, eliminating no carry zones, ending the practice of granting special firearms rights to special groups, and promoting firearms recreation including both hunting and sport shooting as well as exclusive feature stories and interviews with the people fighting for our rights as responsible gun owners.
- MCRGO's weekly Monday morning E'News answering questions submitted by fellow members.
- Access to MCRGO's members-only features at www.mcrgo.org including the popular “Ask the Lawyer” section.
- Support of MCRGO's public firearms advocacy efforts though traditional media including guest editorials in local Michigan newspapers, interviews on radio and television and participation in community forums and local government meetings as well as electronic media including MCRGO's website which provides CPL and firearms FAQs, instructor referrals and classified ads, Twitter updates, and MCRGO's very active Facebook page.

Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

County: _____

Home Phone #: (_____) _____

E-mail: _____

Birthdate: ____/____/____

(Required only for Senior Life Membership)

Membership Options (Circle Choice)

	Adult	Youth (Under 18)
1 Year	\$30.00	\$15.00
2 Years	\$55.00	\$25.00
3 Years	\$80.00	\$35.00
Veterans	\$20.00 with DD214/VA card	
Life	\$600.00	N/A
Veteran Life	\$500.00	N/A
Sr. Life (62+)	\$300.00	N/A
Veteran Sr. Life	\$250.00	N/A

Checks can be made payable to:

MCRGO

P.O. Box 14014

Lansing, MI 48901

A membership packet including a MCRGO decal and a membership card will be sent to all new and renewing members. Membership cards are sent out by MCRGO's printer on six week mailing cycles.

Membership FAQs:

- New members immediately gain full rights in the organization including the ability to run for the board of directors and access to the popular "Ask the Lawyer" benefit.
- Renewing former MCRGO members keep their previous member identification number. Former membership history remains intact.
- Membership will give you access to every copy of "On Target" ever published by MCRGO including issues you may have missed.
- If you're a firearms instructor, your membership will allow you to list your contact information in the "CPL Instructors" portion of our website. This is the most frequently accessed list of pistol safety training instructors in the state for people seeking to obtain their conceal pistol license.
- Please call MCRGO's Executive Director Brady Schickinger at 517-484-2746 with questions or e-mail him at brady@mcrgo.org

Join On-line!

You can join on-line, saving yourself both time and postage.

1. Go to www.mcrgo.org.
2. In the top menu bar, select "Membership".
3. Select "Become a Member" or "Renew".
4. Select your desired membership level.
5. Enter membership information.
6. Enter payment information.
7. Click confirm to process your membership.
8. A welcome e-mail will be sent to you with your membership number.

MCRGO Returns to the Outdoor Shows

The Michigan Coalition for Responsible Gun Owners will return to Outdoorama at Novi and the Ultimate Sport Show at Grand Rapids in 2016. These two shows are the largest late winter outdoor events in the state. Volunteers will help staff MCRGO's booth and explain the organization's mission, recruit new members, answer questions about responsible gun ownership and carry outside the home as well as provide legislative updates on current proposals affecting firearms law. Outdoorama will be held from February 25 to February 28. The Ultimate Sport Show will take place from March 17 to March 20. Stop by MCRGO's booth to take advantage of our event-special \$20 annual membership renewal rate (cash or check).

