



IKES ON TARGET



PHOTO: JAY CLARK

League Statement Concerning Firearms Policy Proposals

*Issued January 24, 2013, by the
Izaak Walton League of America Executive Board*

The shooting in Newtown, Connecticut, is a terrible tragedy for the children and families, the community, and the nation. The Izaak Walton League of America joins our fellow citizens in keeping the children and families of Newtown in our thoughts and prayers.

The League and our members have a bedrock commitment to the responsible and lawful use of firearms. Tens of thousands of law-abiding League members across the country own firearms and enjoy hunting and recreational shooting sports.

The League is closely monitoring the policy-making process in Congress and the administration. We intend to evaluate proposals carefully and with certain principles in mind:

- First, the focus must be on preventing people who are already prohibited by law from possessing firearms from getting them.
- Second, proposals must be objective and not single out certain firearms based on their physical appearance or subjective terminology.
- Finally, the national debate must address the many factors that contribute to violent crimes, including those that involve firearms.

The Izaak Walton League intends to approach this debate as it does every issue — with careful analysis, a focus on the facts, respect for those with differing views, and common sense.

For current IWLA firearms policies, see the *IWLA Conservation Policies Handbook*, Chapter 9, pages 82 to 83, available at www.iwla.org.

Why Invite A Newcomer

The National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) reminds experienced hunters and shooters that any time is a great time to invite a newcomer — whether a youth or an adult — to experience the rewards of hunting and target shooting.

Being in the outdoors only enhances the enjoyment of these activities. If that alone wasn't reason enough to introduce a newcomer, NSSF gives you 10 additional reasons based on recent surveys and studies:

- **Building the Base:** Where will the next generation of sportsmen and women who will support firearms, hunting, and shooting sports freedoms come from? They will be the people *you* introduce to our sports today. Invite someone to hunt or target shoot.
- **Invitations Count:** More than 90 million U.S. adults age 18 and over expressed at least some interest in participating in hunting or target shooting, according NSSF/Harris polls. The top factor in getting them to participate was an invitation from a friend or family member.
- **Peer Power:** Approximately 15 million youth, ages 8 to 17, who are not hunters or target shooters would consider giving these activities a try if asked by a peer, according to a study commissioned by the Hunting Heritage Trust and NSSF and conducted by Responsive Management. Youth who are already in shooting programs should remember that their friends are waiting for an invitation to give shooting or hunting a try under adult supervision.
- **Public Approval:** Some surveys show that approximately three-quarters of America's youth and adults approve of hunting and target shooting.
- **Safer Than Golf:** Hunting is safer than golf as well as many other sporting activities, according to injury statistics. As for target shooting, accidents are extremely rare.
- **Generosity:** Let new hunters know that they can donate venison to charitable food outlets to help feed those in need. Hunter donations make possible about 11 million venison meals every year.
- **Conservation and Outdoor Recreation:** By purchasing firearms, ammunition, and hunting licenses, sportsmen and women contribute more than \$1 billion annually to protect wildlife and habitat and fund shooting range development. This funding has helped restore populations of species such as the wild turkey and white-tailed deer that were struggling to survive 100 years ago.
- **Elevating Ethics:** Firearms ownership and participation in hunting and target shooting help youth and adults develop an ethical, responsible approach toward wildlife and wild places and toward firearms. Read more at www.nssf.org/lit/EthicalHunter.pdf.
- **Power of Knowledge:** With their newfound knowledge and perspective on hunting, target shooting, and firearms ownership, newcomers can respond to misinformed statements about these topics at work and social gatherings with a simple, "Did you ever consider this?"
- **Preparedness:** Self-reliance is a core American value. Whether you invite someone to learn to shoot for recreation, hunting, or personal and home defense, he or she will have gained a new and valuable skill.

To learn more about how to best introduce someone to shooting sports, firearms safety, conservation, and other topics mentioned here — including a free e-mail postcard invitation — visit the NSSF Web site at www.nssf.org.

These 10 reasons to invite others to hunt and shoot should go a long way in helping Ikes stay "on target" when recruiting hunters and shooters — and recruiting new Izaak Walton League members as well.

The National Shooting Sports Foundation is the firearms industry trade association. Its mission is to promote, protect, and preserve hunting and the shooting sports. Formed in 1961, NSSF has a membership that includes many sportsmen and conservation organizations — such as the 118 Izaak Walton League chapters that offer shooting sports facilities/activities.

On Target: Featured Chapters

In each issue of *Ikes On Target*, we highlight chapters that promote shooting sports.

Under 500 Members –



Photo courtesy Mountaineer Chapter IWLA

Mountaineer Chapter, West Virginia

Not far from the Elkins city limits and just off Files Creek Road, there is the rural chapter of nearly 400 Ikes. They are best known for their rustic setting with plenty of “hills `n hollers” for wildlife watchers and hunters to roam. The chapter operates a variety of shooting venues while promoting conservation and managing natural resources on 810 acres.

With a basic rifle/handgun range and target and 3-D archery courses, chapter members conduct annual air gun fun shoots and field days for kids.

www.iwla.org/mountaineer

Over 500 Members –

Loudoun County Chapter, Virginia

Located outside the town of Leesburg – in the heart of one of the fastest growing counties in America – this chapter of nearly 1,200 members is no stranger to the shooting sports. On 85-acre grounds, volunteers operate a skeet course, 5-stand sporting clays tower, and rifle/handgun and archery ranges.

Through the years, the chapter has applied for and received tens of thousands of dollars in NRA Foundation grants to make many improvements to these ranges.

The chapter hosts monthly 3-D archery shoots and regular skeet competitions. Members train youth under the Youth Hunter Education Challenge and Scholastic Clays programs, provide assorted NRA marksmanship courses to the public and range safety officer certification for members, and coordinate countywide hunter education efforts for their state’s fish and wildlife agency.

Annually, the chapter hosts a well-attended, women-only firearms training event called Women Exploring Loudoun’s Outdoors (see group photo below).

www.loudouniwla.org



Photo courtesy Loudoun County Chapter IWLA

NRA Range Conferences Planned

The **National Rifle Association's** Range Development and Operations Conference — a five-day industry seminar focusing on fundamental aspects of building and maintaining a shooting facility — will be held in two locations in 2013:

April 7-10 Denver, Colorado
September 28-October 2 Fairfax, Virginia

Attendees will receive a multi-disciplinary perspective on major topics such as

- Developing business and master plans
- Public hearings and zoning boards
- Environmental issues and sound abatement
- Insurance and grants
- EPA lead standards
- Range maintenance and safety

The conference is designed to educate range owners and operators about existing and proposed range facilities to identify potential problems associated with engineering, environmental issues, and safety. This information is vital for commercial, public, private, school, club, and casual ranges of both indoor and outdoor types.

Presentations are given by America's top experts on range development. The goal of these annual conferences is to give attendees a forum to share their knowledge and to ensure the public has a safe and convenient place to shoot.

Today's shooting range operator needs the savvy of a business owner, the wisdom of a firearms enthusiast, and the knowledge of a health and safety professional to be able to succeed.

Registration for the conference is \$450 (non-refundable), which includes all conference materials as well as a copy of the *NRA Range Source Book* on CD-ROM.

You can register online at www.nrahq.org/shootingrange or contact Kara Schlifke toll-free at (877) NRA-RANGE (727-2643) or range@nrahq.org

Lead Management Workshops

Here's more helpful information for chapters operating shooting ranges. The **National Shooting Sports Foundation's** Lead Management and OSHA Compliance Workshops will be held twice during 2013:

March 17-19 St. Louis, Missouri
April 7-9 Atlanta, Georgia

NSSF advises that "compliance violations could cost a range thousands of dollars in lost productivity, significant fines and penalties, cleanup expenses, and potential criminal prosecution. The cumulative effect of non-compliance could shut down a range."

NSSF is presenting these two workshops to help shooting range managers develop safe and healthful ranges in compliance with key OSHA regulations. Registration for NSSF members is \$399. Learn more and/or register online at

<http://nssf.org/ranges/ComplianceWorkshop>

Each year the IWLA pays the NSSF membership dues for all chapters that offer shooting sports facilities and related activities for its members.



An NSSF logo decal has been sent with this newsletter mailing to each of these chapter presidents for their chapter's use and display.

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Check out www.iwla.org/shootingsports today!

