



# G.C.L.A. NEWS

The Newsletter of the Gateway Civil Liberties Alliance

April - June 2020

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Steve Marx  
President

Kevin Ketterer  
Vice President

John Zeman  
Secretary

Gene Dultz  
Treasurer

Gene Dultz  
Newsletter Chairman

Members' meetings are on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the American Legion Post (Goff Moll) #101 2721 Collier Ave. Brentwood, MO just west of the Schnucks Store at the intersection of Brentwood Blvd and Manchester Rd. (see map on page 7)

## President's Corner

These are very trying times where each day brings a new normal. The economy is in flux and the supply of new products and the availability of such in chaos.

The firearms business has gone ballistic as well as all caliber of ammunition. 2020 will far surpass all back ground checks in the NICS system. The firearm stores in our area have greatly reduced their hours of being open. The paperwork has been monumental to keep up with. The present explosion of sales is being fueled by first time buyers. The feeling of being vulnerable and that government can't or won't protect you and your family has sunk in.

The state of Illinois has had a landside of concealed carry applications. To which the heads of the office that approves them has gone into slow motion or just plain stopped. The same has happened to all F.O.I.D. card applications so if you want to exercise your gun rights you are out of luck.

The state of Missouri has protected our guns rights. The efforts to get good people in office over the last several years has paid off for us. The importance of our annual gun rights rally has proven that all of us together have made a difference in keeping good people elected to office. The rally was canceled this year due to the pandemic. I'm sure in 2021 we will be back.

Please be tolerant and patient. The GCLA Board members have been having the monthly board meeting by conference call. Things are on hold for our monthly members' meeting. The hall has closed all gatherings until further notice. This will not last. When GCLA resumes monthly members' meetings all members will be notified.

The gun shows have been canceled until further notice, This was our main source of funds for youth shooting and our PAC fund.

Be positive and patient, this will not last .

Have fun! Get active!

Steve Marx  
President, GCLA

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## GCLA's Purpose

GCLA's purpose is to preserve and protect the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America by:

- Monitoring and acting on pending legislation at the local, state, and federal level.
- Encouraging voter registration and participation in the political process.
- Promoting public and personal safety, education and training, and the defense of the nation.

GCLA holds a monthly members' meeting which often features a guest speaker, the fielding of open questions, sharing of news and information, and intelligent discussion.

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## Open letter from a GCLA Member Supporting St. Louis City Sheriff Vernon Betts

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The time is nearly here when a good man and a great friend to this organization, GCLA, needs our help, Sheriff Vernon Betts is coming up for re-election.

My first meeting with him was after his deputies turned down my first attempt at getting my right to carry license, I had all of the proper NRA certifications. They claimed it wasn't enough. GCLA President Steve Marx suggested that I call Sheriff Betts to set things straight.

After our initial greeting Sheriff Betts said "I'll bet you didn't vote for me." I returned "I sure as hell did, Steve Marx told our group you were a good man and right for the job, and so I did vote for you." We relaxed, started talking for awhile and began what has become a good friendship.

He took me across the street, showed a few people where they

had made mistakes, and he saw to it that my license was issued. From now on those proper certifications will be accepted, I have been told.

Since then we have talked on the phone several times, I've visited him at his office twice, once with my wife.

Besides being the sheriff he is a gentleman and a minister. He has done great things for his office and the city of St. Louis. He has also volunteered to speak at a GCLA members' meeting but because of St. Louis County Covid-19 rules closing of our meeting hall it's not been possible.

A vote for Sheriff Betts is a vote for a better St. Louis and above all he is a friend to each of us at GCLA.

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## Missouri Legislature

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On May 30th, the Missouri Legislature adjourned without a date specified for a future meeting, from its 2020 legislative session. Thanks to the efforts of law-abiding citizens and pro-Second Amendment lawmakers, extreme "red flag" gun seizure legislation did not make it out of committee. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 crisis stalled efforts to pass legislation to ensure citizens have the right to self-defense while on public transit.

Though the legislative session is over, it is as critical as ever for GCLA members and Second Amendment supporters to remain active and engaged. The outcomes of the August 4th Primary Election and the November 3rd General Election will decide if the Missouri Legislature will have a pro-Second Amendment majority in 2021.

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## Florida Supreme Court Kicks Gun Ban Initiative Off the Ballot

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In a great victory for Florida's law-abiding gun owners, the Florida Supreme Court agreed with their contention that the Gun Ban Ballot Initiative summary was deceptive and would mislead voters.

The ballot initiative contained deceptive language to fool Florida voters in an attempt to ban millions of legal,

commonly used firearms and shut down legitimate businesses all around Florida.

Supporters of the gun ban initiative used deceptive language to try to trick voters into supporting their gun ban claiming it would do one thing while knowing it would do much more.

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## The Covid-19 Outbreak has Created a lot of New Gun Owners

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A lot of residents of blue states are starting to see why we have a Second Amendment. They want protection. With the COVID lockdowns, and anytime there's a national emergency, people act differently. Yet, leaving that aside, it's a constitutional right. That's all you need to know. There is no why do you need this, that, or the other when it comes to gun ownership. It's your right. Period.

The lockdowns have created legions of new gun owners and some are not happy at all about the stringent regulations, especially in California, which has some of the toughest laws on the books. Stephen Gutowski of the Washington Free Beacon interviewed new gun owners in the COVID-era. For one man, Scott Kane, he spent almost his whole life not wanting a gun until the lockdowns happened.

Kane and his family are Asian-American, and he feared

harassment might show up at their door. He wanted protection. He's a California resident and he soon figured out the insanity ingrained in the Golden State's gun laws. He told Gutowski that he's thinking about running for office because they're so bad. On top of that, several other people, who are gun owners, told the Free Beacon that while they had supported stricter laws, they're now seeing that maybe those views might have been severely misplaced.

Whether it be for personal protection or overall protection from an overreaching government, this is why we have a right to firearms. Remember, this really isn't a debate. It's codified in law. The debate is over. And as we see Minneapolis descend into chaos, the reasoning for our right to own guns becomes all the more stronger.

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## Election Time is Here

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The 2020 campaign season is upon us. It is more important than ever to keep pro-gun legislators in Jefferson City and Washington DC. We need to support our friends who are in office and make friends of those who we want in office.

We can do this by donating to the candidates that we agree with. Donate money, donate time, volunteer at the campaign offices. They remember those who support them.



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### NICS Record: Outbreak Shows Importance of 2nd Amendment

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Don't think that gun shops are essential? There are as many as 3,740,688 Americans who would disagree with you. That's how many background checks the FBI NICS Office ran in March.

That's the most ever, surpassing the previous record by 426,094, and is a million more checks than the previous record for the month of March. Tellingly, it is the third consecutive record-setting month and the third consecutive month with an increase.

The week of March 16th to 22nd set the record for most background checks in a week with 1,197,788 – surpassing the previous record by 244,175.

Friday, March 20th, is now the single-day record for background checks with 210,308 checks. Of the Top 10 Highest Days for NICS, five were in March 2020.

Anti-gun activists, power-hungry politicians, and radically out-of-touch editorial boards frame this as some sort of panic driven by propaganda. This isn't fearmongering; this is reality.

Inmates are being released from jails and prisons as COVID-19 spreads. In New York, more than 1,400 police officers tested positive for the virus. Officers in California, in Michigan, and in other states have tested positive or have been quarantined due to possible exposure. There are fears that certain goods may not be restocked at local stores, that the supply chain can't keep up with demand. The virus is taxing resources, and the American people see this.

People are sewing masks to give doctors, nurses, and first responders some amount of protection when the most protective masks are in short supply. Neighbors are picking up groceries for especially vulnerable members of their communities who can't

get groceries themselves. Teachers are adapting on the fly to continue their students' education despite stay-at-home and social distancing measures.

And Americans are buying firearms to make sure that they have a means to protect themselves and their loved ones in a worst-case scenario. What the gun-control crowd refuses to accept is that these are legal firearms purchases. The people standing in line outside gun shops are not orderly criminals waiting to fill out the necessary paperwork and undergo a background check; they're law-abiding Americans exercising their Constitutional rights.

The number of NICS background checks is not a perfect proxy for gun sales. The FBI does provide a useful breakdown of the NICS check by type. Last month, there were 1,392,677 checks related to the sale of a handgun. Another 758,073 checks were related to long guns, like ARs, rifles, and shotguns; 79,129 checks fell into the "other" category, and there were 57,328 checks related to the purchase of multiple firearms.

In all of this, the outlier is the anti-gun crowd. Some in their midst see this as an opportunity to advance further restrictions and/or to condition Americans to the idea that the 2nd Amendment is a second-class right.

Lawsuits have been filed in California and New York to ensure that gun shops have the ability to remain open if they choose.

The importance of the 2nd Amendment absolutely clear. The evidence is in the millions of Americans who choose to purchase a firearm to protect themselves.

That isn't fearmongering. That's reality.



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### Senators Look to Bolster NICS as Sales Go Through the Roof

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"In response to the pandemic, millions of Americans practicing safe social distancing have lined up outside of firearm retailers in order to purchase firearms. The resulting record-breaking surge has placed significant pressure on NICS, which helps to ensure that criminals and other prohibited persons cannot gain access to firearms," Texas Senators Ted Cruz and John Cornyn wrote in a letter to FBI Director Christopher Wray this week. More than two-dozen other Senators also signed on .

"We are seeking additional information on the impact the coronavirus has had on your agencies and the firearm transfer process so that we have a clearer picture on where things stand and how we can better assist through the legislative and appropriations process," the letter continues .

The demand has caused a backlog in the system and created unlawful waiting periods for purchasers. Senators are concerned about this issue and offering additional resources to help streamline the process.

"NICS was designed to provide a quick and accurate determination about whether a person can lawfully purchase a firearm from a federally licensed firearms dealer," the letter states. "Any unreasonable and unnecessary delay beyond the three business days unlawfully impedes the exercise of a person's fundamental constitutional right."

"We appreciate that the current national emergency has brought about unprecedented challenges for the FBI and the ATF, and we appreciate that your agencies are working with significant challenges for staff and resources," the letter continues. "We are confident that through your leadership, we can work together to ensure that NICS remains up and running during this crisis and that law-abiding citizens are not deprived of their constitutional right to keep and bear arms, especially during these uncertain times."

Meanwhile, Americans across the country have been frustrated with excessive delays during the Covid-19 crisis.



# Gun Control End Game Revealed as Bloomberg Groups Launch Campaign to Close Gun Stores

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The mask is off (so to speak), and it is now clear beyond any reasonable dispute: America's largest and most well-funded gun control advocacy group is systematically trying to ban law-abiding Americans, en masse, from acquiring firearms. And this at a time when Americans in record numbers have decided for themselves they need guns more than ever.

Events have been unfolding so quickly with respect to the constitutional right to acquire firearms during the COVID-19 outbreak that it's difficult for the public to keep up with them.

First, Americans across the country swarmed to gun stores in March to exercise their rights during the early stages of the unfolding emergency.

Then, gun stores were ordered to close by several anti-gun governors and local officials who were horrified that so many first-time gun buyers had gained a newfound appreciation for the Second Amendment.

Next, the Department of Homeland Security issued guidance to the states that gun stores are part of America's essential infrastructure during emergencies, and the NRA and others filed lawsuits challenging the closures.

Several closure orders were then reversed.

As the third week of lockdowns across the nation begun, and numbers showing record firearm sales in March have emerged, Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker has reversed his earlier determination that gun stores are essential and ordered them to close throughout the state.

In the midst of this new development, a memorandum emerged from gun prohibition advocates Everytown for Gun Safety, a group whose chief funder is none other than failed Democrat presidential contender Michael Bloomberg. The memorandum urges governors and mayors, despite the DHS guidance, to feel confident banning gun sales. It also purports (but ultimately fails) to provide legal justification for this clear infringement of Second Amendment rights.

Ironically, the gist of the "argument" put forth in the memorandum is that at a time when unprecedented incursions against a host of constitutional rights are underway as an asserted response against the coronavirus, the Second Amendment is receiving preferential treatment. The right to keep and bear arms should also, the memo argues, be subjected to infringements.

With this memorandum it is abundantly clear to all what close observers have known about Everytown all along: that they simply want ALL Americans to be denied the right to obtain ALL firearms altogether.

For Bloomberg's Everytown, however, this crisis is merely one more occasion to exploit to pursue their true objective: a total ban on the availability of firearms.

It further demonstrates that Everytown is not only radically devoted to firearm prohibition, it is heedless of what that could mean to the lives and safety of innumerable innocent people during the present crisis .

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## CCRKBA TO BIDEN: 'MAYBE YOU SHOULD OPEN THE CONSTITUTION AND FIND THE 2A'

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BELLEVUE, WA — The Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms today reacted to Democrat Joe Biden's challenge that President Donald Trump should "open the U.S. Constitution" to find the First Amendment by suggesting the former vice president is the one who needs a refresher on constitutional rights.

"If Joe Biden would open the Constitution," said CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb, "he would find the Second Amendment. It's obvious President Trump has already read the Second Amendment, and that Biden and his Democrats wish it didn't exist."

Biden has boasted on the campaign trail he would come after citizens' firearms. He promised to put extremist anti-gunner Beto O'Rourke in charge of his administration's gun control policies. He wants to ban whole classes of firearms and turn a fundamental right into a government-regulated privilege, Gottlieb explained.

"Donald Trump takes an opportunity during nearly every public appearance to declare his loyalty, not just his 'support,' to the Second Amendment," Gottlieb stated. "And what has Joe Biden done? He's been traveling the country bragging about how he

wrote the Brady gun control law, and how he would take on the so-called gun lobby and push for radical restrictions on law-abiding gun owners.

"It is clear to us that Donald Trump knows the First Amendment protects the right of people to peaceably assemble," he continued. "But unlike Biden, the president understands that the First Amendment does not protect looting, vandalism, arson and felony assault disguised as legitimate protest. President Trump hasn't been contributing to a bail fund project to get these criminals out of jail, as have members of Biden's campaign staff, while Biden, himself, would like to see these people released without bail.

"Just whose side is Joe Biden on," Gottlieb wondered. "He would release rioters from jail while allowing Beto O'Rourke to put gun owners behind bars for simply exercising their Second Amendment rights rather than turn in their firearms. It's clear the president knows the difference between Rights and wrongs while Biden, as with everything else he does, seems confused."

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## Annual Membership Renewal

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All current members of GCLA should have received their renewal letter in the mail. If you haven't done so already, please return the renewal form for 2020 & your annual dues in the return envelope. Your membership is vital to the success of GCLA in the pursuit of our primary goal, fighting for your Second Amendment Rights.

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### GCLA Gun Show Schedule

Show times are generally 9 a.m. To 5 p.m. for Sat.  
and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sun.  
When a show has a Friday date it will be open from  
4 p.m. to 8 p.m.



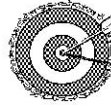
\* indicates GCLA will **not** have a table at this show  
\*\* indicates NRA Membership Recruiting table only

**Any Member Who Would Like To Work At A Gun Show  
Please Call:  
Don Childers 314-288-8881 –or– 636-677-6104**

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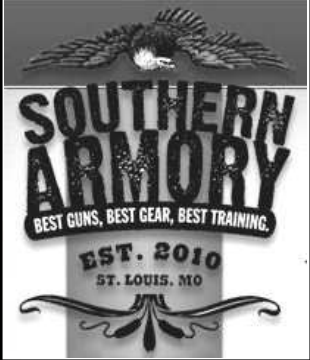
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## Associate Membership

GCLA will send a free annual Associate Membership including "GCLA NEWS" to any active duty service member from Missouri. Here is how this free annual membership works:

- Be full-time active military duty.
- Be a current or former Missouri resident and register Missouri as your state of residence.
- Be recommended by a current GCLA Regular Member, or request your free annual Associate Membership in writing.

If you qualify or know of someone that qualifies please fill out an application from the back of the "GCLA NEWS".

*Instead of a membership dues check please send a signed note or pledge that you/they are active duty military and a current or former Missouri resident & register Missouri as your/their state of residence.*



### Have you joined MSSA?

MSSA is the Missouri Sport Shooting Association. MSSA seeks to support and promote the shooting sports in Missouri, and to encourage participation. Are you participating?

See <http://www.missourisportshooting.org>

#### MSSA Mission Statement

The mission of the MSSA is to protect and preserve the shooting sports at the state level. MSSA will promote and improve the shooting sports by sponsoring marksmanship training and competitions throughout the state of Missouri.



### GCLA is an NRA Recruiter

Don't forget that GCLA is also an NRA recruiter. Help your organization and renew your annual, two year or three year membership through GCLA. We can do the annual membership for a discounted rate and give you a new hat to boot.

If you are not an NRA member and you want to become one, we can also do that.

GCLA earns money through commissions for every new member and renewal application that we send in to the NRA. This is a good deal for both you and GCLA



### GCLA-PAC

Gateway Civil Liberties Alliance has a Political Action Committee. This PAC allows GCLA to support the Missouri candidates that believe in our gun rights. The PAC needs funding to be effective and we need to start preparing now for the 2020 elections.

**Send donations to GCLA-PAC, P.O. Box 440280 , St. Louis, MO 63144**

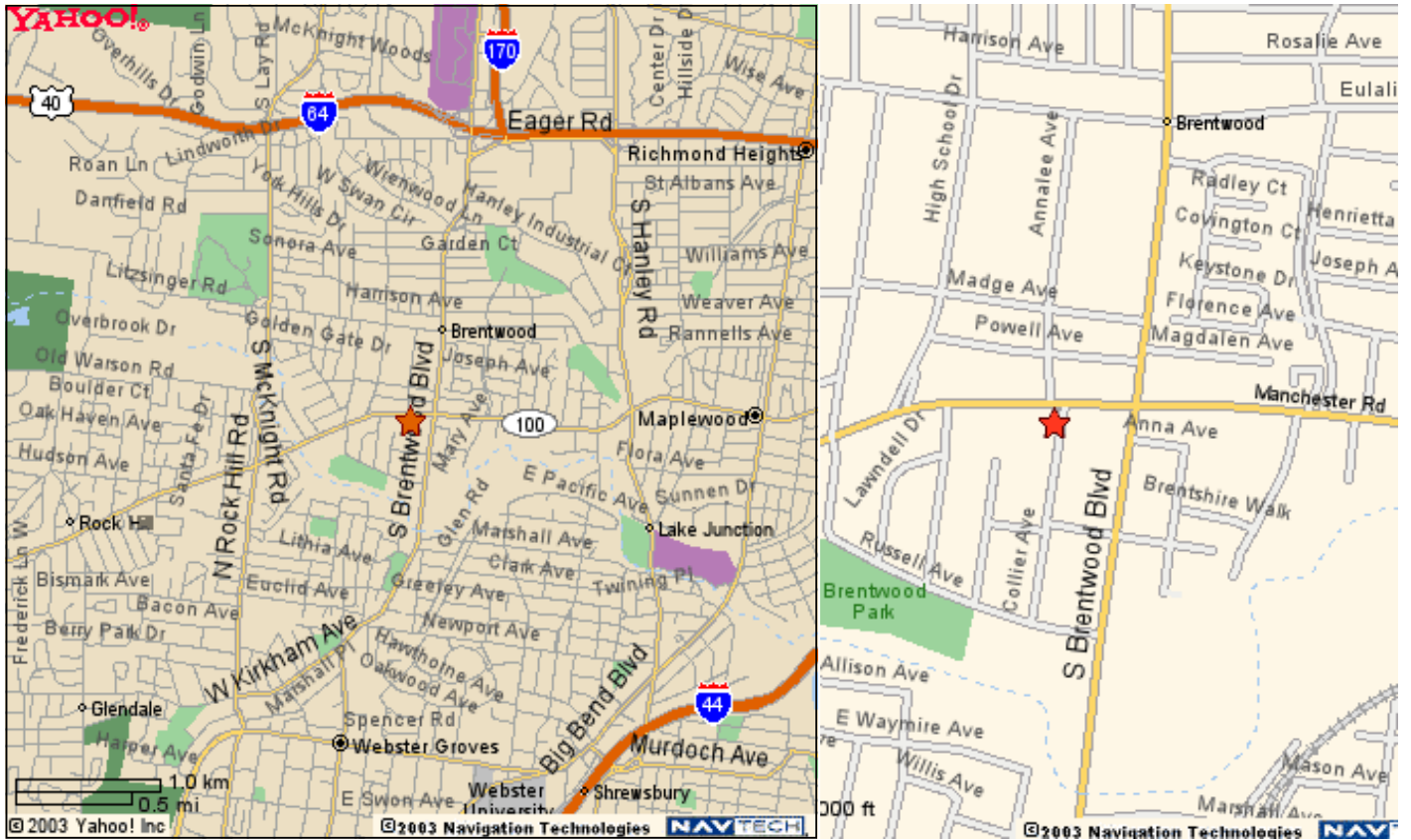
NOTICE: All proceeds from our current Gun Drawing are going to the GCLA PAC. The prizes are: First prize is a Henry US Survival Rifle .22 LR, (2) 8 Round Magazines. Second prize is a Benchmade 3" Self-Folding Knife with Friends of NRA Logo on the blade. The drawing is scheduled to be held at a members' meeting on or after Tuesday November 3rd, 2020.





Member meetings location - American Legion Post (Goff Moll) #101 at 2721 Collier Ave. Brentwood, MO  
 just west of the Schnucks Store at the intersection of Brentwood Blvd and Manchester Rd.

**Member's meetings are on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.**



----- cut or tear here ----- Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

GATEWAY CIVIL LIBERTIES ALLIANCE  
 P.O. Box 440280  
 Brentwood, MO 63144

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Dues are \$24.00 per calendar year (first year can be pro-rated).

Membership: \$24.00 [ ] Donation: \$\_\_\_\_\_ [ ]

NRA Member: Y / N If an NRA annual member, your expiration date: / / .

MSSA Member: Y / N Sponsor (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

We are particularly interested in your comments.



**Gateway Civil Liberties Alliance**  
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St. Louis, MO 63144



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