

It is a good day for Liberty.

Stop right now and check the expiration date on your concealed carry license. I shall wait. . . If the license expires there is an extra fee to renew it. If it is expired one may continue to carry under the new "permitless" law. However it is much better to have a license. There are comparison between permitless and permit carry on the web site. If one carries on a permit and accidentally enters a prohibited area the worst consequence is a fine. If carrying permitless it is a B Misdemeanor punishable by six months in jail, a \$500 fine or both.

Most cell phones have cameras. This is great. Justice may be blind but she loves pictures. Use the camera to document threats or the scene after a shooting. This will provide evidence of weapons that may disappear later.

The annual Gun Rights Rally is April 12, 2017 in the Rotunda of the Capital Building in Jefferson City Missouri. The theme is "Gun Rights = Gun Safety." It will start at 10 AM. Please try to clear your calendars. If there is enough interest we will charter a bus or van. Please attend the March General Membership meeting so we can get a head count.

A concealed carry instructor in Ohio has pled guilty to negligent homicide after an accidental discharge went through a wall and killed a man. He will do five days in jail, five years on probation and 120 hours of community service. The class was not on a range. The class was practicing malfunction drills and was supposed to be using plastic ammunition. It is unknown how a live round became involved. I note that charges against the instructor's daughter who was assisting with the class were dropped as part of the plea deal. I wonder if the daughter's charges were not intended to pressure her father into a guilty plea. All guns are always loaded and must be pointed in a safe direction. When workers refurbished a colonial-era house they found a wheellock musket that was four-hundred years old. It was loaded. Workers in New York City were cleaning a cannon that was a relic of the War of 1812. It was loaded. Mark Twain observed that there was nothing so dangerous as an old unloaded musket.

The evil creature who killed nine people at a church in South Carolina gave a videotaped statement to detectives. He had decided to kill African-Americans for reasons sufficient to his demented mind. He said that he thought about killing drug dealers, but was afraid that they might shoot back. He picked the church because the people were more likely to be meek. This is what we have been telling people for nearly thirty years. "Gun free" zones attract mass killers. The minister's son wondered why his father did not try to shoot back. The minister had a concealed carry license and carried in the church. When he got his father's car back from the police he found his father's gun on the front seat. Gun free zones must go.

Because of the mass killings at a Florida airport, it has been proposed that the transportation of guns be banned. The killer flew from Alaska to Florida with a gun in his checked baggage. He retrieved that bag, loaded the gun and shot people until he ran out of ammunition. He then surrendered. The killer had been sent for mental observation, but was never committed. He walked into an FBI office and complained that the CIA was forcing him to watch ISIS recruitment videos. He had been charged with adult abuse, which should have prohibited him from possessing guns however it appears he was given some sort of diversion sentence which avoided that consequence. There are some reports that he had taken an Islamic name. It looks like a mental problem rather than a terrorism problem but the difference is often hard to spot. Because of this the usual suspects demand that "something" be done. The "something" being to harass us. Of course, someone could have walked into the airport off the street and done the same thing. Despite the election we will have trouble.

I noticed that some commentators referred to this killer as having a "licensed" pistol. They seem to be referring to the regulation allowing guns to be shipped in checked baggage. Their stress that this is a license is not a good sign.

There are metal detectors at the entrance to the Missouri Capital Building now. I remember them being used briefly in 2004 after our concealed carry law went into effect. The usual suspects were afraid to come to work if the minions could carry legally. Their use faded away. Governor Greitens is blamed for their return. A state legislator says that he will loan a gun to a constituent to carry in the Capital. This is not legal. It has been illegal to carry a weapon in any government building for a century and a half. The concealed carry law does not change that.

I saw a letter in the local tabloid complaining that we needed a background check system and a law to prevent felons and the mentally ill from buying guns. I wrote in to say that the writer would be pleased to know we have had these laws for over twenty years. I signed it as President

of WMSA. It was printed and we got some exposure. Someone else wrote again, mentioned WMSA and complained that I failed to recognize that there was no law against something that had actually been illegal for some time. So we got exposure again. It is possible to get into the paper, and very often in one of the local papers in the area. Make your letter short; they are more likely to be printed. Be very polite. Limit the letter to a single subject. One could make a career of correcting falsehoods but we must emphasize the positive side of owning guns as well. Refrain from calling people liars, very often they are but it forces people to make a decision and that is hard. Say that they were "misinformed;" cite a statute or other authority if possible. Sign as a member of WMSA. Every little bit helps.

A person wrote to the local tabloid saying that he does not like guns but is afraid of the conservatives. Consequently he bought some guns. Welcome this guy into the fold. He may not be all that we want, but he is a beginning.

President Trump has not done anything for us yet, although defeating Mrs. Clinton was a good start. We have high hopes for more. The usual suspects are openly calling him "illegitimate" mostly because they do not like his policies. He did not win the popular vote, but that has happened before. Abraham Lincoln became president but won only 40% of the popular vote.

A bill to require all states to respect the concealed carry licenses of other states is in the works. Of course the devil is in the details. Some are concerned about the federal government granting this right. If the feds can grant concealed carry rights, it can take them away. The law could be amended later to restrict the circumstances to the point of abolishing the right. I am in favor of the principle of nationwide reciprocity, but I learned long ago to read the fine print.

It is said that chimpanzees and humans share 98% of their DNA. That extra 2% must be something wonderful. It enables us to perform such sublime actions as compose music and fill out our tax returns. I am also told that some genetic advantages have unintended consequences. Some of these unintended consequences are trivial, red hair or left-handed. But that 2% carries with it the desire of some hominoids to make others do as they are told. We pray that the gene for liberty is stronger.

If you are not having a Happy New Year by now, you are doing it wrong. This will go on your permanent record.

We shall overcome.