



The Minuteman

Tennessee Firearms Association's
Monthly Newsletter



Volume: 05 Issue: 01

TFA: A Strong Voice for Tennessee's Gun Owners

January 30, 2005

TFA 10 Years and Counting!

By John Harris

This coming May will mark the 10th anniversary of the Tennessee Firearms Association. As I look back over the last ten years I am very pleased with what we have been able to accomplish for Tennessee's gun owners.

Not long after the State Legislature passed the carry permit law, the TFA was working with legislators to help make the law even better for gun owners. We worked to get the permitting process transferred from the county level to the Department of Safety in order to make the procedure more standardized and convenient. This change also helped to reduce the waiting period for new applicants from more than one year to a maximum of 90 days. The TFA has lobbied for and won changes in Tennessee's carry permit laws to increase the number of states that recognize and accept our permit. These are just a few examples of the legislative victories TFA has helped to give Tennessee's gun owners.

As the TFA begins its second decade there are still many challenges that we must overcome if we are to continue to safeguard our rights. During the upcoming legislative session the TFA and its allies on Capitol Hill will be working to pass our agenda for 2005. We will be pushing to make handgun permit holder information confidential and lobbying to get the legislature to reduce the handgun permit and renewal fees as well as reducing or eliminating the \$10 TICS fee. We will also be working to get firearm safety education classes established as part of the basic K-12 curriculum. The TFA will be there to keep our members informed about and will fight against any anti-gun legislation that might be introduced during this legislative session.

To remain an effective organization it is essential for the TFA to continue to grow and find better ways to keep our membership informed of the challenges to our rights as gun owners. In 2005 our goal is to focus on growing and giving better support to our membership. To help us achieve these goals over the next few months we are going to be instituting some new programs that are designed to help us to be better organized and keep us better informed. During this year we will be working harder to organize more county clubs that will help with our legislative efforts. We are also developing a column on gun related issues that will be available to local newspapers across the state and we will be introducing an advertising campaign to help raise awareness of the TFA.

We have introduced "*The Minuteman*," our new monthly e-mail newsletter. We are mailing this introductory copy to all our members to give them a chance to sign up to start receiving the e-mail copy. "*The Minuteman*" will help us to keep you better informed of what is going on in Nashville and how the various bills introduced during the legislative session will affect gun owners. This will allow us to keep you up to date on TFA news and other issues of interest to our membership.

In this issue we will be discussing some of the things we have planned for the TFA during 2005. I want to invite you to sign up for "*The Minuteman*." Thank you for all your support during the last 10 years and with your help we will make the next decade even more productive for the Tennessee Firearms Association.

I Want You in the TFA!

We are a grassroots organization. We depend on our membership to work together to establish the political muscle and presence that is required to protect



t h e S e c o n d
Amendment in this
State. Do not be
fooled by campaign
propaganda, many of
those who are in
control of the

Tennessee Legislature do not fully believe that the Second Amendment guarantees and individual right and that Tennesseans are entitled to have the existing legislative and political restrictions on gun ownership removed.

If we are to preserve our rights against "liberals" and "progressives" it is not only important but necessary for the TFA to continue to grow. We believe that our best recruiting tool is our members. We need your help to spread the word about the TFA among the gun owners in your community. It is important that they understand that firearms owners - from collectors, to hunters to competitive shooters are in jeopardy.

With your help we will grow and continue to be the strong voice Tennessee gun owners need. By helping to recruit new members you can insure that the TFA will remain strong during the next ten years. A strong TFA will insure that our rights are protected and those rights will be there for the next generation.

The Minuteman and The Sentry

To help us keep our membership better informed we have developed "*The Minuteman*," our new monthly e-mail newsletter. We chose the e-mail format to help us avoid expensive printing and mail fees. By signing up to receive "*The Minuteman*" by e-mail you are helping the TFA lower our operating expenses and keep you better informed.



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You can sign up by completing the "sign up" form and mailing it in or by e-mailing your information to: johnharris@tennesseefirearms.com. If you would like to submit an article about news from your county TFA club or other items you feel would be of interest to TFA members please submit them for consideration by e-mailing your submissions to

johnharris@tennesseefirearms.com.

We are currently working on our next issue of the "Sentry" which we will be mailing out in March. The March issue will include information on this year's legislation. If you have any submission for consideration in the "Sentry" it should be sent in by February 21 (preferred by email ASCII text), to: johnharris@tennesseefirearms.com.

TFA's 10th Anniversary Celebration

TFA members will need to mark May 14th on their calendars and keep that day open. To mark the 10th Anniversary of the TFA the executive committee is planning to hold a statewide membership dinner on the 14th of May in the Nashville area.

The details are still being worked out and will be discussed in our next issue. Former Congressman and possible Senatorial Candidate Ed Bryant has agreed to serve as the keynote speaker. Mr. Bryant has a solid track record in Congress of defending gun owner's rights and is a strong supporter of the TFA.

Also joining us for the dinner as our special guests will be several of TFA's supporters in the State Legislature among them will be State Representative Ben West who has been a longtime supporter of the TFA's agenda. The executive committee will also be using this occasion to honor and recognize some of the individuals whose support has helped to make the last ten years so successful.

As the details are released the "The Minuteman" will keep you updated. Make sure to keep May 14th open and plan to join your fellow TFA members in Nashville.

Ed Bryant to be Keynote Speaker at 10th Anniversary Event



Former Congressman and possible Senatorial candidate Ed Bryant has agreed to be the keynote speaker for the May 14th event honoring the 10th Anniversary of the Tennessee Firearms Association. As most of

you know Ed established a solid conservative record and was seen as a strong supporter of both business-oriented groups such as the National Federation of Independent Business and social conservative groups like the National Rifle Association, the American Conservative Union, and National Right-to-Life.

Ed Bryant lives in West Tennessee and is currently an instructor in government at Union University in Jackson. He is widely considered to be a likely candidate should Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist not seek re-election in 2006.

Reciprocity Agreements Update

As we begin 2005 "The Minuteman" wants to give you an update on the states that have a reciprocity agreement with Tennessee.

Currently, Tennessee has signed formal reciprocity agreements with these states:

Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Ohio, North Carolina, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Virginia and Wyoming!

According to the Tennessee Department of Safety, there are other non-reciprocity states that already recognize Tennessee handgun carry permits:

Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Delaware, Idaho, Indiana, Montana, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Utah, and Vermont.

The Tennessee Department of Safety also reports that these states do not honor Tennessee handgun permits:

California, Connecticut, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, and Washington

Persons with valid Tennessee handgun carry permits should contact the reciprocity state for information and rules for carrying handguns prior to entering that state. You can find the contact information for these states at the following website link: www.tennessee.gov/safety/reciprocity/contacts.html

Did you know? For the price of a couple of boxes of ammo, someone can join the TFA and make a lasting contribution to the cause of preserving the right to keep and bear arms in Tennessee. Make sure you renew your membership and encourage others to join. You are TFA's best representative in your community and by talking to other hunter and gun enthusiasts in your area you can help the TFA to grow. Help us insure that the TFA has the ammunition it needs to protect our rights during the next ten years!

Tennessee Firearms Association Membership & Renewal Form

Life - \$500.00 / Five Year - \$120.00 / Three Year - \$90.00 / Family Annual - \$45.00
Individual Annual - \$35.00 / Business/Club Annual - \$75.00

First Name: _____ Middle Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____

Address2: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

County: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone Number: _____ Day Time Number: _____

Membership Type: _____

**Make your check out to Tennessee Firearms Association, and send your form and dues to:
TFA, P.O. Box 198722, Nashville, Tennessee 37219-8722.**

TFA Contact Information

John Harris - Executive Director

E-mail Address: johnharris@tennesseefirearms.com

**Mail Address: Tennessee Firearms Association
P.O. Box 198722
Nashville, Tennessee 37219-8722**

TFA Website: www.tennesseefirearms.com

TFA Online Open Form: www.tfaonline.org/memberforum

Online Payment Address: www.tennesseefirearms.com/mem_svc/join.asp

State Handgun Permit Site: www.state.tn.us/safety/handguns.html

Something to Consider

“It is up to us...to work together for progress and humanity so that our grandchildren, when they look back at us, can truly say that we not only preserved the flame of freedom, but cast its warmth and light further than those who came before us.”

Ronald Reagan, Speech (1982)