

Hello Florida Sport Shooting Association (FSSA) Members,

Thank you for your membership and support of the FSSA. As the President, I want to give you an update on 2017 events and activities that your state association has accomplished and is working on. I also want to share a few stories with you about what your membership is helping to accomplish. Finally, I'd like to ask your help.

First, let me introduce your Board of Directors. These men and women give their time and expertise to support you and our other FSSA shooters. Their contact information can be found on the FSSA's website; <http://www.flssa.org/Contact>.

Vice President and Legislative Affairs: Joe Waldron

Treasurer: Jeff Stuart

Secretary: Sue Carter

Jim Kinley: Membership Director

Stan Beishline and Duke Boele: High Power Rifle Directors

Sue Carter and Doc Kokol: Pistol Directors

Mary Watkins: Silhouette Director

Matt McHale: Smallbore Rifle Director

Jayne Shipley, Randy Schwartz and Chris Wensell: Junior Activities Directors

George Powell: At-Large Director

Please don't hesitate to contact me or any of your officers and directors with any questions or comments, or for any discipline specific information. We're here to serve our members and our member clubs.

I'd also like to give a shout-out to our Webmaster, Jay Walker. Jay has been with FSSA only a couple of months, but has been busy updating our FSSA website, making it more informative and easier to browse.

Founded in 1986, the FSSA is Florida's National Rifle Association (NRA) state association. In addition to affiliation with the NRA, FSSA is also affiliated with the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) and USA Shooting (USAS). We also coordinate with the Florida Sports Foundation to make available select shooting venues for the Sunshine State Games.

FSSA promotes marksmanship training and competition throughout the state. We sponsor State Championship Tournaments and promote other shooting Sectional and Regional Championships and

other competitions. And finally, we promote and encourage the highest degree of sportsmanship and good fellowship among the membership of the Association.

FSSA does not do any political lobbying. However, we are fortunate to have Joe Waldron as our Legislative Affairs Director. Joe keeps the FSSA leadership updated on Second Amendment issues within Florida. Joe followed the 2017 regular session of the Florida Legislature and reported that , "A couple of good pro-gun bills passed and were signed by Governor Scott, but several important ones were blocked". While Florida continues to be a great state for gun owners, we need to remain aware of the issues and let our voices be heard.

A significant portion of your membership dues allows FSSA to continue to actively support our junior shooting programs. Jayme Shipley, one of our three Junior Directors is pleased to report that the Junior programs in Florida are stronger than ever! FSSA awarded grants to two shooters attending the USA Shooting Junior Olympics in Colorado Springs, Colorado, April 7-18th. In addition, Florida had four other Junior shooters participate that were funded elsewhere. This is the largest number of Junior shooters who qualified out of our state in several years! Also in April, the Sarasota Military Academy hosted the CMP state 3 position Air Rifle Championship, and Florida had six junior shooters registered in the USA Shooting National Championships held at Ft. Benning, GA.

With the NRA National Smallbore Rifle, High Power Rifle and Precision Pistol Championships, just around the corner, as well as CMP Rifle and Pistol matches, expect to see Florida shooters represented at these national matches, as well as FSSA supported teams. I look forward to hearing from our individual and team shooters and sharing their accomplishments with you on our FSSA website and via our Face Book.

The FSSA Directors and I are excited about the Associations ability to continue to support and promote shooting events throughout Florida. We are also optimistic about expanding our grant programs to include more Juniors, helping them realize their shooting goals.

But we need your help to continue the growth of competitive shooting in Florida.

(1) **Renew:** Please renew your FSSA membership, and consider upgrading. Your dues make it possible for the Association to continue to provide grants for our individual shooters, support state championships, and fund our teams during national championship events.

(2) **Spread the word:** Talk to your shooting friends and encourage them to join FSSA. Talk to your clubs and ask them to affiliate with FSSA, if they're not already.

(3) **Check out FSSA's website and Face Book page:** Let our webmaster or discipline directors know what's going on at your club. Do you have a good shooting story to tell? Let us know and send pictures.

(4) **Get Involved:** The FSSA Board of Directors is made up of FSSA members. If you have some time, have a passion for shooting, and want to contribute to improving shooting in Florida, please consider becoming a member of the FSSA Board of Directors. I, or any of our Directors are happy to answer your questions about the Board. There are open spots for election next January, and we could sure use your

help and ideas to improve the FSSA. Please give it some consideration and let any one of the Board members know if you're interested.

Good shooting,

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