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Election Day

Tuesday, November 6 is Election Day. The Senate race between George Allen and Tim Kaine is of vital importance to Virginia’s Sportsmen. Both men were Virginia Governor’s, but the similarity stops there! George Allen was the Sportsmen’s Governor that led the way for reform of concealed carry laws so that all law abiding citizens have the right to a permit. Ending decades of courts denying virtually all permit requests. George Allen is a hunter, who has hunted deer with dogs and supports our heritage. During his administration 66,000 acres of Virginia State Parks were opened to hunting and Wildlife Management for the first time. The NRA has rated George and A+.

Tim Kaine used tax payer money to send six bus loads of folks to Washington to rally against guns. Tim Kaine’s plan to “end all hound hunting in Virginia within five years” started with the DGIF Hound study that he ordered. The only thing to thank him for was giving Sportsmen the motive to organize the Virginia Hunting Dog Alliance. The NRA has rated Tim Kaine an F!

Please ask everyone you know to go to the polls on Tuesday and vote for George Allen.

Some of the members of our Congressional delegation are particularly deserving of your vote because they have been our friends when we needed them. They are:

Rob Whitman – 1st Congressional District

Randy Forbes – 4th Congressional District

Robert Hurt – 5th Congressional District

Bob Goodlatte – 6th Congressional District

Eric Cantor – 7th Congressional District

From the Virginia Citizens Defense League (VCDL)

I have copied this with their permission:

VCDL cannot endorse candidates, but we can look at their records, their statements, and their VCDL surveys (or lack thereof). It is NOT our job to be a cheerleader for any candidate or any Party. We give you the scoop and you decide on where your vote will go.

Keep in mind that the U.S. Senate is critical to protecting gun owners from any hare-brained gun-control schemes that might come from the U.N. The Senate is also critical in vetting Presidential appointments to the Supreme Court, of which there is probably going to be at least one during the next four years. Currently we have only a single vote between us and some real problems for our gun rights.

Here is some information about the candidates for President

PRESIDENTIAL RACE

President Obama

Positive:

* As President, Obama signed a bill with an amendment to allow gun owners to carry in National Parks. This vote is strongly moderated by the fact that the main bill had nothing to do with guns and was a bill that Obama wanted to see passed. Without a line-item veto capability, he had to either kill the entire bill or sign it with the pro-gun amendment attached. He chose to sign it.

* It was a similar situation with another bill and an amendment to allow guns to be transported on AMTRAK. Gun owners seemed to be simply along for the ride on that bill, too.

Negative:

* President Obama did not return the VCDL Federal Candidate Survey

* In the debates with Romney, Obama confirmed that he wanted the ban on "assault weapons" in his next term and hinted that he wanted a ban on inexpensive handguns, too. Not good news for poor people.

* President Obama reversed the U.S.'s long standing position of opposing any U.N. gun bans.

* A reporter documented the Brady Campaign bragging about President Obama telling them that he was working on gun control "under the radar."

* The news was filled with how Mexican Drug Cartels were getting 90% of their firearms from the U.S. Using the excuse of the drug cartels getting those guns, the Obama Administration ordered the BATFE and gun dealers to report all sales of two or more semi-automatic rifles sold to the same person in a five-day period in states bordering Mexico. Upon inspection, the 90% number turned out to be massively inflated and was clearly presented so as to deceive Americans on the true number of guns going to Mexico from the U.S.

* A secret project called Fast & Furious under the Obama Administration was uncovered after a U.S. Border Patrol officer was murdered by someone using a gun that was one of thousands of "assault weapons" and other guns smuggled to the Mexican drug cartels with the blessings of the Obama Administration. The clear intent of Fast & Furious was to falsely accuse U.S. gun dealers of smuggling and to drum up support from the U.S. public for a ban on "assault weapons" and to expand the required reporting on multiple semi-automatic rifle sales.

* President Obama selected two very anti-liberty Supreme Court candidates that were later confirmed.

* President Obama's Attorney General Holder said early on that the Administration wanted a ban on "assault weapons," but quickly withdrew that comment after the trial balloon was not received well.

* Before he was President, Obama sat on the Joyce Foundation Board of Directors - an organization that funds anti-gun efforts around the U.S.

* As an Illinois state Senator, Obama's voting record and positions were absolutely dismal on guns. There didn't seem to be any gun control that Obama didn't support.

VaHDA – Obama Administration banned hunting Deer with Hounds in one Louisiana National Forrest where it had been allowed since it was created. VaHDA wrote letters in support of continued hound hunting and help it appeal it to the Assistant Secretary!

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Mitt Romney

Positive:

* In the debates with Obama, Romney said that he did not believe that any kind of firearm should be banned and that he supported enforcing current laws.

* During his Presidential campaign, Romney has not called for any kind of gun control.

* Presidential candidate Romney addressed the annual NRA convention (a positive, but not a strong one).

* Presidential candidate Romney has publicly said he does NOT support a U.N. treaty that would ban guns.

Negative:

* Did not return the VCDL Federal Candidate Survey.

* (Closer to neutral) As Governor of Massachusetts, Romney signed an extension of the "assault weapon ban," but the bill contained improvements and protections wanted by gun-rights groups, no new guns were banned, and the bill passed with the blessing of gun-rights groups.

VaHDA – Romney’s Vice Presidential running mate Paul Ryan is a serious hunter!

HSUS and the ASPCA on the Attack

As you know from Newspaper and TV coverage the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) have begun their attack campaign on the Fox Preserves. Speaking before the DGIF Board they have attacked those that run in the preserves and the preserve owners. They continue to show the Georgia/Florida video of dogs allowed to tear a coyote apart even though they know the law does not allow coyotes in Virginia Preserves. Don't expect these people to tell the truth about anything. If you don't care about the fox preserves or even fox hunting you must understand that they are out to end all hunting!!! HSUS is alleged to have paid every California Democrat a \$1000.00 donation to vote for the bill that outlawed bear and bobcat hunting with dogs! This same group spent more than a hundred thousand dollars to try to defeat Dove hunting in Michigan. This fight is not just about fox preserves, it is the defense of ALL HUNTING!

Please write a "Letter to the Editor" and send it to every paper in your area (the entire state if you will) and copy your legislators. Tell them why you support the preserves. It might simply be because it is a safe place to train dogs in the off season. The reason is not as important as your show of support!

You may choose to tell people why the ASPCA and HSUS don't represent Virginia values. Those organizations have opposed Medical Research that uses animals, they have opposed all forms of livestock/poultry farming and generally harassed food producers and American Institutions like Ringling Brothers, Barnum and Bailey Circus!

Don't leave it to the other guy to fight your battles, write a letter today and ask others to do the same! Animal Rights organizations must not be allowed to be seen as respectable and reasonable or they will be able to do in other counties what they have done in Albemarle County! We will have much more to tell you in the very near future on this crucial fight as we ramp up our efforts in this fight.

Albemarle County Leash Law

Albemarle County Board of Supervisors passed an ordinance that is being used to STOP hunting with hounds in that county. Enforced by the Police Department and DGIF Game Wardens (CPOs) it allows

police to ticket anyone that is not accompanying their dogs off of their own property! The ordinance follows:

4-200 Running at large prohibited.

A. It shall be unlawful for any dog to run at large in the county.

B. For the purposes of this section, a dog shall be deemed to “run at large” while roaming, running or self-hunting off the property of its owner or custodian and not under its owner's or custodian's immediate control. However, a dog shall not be considered at large if during the hunting season it is on a bona fide hunt in the company of a licensed hunter or during field trials or training periods when accompanied by its owner.

C. Any person who permits his dog to run at large shall be deemed to have violated the provisions of this section.

D. Any dog observed or captured while unlawfully running at large shall be impounded in accordance with Article III, Impoundment, of this chapter.

Many hunters have received tickets and fine under this ordinance in the short time it has been in place.

Albemarle Chief of Police to hold “moderated forum” on November 12th – Be There if possible

Make No Mistake this ordinance was aimed at non-mounted hunters! It is the model that the Animal Rights groups will pursue to stop hunting with dogs anywhere they can. Speakers will not be allowed but we can ask questions. A strong show of support, with blaze orange, is needed. This is the best reason we can think of for why an active VaHDA County Chapter is needed in every county in Virginia!

Albemarle County Police Department to Host Animal Summit on November 12

10/30/2012

The Albemarle County Police Department will host an Animal Summit to bring community members together to have a discussion on issues affecting our animal population. The summit will be held on Monday, November 12, 2012 starting at 6:00 p.m. in the Lane Auditorium, Albemarle County Office Building, 401 McIntire Road. Community members with animal concerns are strongly encouraged to attend.

The summit will consist of a panel discussion and a question/answer period with a panel comprised of professionals from our community who are responsible for the health and safety of our animal population.

Key topics for discussion will include animal welfare, emergency animal shelters, hunting/wildlife and legislative procedures. Each panelist will discuss their specific roles and responsibilities which will help give clarity and provide a better understanding of who to contact to address their questions or concerns.

Panel Representatives:

- Kimberley Maddox – Albemarle County Animal Control Officer
- Steve Ferguson – Virginia Game and Inland Fisheries
- Jennifer Hall – SPCA
- Jennifer Tevendale – Albemarle County Attorney
- Cori Lewis – Veterinarian

- Rob Bell – Delegate

Community members will have an opportunity to submit questions to be answered by the panel representatives. The question/answer session will play a pivotal role in that it allows staff to identify animal concerns and provides the opportunity to educate our community on the procedures necessary to resolve such issues.

We urge you to attend if possible whether you live or hunt in Albemarle or not!

New VAHDA County Chapters

We have been busy starting county chapters as our foes have been working locally on various anti-dog and anti-hunting efforts. The new County Chapters formed since the first of August are: Essex, King and Queen, Caroline and Albemarle. We have more county leaders ready to start new chapters in at least three more counties. We will have more on these Chapters soon. Several of the established Chapters have elected new leadership and are demonstrating what a county chapter is capable of doing for you!

Returning Hunter Education and Gun Safety to the Public Schools

The Hunting Dog Alliance is joining with other hunting groups and DGIF to return Hunter Education and Gun Safety to the public schools across Virginia. We know that this is one important step in stopping the decline of hunter numbers. Joe Miller from Sussex Co. is coordinating this effort for the VaHDA. As this effort builds momentum we will be asking you to express your support locally for this project.