



2020: A Monumental Year for ISRPA Opportunities & Threats



I am very excited to have the opportunity to lead the Indiana State Rifle & Pistol Association as we capitalize on our incredible opportunities and meet the clear and present threats going into 2020 and beyond! A huge thank you to President Emeritus, Jerry Wehner, for his years of dedicated effort to educate members and potential members about the value of the ISRPA and the important role it plays in preserving our shooting sports, hunting

and defense heritage, and God-given Rights. Through the efforts of an engaged and energized Membership and Board of Directors we will build on that foundation to make the Hoosier State a model for the rest of the country with expanded opportunities for recreation & training and defense against any force or effort against our shooting sports, hunting and defense heritage.

2020 will be a HUGE year to exponentially grow the shooting sports in Indiana! It will also be a year to zealously defend against some of the most potent national threats to the Second Amendment in history. ISRPA will focus on membership growth and enhanced communication to meet these challenges and demands.

Our Incredible Opportunities:

The NRA announced at the Annual Meeting in Indianapolis that all NRA National Championships will be moving to Camp Atterbury in Edinburg, Indiana in 2020. The engineering studies for range development are complete and preparations are well under way: contrary to what you may hear in the “Fake News”, the complex will be ready for the Matches in July, so make plans now! ISRPA will be there throughout—look for exciting new programs and events in conjunction with the matches!

To bring these matches to Indiana there has been unprecedented support and coordination over the past two years between the NRA, State of Indiana, ISRPA and Indiana National Guard. Governor Holcomb and First Lady Janet Holcomb have been a driving force in making Indiana the epicenter for shooting sports and training in the United States. On the National level, NRA Director of Competitive Shooting, Cole McCulloch developed the concept for the development of a National Center in Indiana and NRA Executive Director of Operations, Joe DeBergalis, had the vision of focusing back on NRA’s roots based in marksmanship. Both have spent countless hours in Indiana and faced dauntless challenges to bring the project to fruition. The biggest challenge now is to get the word out and promote the event; look for NRA to step up PR efforts, and look for announcements from ISRPA as well. The National Center will be an epiphany to the realization that brings NRA full-circle; a lot of PR efforts can generate support for the cause for a time, a little “trigger time” will create support for life.

In the process new relationships have been forged and old ones strengthened. All of the “ground forces” are coming together: Friends of NRA Field Rep, Josh Toennessen; Advancement Officer, Norma Lawrence; and NRA-ILA Indiana State Director, Chris Kopacki work with ISRPA closely. The National Matches are just the beginning. The NRA will establish a National Marksmanship Competition Center just north of the base, which will house offices and a new National Firearms Museum. The museum’s Indiana location will be operational in 2021 and one of only 4 in the US (others are: NRA HQ in Fairfax, VA; Sporting Arms Museum in Springfield, MO; and Frank Brownell Museum in Raton, NM.)

The NRA plans on bringing other competitions and training opportunities year-round at the facility. Since the effort began ISRPA is working on and developing coordinated efforts with other national, state and local shooting organizations including Midway USA Foundation, National Shooting Sports Foundation, CMP, USA Shooting, Girls with Guns, Indiana Youth Shooting Sports Foundation and our many clubs and ranges. The Indiana Department of Natural Resources is also an incredible partner. We will see a renewed focus on range development and shooting opportunities as Governor & First Lady Holcomb continue to support ISRPA at all levels.

Together we're ready to meet the opportunities for competition, recreation, and training as well as the threats against our shooting sports, hunting and defense heritage.

The Clear and Present Threats:

At the same time that ISRPA capitalizes on opportunities, we witness political debates calling for firearm confiscation that goes unchecked and unchallenged by anyone on the debate stage or their sponsors and supporters. We are seeing the building of forces to not only restrict our Constitutional Rights, but to disregard them completely. To make matters worse, just as the "Confiscator in Chief" left the candidate field, a significantly greater threat began the process of entering the fray: the harbinger of Constitutional Cataclysm himself, Michael Bloomberg. What American would have ever dreamed of open support for socialism and undermining the foundations that make this country great?

Toward meeting these challenges ISRPA has formed a new Legislative Committee. Under the capable leadership of battle-proven veteran of the legislative process Bill Dowden, ISRPA Legislative Director, the Committee will be charged with keeping members informed as the legislative session unfolds and engaging members to be ready when we need to "call out the troops". ISRPA will also be engaged in building a separate PAC to provide "air support" for their efforts. Indiana leads the country in funds raised for Friends of NRA and NRA-ILA, but the lion's share of political dollars are spent in other "battleground" states. ISRPA will be working closely with the NRA and other organizations to help boost a State PAC to have political capital to use locally. Although Indiana has always been Pro-2A, we have seen a deterioration of legislative champions and it has been more difficult to pass critical legislation. Indiana must also be poised to address the National elections and be able to work with our own Congressional delegation to support and defend efforts at the National level. Based on what we have seen so far in the debate, we are in for the fight of our lives. (Literally!)

Look for a new ISRPA monthly newsletter to supplement our Quarterly ISSN Magazine, with news and information on unfolding events, Legislative updates, and more! The newsletter will be available in electronic format, so please visit the Website, log in and make sure your contact information is up to date to receive the latest news!

ISRPA is working to capitalize on our opportunities and confront our challenges through a stronger membership, enhanced communications, working seamlessly with clubs and organizations, and providing value to members and supporters.

Hoosiers hold on, it will be a heck of a ride!!!

Charlie Hiltunen
President
Indiana State Rifle and Pistol Association