

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed. This is the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution.

This Amendment has set us, the American people, apart from people around the world and perhaps in some ways history has yet to reveal. It is this right, to be free to bear Arms in order to defend oneself and one's family which must be protected in order to protect liberty and the foundations of personal property rights and law and order.

As a staunch supporter of our Second Amendment rights and a long time member of the Pikes Peak Firearms Coalition (PPFC) and its Political Action Committee, I would like to tell you about a very special event coming up this spring that I hope you might find beneficial.

Women on Target is an instructional shooting clinic designed to provide basic information to women regarding the safe handling and use of firearms. It is especially welcoming to women who have little to no experience with firearms and gives them hands on information from professional trainers and recreational enthusiasts in a non-intimidating environment.

As a gun owner and recreational enthusiast myself, having assisted with the Women on Target program in the past, I can attest to its in-depth emphasis on safety and enjoyable approach to those who may be new to either gun ownership or use. I am thrilled to advocate for this program and help spread the word to those in our county who might want to take advantage of this special community opportunity.

The Women on Target Clinic will be held on Sunday, May 15th and costs just \$20 to participate. This fee covers costs for materials, lunch, loaner handguns and ammunition. For more information and to sign up, I heartily invite you to visit www.womenontarget.info.

As I invite you to consider this opportunity and consider our second amendment rights, I'd like to share the following quote, *"Armed people are free. No state can control those who have the machinery and the will to resist, no mob can take their liberty and property. And no 220-pound thug can threaten the well-being or dignity of a 110-pound woman who has two pounds of iron to even things out ... People who object to weapons aren't abolishing violence, they're begging for rule by brute force, when the biggest, strongest animals among men were always automatically right. Guns ended that, and a social democracy is a hollow farce without an armed populace to make it work."* – L. Neil Smith

I would also like to invite you to a town hall meeting coming up on Saturday, April 2nd from 10:00am - noon. I will be hosting this town hall meeting at the Mountain Springs Church Summit Center at 7345 Adventure Way, 80923. This church is located just east of the intersection of Woodmen and Black Forest Road.

Along with our County Engineer, I will be presenting information regarding 2011 road projects in El Paso County with special focus on District 2 projects. We will also discuss oil and gas leasing and issues relating to wind energy along with some legislative updates. This will be a town hall meeting packed with information and an opportunity to address any questions or concerns you may have.

Please join us in the discussions!

Amy Lathen