

# POINT BLANK

**STRAIGHT TALK  
ABOUT WHAT YOU  
CAN DO TO  
PRESERVE YOUR  
RIGHT TO KEEP AND  
BEAR ARMS**

## **CCRKBA DECLARES OBAMA 'TOP GUN SALESMAN'**



**August 2015**

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**CITIZENS  
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FOR THE RIGHT  
TO KEEP AND  
BEAR ARMS**

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June 2015 produced the highest number of background checks ever conducted during that month in the 17-year history of the National Instant Check System. Because of this the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms declared that, for the seventh year in a row, Barack Obama is the best gun salesman in the United States.

"For the president, this must be a dubious honor," CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb remarked. "After all, Barack Obama has been advocating all forms of gun control since before he was elected back in 2008, and the only thing that has really ever accomplished is to push gun sales higher."

Since early in his administration, Obama has advocated renewal of the ban on so-called "assault weapons," and following the Sandy Hook tragedy in 2012, he supported so-called "universal background checks." But his administration's policies on guns have been ironic if not disastrous.

The most recent was a proposal to ban the popular M855 ammunition for AR-15 type rifles, which many believe helped former BATF Director B. Todd Jones decide it was time to move on.

Gottlieb cited data released by the National Shooting Sports Foundation that said the NSSF-adjusted National Instant Check System (NICS) figure of 886,825 checks was the highest on record for the month of June since the system was inaugurated. It was up considerably over June 2014 when there were 805,571 NICS checks. This year's second quarter figure was also the second highest in the system's history, at 2,793,230 checks, NSSF reported.

Gottlieb observed, "All he has to do is complain in an interview about his disappointment at not being able to push more gun control, and sales spike."

"On the plus side," the CCRKBA chief added, "this has brought more than \$808 million into the federal aid to wildlife restoration program this year, according to figures from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. And it has brought many new people into the ranks of shooters and gun owners, including lots more women.

"Under the Obama administration," Gottlieb concluded, "the one industry that seems to have flourished throughout has been the firearms industry. His policies and pronouncements have resulted in higher gun and ammunition sales, more new gun owners, more jobs at retail gun shops and sporting goods stores, and increased membership and support for gun rights organizations. Just keep talking, Mr. President. It's good for the Second Amendment."

# CCRKBA CHIEF REACTS TO DEADLY D.C. STABBING

A much-publicized fatal stabbing on the D.C. Metro in July brought a swift reaction from leading Second Amendment organizations, and Alan Gottlieb, chairman of the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, didn't pull any punches.

"Gun free zones like the District of Columbia's public transit system are really victim disarmament zones and a magnet for violent criminals to prey on unarmed people who have no means of protecting themselves," Gottlieb stated.

CCRKBA's sister organization, the Second Amendment Foundation, has been suing the District of Columbia for the past few years to force the city to adopt a permit system that allows private citizens the ability to carry a handgun outside the home, for personal protection. The first case was *Palmer v. District of Columbia*, and that has been followed by *Wrenn v. District of Columbia*. In both

cases, veteran attorney Alan Gura has represented SAF and its fellow plaintiffs.

The problem with the District's permit system as it was initially created is that it amounted to a system in name only. Very few people – most notably Emily Miller, the award-winning author of the book *Emily Gets Her Gun* – have been able to get permits. That's because of a "good cause" requirement that the second court case is challenging.

For CCRKBA's part, the grassroots organization is monitoring the situation closely, reminding people that the right "to bear arms" certainly extends beyond the doors of one's home or apartment.

That's been the argument in Illinois and elsewhere that lawmakers have enacted the most restrictive regulations they could in order to discourage people from applying for carry permits and licenses.

Fortunately, the majority of states have adopted so-called "shall issue" laws that remove the arbitrary discretion of local officials as a roadblock to carrying defensive sidearms.

The Washington Post looked at the slaying – for which an 18-year-old suspect was arrested and charged – and asked readers what witnesses should have done, and "What would you have done?"

It's much easier, say critics of the District gun laws, to stop a knife-wielding criminal if one has a gun than it is to try wrestling with such an individual.

## BACKGROUND CHECK 'LOOPHOLE' IN CHARLESTON CASE?

Anti-gunners quickly seized on the admission by FBI Director James Comey that the suspect in the Charleston, S.C. mass shooting had somehow gotten his gun despite a "hold" on a background check, but they apparently mischaracterized the transaction, claiming there is a "loophole" in the law.

At one point, anti-gunners reportedly claimed the suspect didn't pass a check, an assertion that flew out the window with Comey's acknowledgment.

Katie Pavlich, writing at Townhall, observed, "gun control groups are lying about a non-existent gun background check 'loophole.'" She added that the suspect "did in fact pass a background check that the FBI approved (but shouldn't have by Comey's own admission)."

The suspect in this case had been arrested on a drug charge earlier in the year, and allegedly bought a handgun in April with money he received for his birthday. Apparently, data on the drug charge had not been properly entered in the FBI's National Instant Check System.



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*"Straight talk about what you can do to  
preserve your right to keep and bear arms."*

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# NEW REPORT SHOWS SOARING CCW STATS

Concealed carry across the United States has soared over the past seven years, while the murder rate has declined, according to a recent report from the Crime Prevention Research Center, headed by Dr. John Lott, and the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms is hardly surprised.

"More guns do not translate to more crime," said CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb.

While the number of permit applications has soared because all 50 states now have some kind of carry permit scheme, "there appears to be another factor: President Obama's election in 2008," the report states. "Not only did Obama's election increase gun sales, it also increased the number of concealed handgun permits."

The 27-page report lists the states in terms of how many adults possess licenses or permits to carry, with the Top Ten being, in this order, Alabama, South Dakota, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Utah, Georgia, Iowa, West Virginia and Washington.

Some states that do not require permits or licenses to carry, including Vermont and Arizona, so the number of law-abiding citizens who are actually carrying defensive sidearms may even be higher than the 12.8 million-plus mentioned in the report.

According to the report:

- The number of concealed handgun permits is increasing at an ever-increasing rate. Over the past year, 1.7 million additional new permits have been issued – a 15.4% increase in just one single year.

This is the largest ever single-year increase in the number of concealed handgun permits.

- 5.2% of the total adult population has a permit.

- Five states now have more than 10% of their adult population with concealed handgun permits.

- In ten states, a permit is no longer required to carry in all or virtually all of the state. This is a major reason why legal carrying handguns is growing so much faster than the number of permits.

- Since 2007, permits for women have increased by 270% and for men by 156%.

- Some evidence suggests that permit holding by minorities is increasing more than twice as fast as for whites.

- Between 2007 and 2014, murder rates have fallen from 5.6 to 4.2 (preliminary estimates) per 100,000. This represents a 25% drop in the murder rate at the same time that the percentage of the adult population with permits soared by 156%. Overall violent crime also fell by 25 percent over that period of time.

- Regression estimates show that even after accounting for the per capita number of police and people admitted to prison and demographics, the adult population with permits is significantly associated with a drop in murder and violent crime rates.

- Concealed handgun permit holders are extremely law-abiding. In Florida and Texas, permit holders are convicted of misdemeanors or felonies at one sixth the rate that police officers are convicted.

The report was authored by

Lott and Research Director John E. Whitley. It comes at a time when the right to carry has been under increased scrutiny with well-financed gun prohibition lobbying groups pushing to roll back right-to-carry statutes and force new, restrictive regulations on gun owners.

"Initially," according to the report, "the increase in permits was slow, growing from roughly 2.7 million permit holders in 1999 to 4.6 million in 2007. But the number of concealed handgun permits literally exploded during the Obama presidency. For December 2011, the federal Government Accountability Office estimated that there were at least 8 million concealed handgun permits. By the June 2014, it was 11.1 million; in 2015, 12.8 million.

"In other words, during the eight years from 1999 to 2007, the number of permits increased by about 240,000 per year. During the next four years, the number of permits surged by 850,000 per year. Then from the end of 2011 to 2013 the yearly increase rose by 1,550,000. And during the last year the increase has continued to accelerate to 1,700,000."

Meanwhile, according to the FBI's annual crime report, violent crime decreased in all city groupings last year. As for the annual reports from 2013 dating back to 2006, homicides with firearms decreased from 10,177 in 2006 to 8,454 in 2013, the most recent year for which statistics are available.

John Lott is the author of several books including the ground-breaking *More Guns = Less Crime*.

# SEATTLE COUNCILMAN WANTS GUN, AMMO TAX; CCRKBA TO FIGHT

A proposal to charge a \$25 tax on the sale of each firearm, plus five cents for every round of ammunition sold in Seattle, Washington brought an immediate reaction from Alan Gottlieb, chairman of the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms: See you in court.

The plan is the brainchild of City Council President Tim Burgess, who is running for re-election. Some observers are suggesting it may be a campaign ploy. It mirrors a gun control effort mounted three years ago in Cook County, Illinois, where it has not had any visible impact on the mayhem in Chicago. The gun tax there is now the subject of a lawsuit.

When the council's Education and Governance Committee first discussed the proposal at its July meeting, CCRKBA was there to testify in opposition.

"We think the Burgess tax proposal is illegal under Washington State's preemption law," Gottlieb said. "We beat Seattle on another gun control measure three years ago because of the preemption statute. That law hasn't changed."

That case involved an attempt, started by then-Mayor Greg Nickels in 2009, to ban firearms in city park facilities. SAF and CCRKBA both warned the city that if the plan was implemented, even as an administrative rule, they'd meet in court. The Nickels administration thought that the city would prevail and thus erode the preemption statute, which has become a model for similar laws across the nation.

The state Supreme Court declined to review the case, thus letting Seattle's loss stand, but also strengthening the preemption law in the process.

Under the state statute, "The state of Washington hereby fully occupies and preempts the entire field of firearms regulation within the boundaries of the state, including the registration, licensing, possession, purchase, sale, acquisition, transfer, discharge, and transportation of firearms, or any other element relating to firearms or parts thereof, including ammunition and reloader components."

State preemption is a thorn in the side of liberal city governments, including Seattle. That's because such laws prevent cities from adopting their own gun control ordinances, which might prohibit practices that are legal everywhere else. Washington's law was designed to prevent that.

Adding to the drama, when Burgess was interviewed by KOMO, the Seattle-based ABC affiliate, he asserted that, "Gun violence is a huge problem in our city, in our region and frankly in our whole country. We have an epidemic of gun violence," but does the crime data really back that up?

*Point Blank* checked the FBI Uniform Crime Reports over the past several years, and they show a marked decline in violent crime, especially in homicides with firearms. In its preliminary report on crime for 2014, the FBI noted, "All the offenses in the violent crime category—murder and non-negligent manslaughter, rape (revised definition), aggravated assault, and robbery—showed decreases when data from the first six months of 2014..."

The preliminary report also said violent crime decreased in all city groupings last year. As for the annual reports from 2013 dating back to 2006, homicides with firearms decreased from 10,177 in 2006 to 8,454 in 2013, the

most recent year for which statistics are available.

Compare Seattle homicides with Baltimore, a city with a slightly lower population—roughly 662,400 in Seattle versus about 621,000 in Baltimore—but with among the toughest gun laws in the country. Last year, Seattle logged 26 homicides, not all of them committed with firearms. According to the *Baltimore Sun*, there were 211 slayings. So far in 2015, Baltimore had logged more than 155 homicides at press time, which is more slayings than Seattle has posted over the last five years combined.

*Point Blank* spoke with the Seattle Police and learned that the city had logged only five firearm-related homicides out of 10 slayings in the city so far this year, two fewer than at this time last year.

In Baltimore, it is nearly impossible to get a permit to carry a handgun for personal protection, and one must demonstrate a "need." Seattle is in King County, where there are more than 90,000 active concealed pistol licenses, according to the state Department of Licensing report for June.

The Seattle proposal would also fine gun owners up to \$500 for not reporting lost or stolen firearms.

According to the *Seattle Times*, Burgess contended that his proposals will hold up in court. Burgess said both proposals have been vetted by the city's law department and "by private-sector attorneys working pro-bono." That's the same position the city took with the Nickels ban on guns in city parks, Gottlieb recalled, "and



# NY GOVERNOR CUOMO SUSPENDS AMMO CHECKS

Politics appears to be in play in New York, where anti-gun Gov. Andrew Cuomo was accused of having made a deal with Senate Republicans in Albany that suspended a requirement under the state's "SAFE" Act to require background checks for ammunition purchases.

The requirement had been part of the controversial anti-gun law pushed through the state legislature by Cuomo in 2013 as a response to the Sandy Hook tragedy in Connecticut.

But was never implemented.

According to the *New York Post*, Senate Republicans complained that the move "didn't go far enough." Empire State gun rights activists would prefer to scrap the whole thing. There was also some confusion over what the move would accomplish.

*The New York Times* noted that "a top aide" to the governor had signed a "memorandum of understanding" that suspended the background checks for ammunition. This MOU

reportedly cited a "lack of adequate technology" and stated the existing database "cannot be established and/or function in the manner originally intended at this time."

Meanwhile, Senate Democrats, according to both newspapers, seemed less than enthusiastic about the apparent agreement, and one even called it "completely bonkers." Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie (D-Bronx) was quoted as questioning the legality of the agreement.

## CITIZEN ACTION PROJECT

Since 2009 when President Obama took office, there have been at least four likely Islamic terrorist attacks against military targets within the United States. "Likely" because the administration has waffled about actually calling them terrorist attacks. First was the murder of 13 soldiers and the wounding of several others at Fort Hood, Texas, by a Muslim U.S. Army officer who shouted "Allahu akbar" as he opened fire. The second was the shooting of two U.S. Army recruiters in Little Rock, AR, one of whom died of his wounds. Finally, we have the murder of four U.S. Marines and one Navy man in Chattanooga.

What do these incidents have in common? First, the administration is reluctant to attribute them to Islamic extremists, preferring to characterize them as "workplace violence." And second, all occurred in "gun free zones."

All federal and federally-controlled property, including parking lots, is a gun free zone by federal law (with a few limited exceptions). So, all of the victims, all trained members of the ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES, were defenseless when attacked. We've questioned the wisdom of that policy for years, but the administration has blocked any move to arm these individuals.

At the state level, six governors (at this writing) have issued orders allowing National Guard personnel to be armed. Unfortunately, that only applies to state-owned facilities. We're long past due for a policy change that gives members of our military the same right of self defense enjoyed by citizens of 50 states.

Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-CA) is introducing an amendment to the 2016 Defense Authorization Act that would allow some military members to carry arms, either personal or issued while on duty in federal facilities. It's a major step in the right direction. Hunter is a Marine veteran of both Afghanistan and Iraq. He has experience engaging terrorists, and wants to ensure his fellow soldiers have that same opportunity.

Write to (or better yet call) your Congressperson and both of your Senators and politely but firmly ask them to vote for the Hunter Amendment to protect our troops. Contact information for your elected officials may be found at [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) and [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov), and at the "Congressional Information" link in the left margin at [www.ccrkba.org](http://www.ccrkba.org). Contact information on all public officials, federal, state and local, may also be found in the "blue pages" in the front of your telephone directory.

Do this for the troops. They risk their lives for us. They shouldn't be placed at greater risk than the average American citizen.

# MAINE GOVERNOR, FRESHMAN SENATOR EARN ACCOLADES

When Maine Governor Paul LePage signed legislation that will allow “constitutional carry” of firearms without a permit, the gun prohibition lobby was infuriated, accusing him of going against the wishes of a majority of Pine Tree State voters.

But rights aren’t up to a popular vote or an opinion poll, so the Republican governor was sticking up for the right to keep and bear arms.

The legislation, dubbed “An Act To Authorize the Carrying of Concealed Handguns without a Permit,” was sponsored by freshman Republican Sen. Eric Brakey, elected last year and at age 26, the youngest serving member of the Maine State Senate. More about this rising star in a minute.

The 66-year-old Gov. LePage formerly served as a member of the Waterville City Council and then as that community’s mayor. A former businessman and consultant, his first run for governor was in 2010, and he was re-elected in 2014, becoming the first Republican to take the office in two decades, and hold onto it. He is the 74th governor of the state, and a Maine native, born in Lewiston.

According to a biography on-line, Gov. LePage grew up under tough conditions and spoke French as his primary language. When he applied to Husson University, he had to take a written SAT exam in French after having been rejected on a poor verbal score. Intervening on his behalf was the first husband of former U.S. Sen. Olympia Snowe,

Peter Snowe.

LePage went on to graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration, and he earned a Master’s in Business Administration from the University of Maine.

The often-sharp-spoken LePage is no stranger to ruffling feathers, and he certainly did not break character when he signed the new law, making Maine the fifth state in the nation to adopt permitless carry. In so doing, he went against police chiefs in the state, who had argued that the background checks required for a carry permit kept guns out of the hands of felons. The new law is slated to take effect in mid-October.

A target of criticism by the media, LePage has sometimes criticized the press as well.

Maine is among states that allow open carry without a permit, but concealed carry has required a background check. Critics of the measure essentially brought their talking points from the anti-gun playbook, arguing that it would allow criminals to carry guns, as if they didn’t already.

But the new law had what one newspaper called “broad bipartisan support,” pretty much clinching the deal and allowing Maine to join ranks with Alaska, Arizona, Wyoming and Kansas. Laws that expand the carry rights of law-abiding citizens grate on anti-gunners, who have fought similar efforts including nearby New Hampshire, where that state’s governor vetoed “constitutional carry” legislation about the same time that LePage was inking the

Maine measure in Augusta.

That signature will likely put Sen. Brakey’s name “on the map” for Maine Second Amendment activists. Right out of the gate earlier this year, Brakey introduced the legislation that has now become law. What is clearly important here is that Brakey put forth the effort with bipartisan support; the kind of accomplishment that typically comes with a few years of seniority.

According to an on-line biography, Brakey got a majority of votes in all five of the municipalities in the district he represents; a feat that hasn’t been seen since former U.S. Sen. Snowe ran in 1976 for the state Senate.

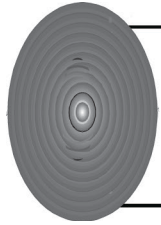
But Brakey has obviously hit the ground running, being named chair of the Health and Human Services Committee, and serving on the Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

A resident of Auburn, he represents District 20, which includes his hometown, plus the communities of Mechanic Falls, Minot, New Gloucester and Poland.

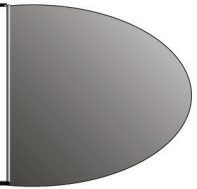
He’s no newcomer, since his family has been in Maine for eighth generations.

Perhaps the best news for Pine Tree State gun owners is that he’s not term limited until 2022. When he’s not doing politics, Brakey serves as the financial manager for Brakey Energy, a family business.

He graduated from Ohio University, Honors Tutorial College, and he is a volunteer with the Lewiston/Auburn Community Little Theatre and Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Androscoggin County.



# QUICK SHOTS



An alleged bank robber in Pennsylvania turned out to be no match for a local politician who happened to be packing some heat.

According to Philadelphia's WPVI-TV, the crook was wounded when he attempted to flee a TD Bank branch in the town of Hatboro, not far from Philadelphia in Montgomery County.

An assistant district attorney told the TV station that Hatboro town councilman George Forgeng, witnessed the alleged thief's escape with a bag of cash from the bank, an escape which went awry when a dye pack inside the bag exploded. The councilman chased down the suspect, and ordered the man to the ground, according to the DA. When he refused, the politician then took out his gun and opened fire, hitting the bad guy in the arm.



Maine gun owners now have the ability to carry their guns concealed without a permit, thanks to recent legislation being signed into law by the state's governor.

Reuters reports that Gov. Paul LePage signed the bill into law July 8, and it allows for so-called "constitutional carry" in the state. Maine becomes, according to the wire service, the fifth state to enact this type of carry law.

The law is expected to take effect sometime this fall, probably in mid-October, 90 days after the state legislative session wrapped up.



Former CNN cable TV news anchor Lynne Russell and her husband, Chuck de Caro, had to fight for their lives recently, but were on the good end of the story thanks to their guns.

According to the *New York Post*, Russell and her husband were on vacation in New Mexico when they checked in for the night at an Albuquerque Motel 6. As Russell went to get something from their car, a crook snuck into the room, and attempted to rob the couple. That's when de Caro, another CNN alumni, came out of the bathroom and both of them attempted to calm the would-be robber, but he opened fire only to have it returned by de Caro, with fatal accuracy. De Caro was wounded, and was hospitalized.

Russell later went on Fox News and told interviewer Megyn Kelly, "There's absolutely no doubt that we are alive today... because of the Second Amendment, because of my husband, his focus and dedication, and the fact that we had that legal gun with us."



Anyone want to guess what the hottest new sport is at the high school level in the United States? Well, believe it or not, it's competitive shooting.

According to *Bloomberg News*, trap shooting has seen a huge rise in interest in some states, particularly Minnesota, where over 5,000 student athletes competed in the state trap shooting championships recently. The event started very small in 2009, with just 30 shooters, but now, the large number of competitors got

to compete in front of over 20,000 people over the multi-day event, and the event drew major sponsorship from two firearms manufacturers.

There's also increased interest in neighboring Wisconsin and North Dakota, and several other states, but in Minnesota proper, Bloomberg reports interest there has grown so much state lawmakers recently approved a \$2 million expenditure to help expand gun ranges to handle the extra traffic.



Call it an error in the victim selection process with a really bizarre twist, but when a would-be armed robber tried to pull a stickup at a Houston, Texas convenience store, not only did he encounter a man who didn't want to be robbed or killed, he also had his own gun turned on him.

According to KHOU News, Pawan Kumar left his uncle in charge of his liquor store. The uncle, Nand Lal, found himself face-to-face with a would-be robber who pulled a gun and demanded money. The thug wasn't satisfied with the loot, however, and began punching Lal for no reason.

Lal reportedly fought back, and evidently got hold of the suspect's gun. The robber ended up being shot fatally.

It was the second fatal robbery try in as many days, according to KHOU. In the earlier robbery attempt, a trio of would-be robbers entered a convenience store and pistol-whipped a clerk after demanding money. But an armed clerk opened fire and fatally shot two of them, the report noted.



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# **PRESERVE FREEDOM**

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Come meet national gun rights leaders and your fellow grassroots activists at the 30th Annual Gun Rights Policy Conference (GRPC 2015) in Phoenix, Arizona. This is your once-a-year chance to network and get an insider look and plan pro-gun rights strategies for the coming year.

Past GRPCs have outlined victory plans and made public the latest firearms trends. They allow you a first-hand chance to hear movement leaders--and make your voice heard.

This year we'll take a look at critical issues such as: city gun bans, "smart" guns, concealed carry, federal legislation, legal actions, gun show regulation, and state and local activity. We'll preview the 2016 elections, discuss state initiative battles and analyze Right to Keep and Bear Arms court cases.

The full roster of GRPC 2015 speakers has not yet been set. Past speakers have included: Alan Gottlieb, Joseph Tartaro, Alan Gura, Tom Gresham, Larry Elder, John Lott, Eugene Volokh, Sandy Froman, Massad Ayoob, Mark Walters, Emily Miller, Rep. Bob Barr, Rick Patterson, Gene Hoffman, Tim Schmidt, John Lott and many others. Check our websites -- [www.saf.org](http://www.saf.org) or [www.ccrkba.org](http://www.ccrkba.org) for updates.

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Books, monographs and other materials—enough to start a Second Amendment library are free, as are Saturday luncheon, Friday and Saturday evening receptions and morning and afternoon snack breaks. Other meals, travel and lodging are to be paid by attendee. To register for the special room rate of \$109 per night, call the Sheraton Crescent Hotel at 1-800-325-3535 and mention GRPC. A tentative agenda will be sent in early September.

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Yes, I want to attend. I understand that registration, conference materials and luncheon will be provided courtesy of CCRKBA and SAF. All other meals, lodging and airfare are to be paid by attendee.

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