



NRA

H. Paul Payne

Liaison to the Executive Vice President

Welcome to the NRA Members' Councils of California:

Thank you for your decision to stand with your fellow NRA members in defense of our Second Amendment freedoms. By participating as part of your local NRA Members' Council, you have shown that you will do your best to pass on the legacy of freedom that has existed for many generations.

In 1871, the NRA was founded on the principal that individual rights are best safeguarded by the guarantee of the Second Amendment. Since that time, the NRA has stood watch over these freedoms. As in the past, NRA members continue to defend the rights that we exercise today. The Second Amendment rights that our children will inherit in the future depend upon the actions of today's NRA members.

In California, the NRA has organized its active membership into a unique program called "NRA Members' Councils". The NRA Members' Council Program operates under the authority of the NRA's Executive Vice-President's Office and exists to promote the policies, programs, objectives and goals of the National Rifle Association utilizing volunteer action/involvement, at the local level.

The operation, management and program development has been assigned to the *NRA Liaison to the Executive Vice President*, who functions as the *Members' Council Program Administrator* and reports directly to the Executive Vice-President. NRA Executive Vice-President, Wayne La Pierre, has long been an outspoken supporter of the NRA Members' Council Program.

The focus of the NRA Members' Council Program is the SINGLE ISSUE of the Second Amendment and is dedicated to getting gun owners, like-minded individuals, and groups, involved in protecting their rights by participating in NRA programs at the local level.

Members' Councils are organized in an area (city, county, or region), but are NOT hunting or gun clubs. They are local groups of NRA members that coordinate NRA members' efforts to promote the NRA's goals and objectives at the local. *This does not mean that the NRA Members' Councils are "political" in nature, because they are not. Members' Councils are just like the rest of the NRA. Sometimes we operate in political activities, sometimes in educational, other times we operate in other aspects of the Second Amendment.* Since NRA Members' Councils are not separate or autonomous organizations, no dues, fees or charges (other than membership fees for the NRA) are required or charged for participation in the program. NRA Members' Councils are never separately incorporated entities.

Members' Council meetings are held and conducted by elected or appointed officers or their delegates using a printed agenda. Only NRA supported issues, candidates and/or activities may be presented at a Members' Council meeting, function, or event. An NRA Members' Council is not affiliated with any political party, politician, political issue, or tied to any political organization. Although some similarity to a "club" or "committee" may be apparent, Members' Councils' unique organizational structure is best described as "the closest thing NRA has to a 'chapters' in California."

Participation in the NRA Members' Council Program is not for everyone. Some people find the rules and guidelines within the program to be either too constraining or not strict enough. That's okay. All supporters of the Second Amendment have the right to find their own place within the pro-Second Amendment effort and are encouraged to do

so. Whether or not an activist chooses to be involved in the NRA Members' Council Program, we strongly suggest that all Second Amendment supporters join and maintain membership in the National Rifle Association.

Any citizen of the United States of America who is a current member of the National Rifle Association and supports the individual right to keep and bear arms which is guaranteed by the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution, resides within the designated area, and supports the goals, policies, and objectives of the NRA, and the NRA Members' Council Program, may apply to become a member of a Members' Council. This eligibility will remain in effect as long as the member remains an active participant and continues to operate in support of the NRA and the NRA Members' Council Program.

Communication is of vital importance and we utilize various methods throughout the Members' Council Program. The Internet is the predominant resource for these efforts. As an active participant with your local Members' Council, electronic mail will be your primary and preferred method to stay informed. This includes individual and group messages to/from members of your local Members' Council. Directed broadcast messages will occasionally be distributed from the Members' Council Program Administrator as necessary and/or when requested by the Members' Council President.

The best source for *accurate* and timely information is the NRA Members' Council website, Facebook page, and Twitter feed. Although there are numerous sources of so-called "information" available, especially on the Internet, Members' Councils are required to distribute only *accurate* information. Therefore, we focus on our website, Facebook page, and Twitter feed to best serve our members and the pro-Second Amendment public.

The NRA Members' Council Program focuses upon supporting NRA by coordinating the efforts of the Members' Councils with NRA's efforts both nationally and on the state and local levels. This coordinated focus is obtained through teamwork, education, and communication. Our projects and activities include:

- Educate and foster public awareness of the "Right to Keep and Bear Arms" as articulated in the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.
- Increase the membership of the NRA.
- Advise, participate and coordinate with NRA staff regarding NRA programs, activities, local government, candidates and issues.
- Provide Firearms Safety and Self-Protection training to the local community.
- Protect our Hunting Heritage.
- Much, much, more.....

Simply stated, if you participate in the NRA Members' Council Program, you are joining the NRA team in California. We are: *California's ORIGINAL Grassroots Gun Lobby!*

Once again. Thank you for your dedication and decision to defend, restore, and protect the Second Amendment as part of the NRA's efforts in California. Together, we can make a positive difference.

Most sincerely,



H. Paul Payne
NRA Liaison to the Executive Vice President
NRA Members' Council Program Administrator