

APPLE VALLEY GUN CLUB

INDOOR

RIFLE

PISTOL

TRAP

ARCHERY



FOURTH QUARTER NEWSLETTER
PUBLISHED OCTOBER 1, 2024

FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's that time of year again – time for members to think about who they want making decisions for their club. Being on the Apple Valley Gun Club Board of Directors has nothing to do with being a good shooter. It is all about being a good administrator. Your Board members have to determine how club dollars will be spent. After all the bills are paid (utilities, bottled water, targets, target frames and stands, cleaning supplies, soap, toilet paper, and paper towels – and all the other conveniences that all of our members enjoy) Board members must decide what repair/maintenance projects get priority. Board members need to think about the future of the club, things like replacing the aging Indoor Range ventilation system to bring it up to State requirements (or merely shut down the Indoor Range). Your Board members make decisions about who we will allow to use the range for private training events, who will use our classrooms for private events, when and how we will present events for club members such as the annual Freedom Day BBQ or our 2nd Board Meet-and-Greet (coming up in December). Board members (the Vice President and Range Chairmen who make up the Safety Committee) deal with the many safety issues brought forward on a regular basis. Board members (mostly the VP) deal with New Member requirements and all the other training classes that are supplemental income for the club, and so much more I could fill all the pages of the newsletter. Let me just remind all of you that October and November General Membership meetings are open for Board Member nominations. If you don't like the way things are being run – get involved.

October brings us cooler weather (we hope) and time changes for our weekend matches. This is another great way to get involved in the club and meet other members. I've only had the pleasure of participating a couple of times, but I truly enjoyed each event. The directors and other participants are super friendly and helpful with new competitors. The "competition" is low pressure. The only prize is bragging rights. The only stress is what you put on yourself. Matches are one of the best ways to improve your shooting skills. Come watch and see what they're all about – then decide. Lastly, don't forget to complete your volunteer hours before renewal at the end of December. We try to find things for everyone to do, but scheduling time around the regular 3rd Sunday work party is not always easy. And we do run out of supplemental things to do. Please don't put it off. There are 3 more work parties this year. Get your hours in or pay the extra fee of \$125.

Debbie Harris, President

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

This year has been one of continued growth for the Club, both in new members and in improvements to our facilities. With a core group of about 20 amazing volunteers, the Sheriff's CCW re-qualifications were going great until the passage of Senate Bill 2. With the changes dictated by the "emergency" bill, the club was unable to conduct the requalification classes for the Sheriff until our Instructors completed the required training and were granted DOJ Firearms Instructor Certifications. We finally had our first 8-hour renewal class in June, and in September we held our first 16-hour Initial CCW class. These classes are providing a tremendous income for the Club, ensuring that we can continue to upgrade and improve all aspects of our Facilities. Anyone who has renewed their CCW at the Club can attest that our process is quick, easy and most of all, safe.

As part of our Community Outreach, about a year ago, our club Treasurer, Jonathan Weldy, created a free class for first-time gun buyers. Jonathan, Larry Mason and a few others brought several local gun shops on-board with the idea, and Jonathan put together an excellent hands-on class to ensure new gun owners could safely operate their new firearms. Again, we had amazing volunteers like John and Terri Sweet and Dennis Ingram step up to assist both in the classroom and on the firing line. To date, Jonathan has had slightly over 100 new gun owners through his class! We've even gotten some new members from the program!

While the Club is a great place to come to shoot, either alone or with a friend, it's our volunteers who are the life blood of the Club. Without those who continually dedicate their time, energy and expertise to bring our visions to fruition, it would still be a pile of rocks with a few targets, like it was when I first started coming to the Club. If you're not one of those outstanding volunteers, I ask that in the coming year you look around the range and find places where your skills can be used to make it better for all. Thank you all for your support, and I look forward to seeing you somewhere around our Club.

Tracey Graham, Vice President

FROM THE SECRETARY

I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone about the renewal process. If you joined at any time in 2024 **PRIOR TO** October, you must complete a renewal package and pay 2025 dues. If you join in October, November, or December 2024, you are already paying for 2025, BUT you still must complete the 2025 renewal paperwork when it comes to you in the mail, you simply don't pay again. All renewal packets will go out BEFORE Christmas. You are responsible for completing the renewal paperwork and paying your fees **REGARDLESS OF IF YOU RECEIVE A PACKAGE IN THE MAIL.** Since we use the Bulk Mail system through USPS, I have been advised that it is not always reliable. I inevitably have a dozen or so members tell me that they never received their packet. **This is your Notice to put on your calendar a reminder that AVGC membership dues are considered late after January 31st, and it is your responsibility to pay on time!** If you do not get a packet by mid-January, there is a problem, and you need to reach out! If you have had an address change in the past year or will have one in the next couple of months, please make sure I receive that address change. REMINDER, the work buyout fee has gone up! If you have not completed your work hours, now is the time to do so. Otherwise, you will need to pay \$125 instead of \$100. To assist you with your renewal process, I have scheduled the annual In-Person Renewal Day for January 25th. Please put this date on your calendar to have your renewal processed and receive your 2025 card on the same day.

Respectfully,

Dina McKinney, AVGC Secretary

A VERY Brief History of Voting in the United States

Today, most American citizens over the age of 18 are entitled to vote in federal and state elections, but voting was not always a default right for all Americans. Because the Constitution did not specifically say who could vote, this question was largely left to the states into the 1800s. In most cases, landowning white men were eligible to vote, while white women, black people, and other disadvantaged groups of the time were excluded from voting (known as disenfranchisement).

It was not until the 15th Amendment was passed in 1869 that black men were allowed to vote. But even so, many would-be voters faced artificial hurdles like poll taxes, literacy tests, and other measures meant to discourage them from exercising their voting right. This would continue until the 24th Amendment in 1964, which eliminated the poll tax, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which ended Jim Crow laws. Women were denied the right to vote until 1920, when the long efforts of the women's suffrage movement resulted in the 19th Amendment.

With these amendments removing the previous barriers to voting (particularly sex and race), theoretically all American citizens over the age of 21 could vote by the mid-1960s. Later, in 1971, the American voting age was lowered to 18, building on the idea that if a person was old enough to serve their country in the military, they should be allowed to vote.



© National Shooting Sports Foundation, Inc.

Are You Registered to Vote?



Register NOW!
Scan the QR Code!

Not Eligible to vote? How You Can Make Your Voice Heard

If you are not yet 18, or are not a U.S. citizen, you can still participate in the election process. You may not be able to walk into a voting booth, but there are things you can do to get involved:

- Be informed! Read up on political issues (both local and national) and figure out where you stand.
- Get out and talk to people. You can still voice opinions on social media, in your school or local newspaper, or other public forums.
- Volunteer. If you support a particular candidate, you can work on their campaign by participating in phone banks, doing door-to-door outreach, writing postcards, or volunteering at campaign headquarters. Your work can help get candidates elected, even if you are not able to vote yourself.

Participating in elections is one of the key freedoms of American life. Many people in countries around the world do not have the same freedom, nor did many Americans in centuries past. No matter what you believe or whom you support, it is important to exercise your rights.

Membership Requirement Change (Survey Only)– NRA only vs. NRA or CRPA

SURVEY RESULTS

Presently our club requires one to be an NRA member to join AVGC. There have been some discussions of allowing individuals to choose NRA or CRPA as a requirement to join AVGC. Many of us are already members of both organizations. To make any changes, the membership needs to have an official vote to change policy. A survey was recently sent out to the membership just to get a feel if this would be a worthwhile change or if the discussion should be canned.

The following survey was drafted by two members of the club, one PRO leaving it NRA only, and one PRO giving members a choice between NRA or CRPA (or both!). Neither option excludes the NRA.

The topic of changing AVGC's NRA membership requirement to include CRPA as an 'or' option has been discussed at numerous board workshops. There are differing views on the topic and the Board of Directors (BOD) cannot make Bylaw decisions without a vote by AVGC members. Therefore, the BOD is sending out this survey to ask each member's opinion on this topic. If the survey indicates enough support to change the membership requirement, a motion will be submitted at a future club meeting for discussion and vote. AVGC is currently an NRA Gold Medal Club. Following are the NRA requirements for Gold Medal recognition:

- 100% of club members are also NRA members
- Gold Medal clubs must have a club newsletter
- Must belong to your state's NRA State Association (CRPA)
- Administer or incorporate an NRA Youth Program into your club agenda
- Be an active participant in the NRA recruitment program

According to the NRA website, the following are the benefits of being a Gold Medal club:

- Priority Status for NRA grants
- A Gold Medal Club plaque with an annual small brass plate to put on the plaque

What will change if we no longer require 100% NRA membership?

- AVGC will no longer be recognized as an NRA Gold Medal club.

Other Questions:

- Status of NRA Grant Priority? – According to AVGC members who have been involved in the NRA grant process, NRA grants are awarded first received / first awarded. We will continue to receive NRA Grants.
- Will we lose NRA instructors? NO, only those who want to teach NRA classes are required to be NRA members. AVGC has about 1200 members, only 11 are active NRA instructors for the club.
- Will we lose our junior programs? NO, our junior programs will remain active and continue to follow NRA MQP guidelines.
- Will we discontinue our newsletter? NO

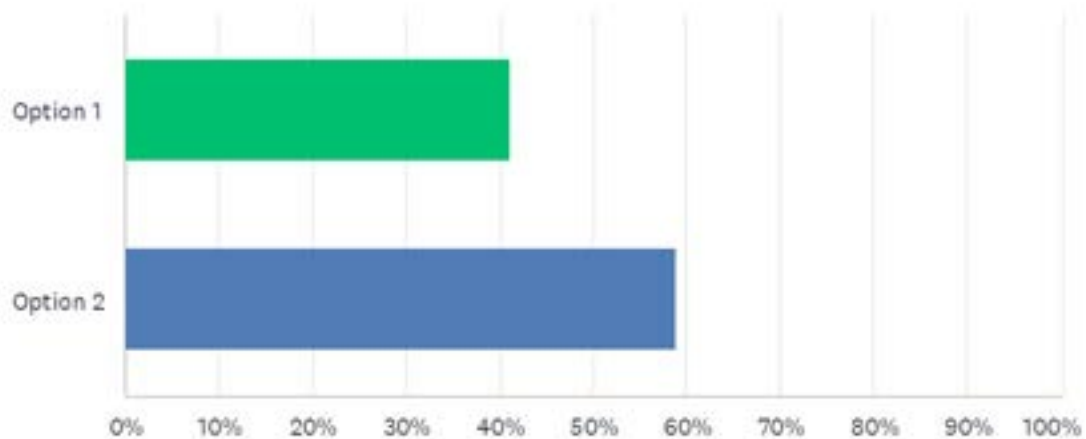
- Will we drop NRA recruiting? NO, we will still get UP TO \$25 kick-back for every new NRA member who joins through our club (the majority of our kick-backs are \$12, this depends on the level of the membership)
- Why allow CRPA membership OR NRA membership? AVGC strongly encourages members to support organizations fighting for gun owners' rights. Currently we have funneled 100% membership support to the NRA. By changing the requirement to either NRA or CRPA we are giving our members the choice of giving money to support the national level fight or to support more directly the fight at the California state level.
- We currently also get a kick-backs for new CRPA members who join through our club as we are already a Business Affiliate of the CRPA. AVGC is an associate of both the NRA and the CRPA. This will not change.

Survey options below:

Option 1: Required membership: NRA only. AVGC will continue to be an NRA Gold Medal Club - No change to AVGC membership requirement.

Option 2: Required membership: NRA or CRPA. New members will have the option of joining the NRA OR the CRPA

RESULTS OF THE SURVEY



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Option 1	41.24%
Option 2	58.76%
TOTAL	

PRO OPTION 2 ARGUMENT

Required membership: NRA or CRPA. New members will have the option of joining the NRA OR the CRPA

Apple Valley Gun Club requires our members to support Gun Owner Rights organizations. Currently we require that every member of AVGC is also a member of the NRA. This gives the club the honor of being an "NRA Gold Medal Club". While this sounds pretty fancy it's not. If you look on the NRA website about Gold Medal Clubs, it says that we get a plaque that holds small brass tags with the years of membership on them. It also says that we get priority for grant requests. This is not actually true. We have several members who have served on the NRA grant committee, and they state that grants are awarded first come / first awarded. So really, except for the ability to say that we are a Gold Medal Club, we get nothing for it.

As a member of the club board, I have proposed allowing members to join either the NRA or the CRPA (California Rifle and Pistol Association). I made this proposal not to disregard the importance of the NRA in fighting for American Gun Owner's Rights, but rather, to allow members to throw their financial support to the organization (the State affiliation of the NRA) that is fighting specifically for the rights of California Gun Owners. We have all watched over the last couple of years, our state legislators try to make it more and more difficult to purchase firearms and ammunition, to obtain and enjoy guns, to obtain and carry concealed with a legal permit. It is the CRPA that is in Sacramento fighting against those regulations. It is the CRPA that is supplying the attorneys fighting these legislations again and again from appeals court to appeals court.

Personally, I will continue to be a member of both organizations and others as well. But I realize not all members can afford to have multiple memberships and still buy ammo (it is the CRPA that is fighting against California's 11% tax increase on guns and ammunition). So, while I agree with the importance and long history of the club requiring membership in a gun owner's rights organization, I believe it is important to let members have a choice in where their financial support goes.

Recently the board sent a survey to all members asking their opinion on the proposed change. The results were close enough that we decided to give all voting members a chance to cast their ballot for or against the choice while they are voting for board members at the time of membership renewal. So, pay attention to the ballots you receive this year as you will be voting for a policy change as well as your new board members.

Debbie Harris
AVGC President

BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATIONS OPEN AT THE OCTOBER MEETING

Your club needs you! If you have an interest in serving on the Board of Directors, reach out to be nominated. Serving on a board of directors is not just a role; it's a chance to make a meaningful impact. Your unique insights and experiences can shape the future of an organization, drive innovation, and inspire others. By stepping into this position, you'll not only enhance your own leadership skills but also contribute to a collective vision that can transform lives and communities.

Remember, great leaders are those who are willing to take action and make a difference. Join us in this rewarding journey of service, collaboration, and growth! Your voice matters—let it be heard!

AVGC Celebrates at the annual Freedom BBQ

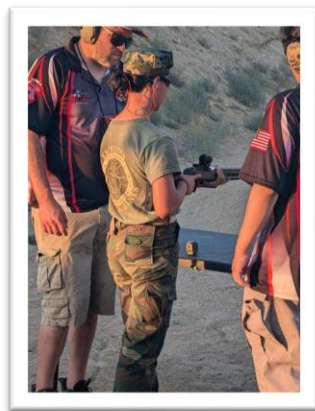
Every July, the members of the Apple Valley Gun Club unite to honor **America, Freedom, Friendship, and Family**. This year again, **Alex and Laura Montenegro** took the lead in organizing a spectacular celebration, showcasing their exceptional planning skills. We were thrilled to welcome the **Young Marines**, who assisted our SASP kids with both the setup and takedown of the event. Thank you to all of the other volunteers that helped decorate, cook, and execute this event. For the first time, we had a dedicated photographer on site, member **Daniel Garcia**, capturing patriotic moments for our members. If you haven't yet received your photo, please reach out to the club Secretary to ensure you get your cherished memories.



The Young Marines organization was founded in 1959 by the Brass City detachment of the Marine Corps League in Waterbury, Connecticut. Initially, it started with just one unit and a small group of boys, but it has since expanded significantly. Today, the organization includes over 280 units with approximately 9,600 youth and 2,500 adult volunteers across 46 states, the District of Columbia, and several other countries.

The Young Marines program is designed to strengthen the lives of young people by promoting self-confidence, academic achievement, good citizenship, community service, and a healthy, drug-free lifestyle. It emphasizes character building and leadership development. Despite its military roots, the program explicitly states that it is not involved in recruitment practices.

Activities include community service projects such as placing flags on veterans' graves and participating in local events like parades and fundraisers. Club member Dan Floyd has introduced the Young Marines to the Apple Valley Gun Club. They have volunteered their time helping the club, have participated in shooting with our SASP kids, and have shown a level of maturity and respect that make us excited and hopeful for future generations. Apple Valley Gun Club looks forward to a lasting relationship with the Young Marines.



Hunters Education returns to AVGC

California's hunter education program was established in 1954 to promote safety and conservation awareness. The state mandates hunter education training for individuals who:

1. Have never possessed a California hunting license
2. Lack a hunter education certificate
3. Don't have a hunting license from another state or province issued in the last two years

These courses are conducted across California by over 1,000 certified volunteer instructors who are committed to ensuring hunting remains safe, ethical, and accessible to all residents of the state.

The Traditional Hunter Education Course consists of a minimum of ten hours of classroom, homework, and field instruction in the following areas: firearms safety and handling, sportsmanship and ethics, wildlife management and conservation, archery, black powder, wildlife identification, game care, first aid, and survival. After a student has successfully completed the course of instruction and passed the final examination, they are awarded a Certificate of Completion.

For quite some time Hunters Education has been absent from AVGC. Thanks to Alex Montenegro and Dan Floyd, Hunters Ed was held once again at AVGC.



CONGRATULATIONS TO AVGC NEW RSOs!

"We are all excited to help out with the club as much as we can." -Alfred Martinez

Interested in becoming an RSO? Contact club CRSO, Gary Menser, gmenser@msn.com

**From Left to right.
Mark Wiens, Alfred Martinez, Michelle Brown**

Sign Petition for Kim Rhode to Secure NRA Board of Directors Nomination



Kim Rhode is a native Californian who is seeking nomination to the NRA Board of Directors. She is a six-time Olympic Gold Medalist in trap and skeet, National, International and Pan American Champion as well as a tireless advocate for our Second Amendment rights.

Kim is currently the lead plaintiff in the Rhode vs. Bonta case that restricts the purchase of ammunition in the State of California and also is a Vice President for the International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF).

She is seeking nomination for the NRA Board of Directors. Signatures are requested to help her secure a nomination.

Personal: Kim's love for shooting began at age seven while dove hunting with her family in Yuma, Arizona. At age 10 Kim began shooting competitively and by 13 she had become the youngest ever Ladies World Champion in American Skeet and captain of the All-American Team. This opened the door to the Olympic style of International Double Trap and International Skeet.

Competition Highlights: Since winning her first Olympic gold medal in 1996, at the age of 17, Kim has gone on to win 15 National Championships, 6 Olympic medals and 56 international medals on five continents, including world cups, world championships, world cup finals, and Pan American games. She became the first American in any individual sport to win six Olympic medals; 3 gold medals, 1 silver and 2 bronze medals in six consecutive Olympic games. During her Olympic career, Kim has also competed in all three shotgun events; double trap, international skeet and bunker trap. She has no intention of stopping there. Kim expects to compete, "...for another three or four Olympics."

Kim was honored to carry the flag at the 2015 Toronto Pan American Games Opening Ceremony. She came home with another Pan American Gold. With virtually no room for error in her sport Kim has mastered the art of performing her best when it matters most.

SIDE NOTE: KIM IS ALSO A LIFETIME MEMBER OF APPLE VALLEY GUN CLUB!!

You should have received an Eblast with the petition to sign and return. If you did not get it, please reach out ASAP. Petitions must be received by 10/5/24!

Thank you! Good Luck, Kim!

CLUB CONTACTS

2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President, Debbie Harris	avgc.dbharris@gmail.com	<u>760-954-5835</u>
Vice President, Tracey Graham	tracey.avgc@gmail.com	760-963-5269
Treasurer, Jonathan Weldy	avgc.weldy@gmail.com	909-380-9919
Secretary, Dina McKinney	avgc.dina@gmail.com	657-229-3462
Director, Jason Myskow	jason.avgc@gmail.com	760-953-7046
Director, Jenaraye Graham	avgc.jenaraye@gmail.com	760-985-9980
Director, Rod Ison	avgc.rodney@gmail.com	760-885-7822
Director, Cathy Westmoreland	avgc.cathy@gmail.com	760-217-0755
Director, Allen Rutledge	avgc.allen@gmail.com	909-638-2265

MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONS?

Contact our Membership Liaison

Cathy Westmoreland

avgc.cathy@gmail.com

Call or Text (760) 217-0755

Response within 24 hours



Do you have something you
would like in the Newsletter?
Email the club Secretary,
Dina McKinney at avgc.dina@gmail.com