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9-12 Project of the Lehigh Valley

A common-Sense Approach to Safeguard Schools

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*If you'd like to **contribute** to this newsletter, please send your brief article to tom.campione@2a-lvtp.org*

As thousands of radicals take to the streets calling for a ban on the Second Amendment — and with former Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens calling for total repeal of the Second Amendment. — some patriots are calling for a common-sense approach to violence in our schools.

Mark Zilnskas, a high school math teacher in Pennsylvania, is one of them. He took

Zilnskas, a teacher at Indiana Area High School in the city of Indiana, Pa., has been urging state lawmakers to allow school districts to make the decision. “After Sandy Hook, I asked if we could do a similar program to what was going on in Ohio,” Zilnskas said, referring to the Connecticut elementary school where a gunman killed 21, mostly young children. “I testified to the [Pennsylvania] House Education



firearms and emergency-response training even though his state prohibits guns in school, according to an article in www.dailysignal.com.

Allowing teachers to have access to firearms at school became a national issue after President Donald Trump advocated it in response to the Feb. 14 massacre of 17 at a Parkland, Florida, high school.

Pennsylvania is one of the states where school personnel have been trained by the Ohio-based FASTER Saves Lives program. The name is an acronym for Faculty/Administrator Safety Training and Emergency Response. The program requires training that exceeds the level for Ohio state troopers as well as training to provide emergency medical treatment.

FASTER Saves Lives has trained about 1,300 public and private school personnel in 12 states, including Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, and New York. The program is sponsored by the Buckeye Firearms Association, according to *The Daily Signal*.

Committee. I took the course to be informed and wanted to be able to answer questions.”

According to a list compiled by the Buckeye Firearms Association on state laws authorizing firearms in school, Illinois, Michigan and New York prohibit “concealed carry” in K-12 schools, but allow authorization by individual school or school district.

A middle-school science teacher in western New York state, who requested his name not be used out of fear for his job, said he told his supervisor he went through the training.

“I don’t know who I would go to, the superintendent or the [school] board, about changing the policy,” the science teacher told *The Daily Signal*. “I don’t know. They might say this guy has been here for 17 years, but he may be a gun nut.”



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Safeguard Schools *Continued*

The science teacher said he has been around guns for much of his life, but still learned much from the thorough training.

“I took the FASTER program just for the experience. I already carry on my own to protect my family,” he said. “I absolutely believe schools should implement the emergency first-aid training. Why wouldn’t you?”

A sheriff’s deputy working as an armed school resources officer stopped a gunman March 20 at a school in St. Mary’s County, Maryland. In Maryland, concealed carry is prohibited in grades K-12. Local schools cannot choose to allow it except for designated security officials, or if a firearm is brought to a school for education or historical purposes, according to the Buckeye Firearms Association list, noted *The Daily Signal* article.

Michigan allows private institutions, such as a school or a church, to decide for itself on allowing concealed carry.

Julian Petzold, principal of Trinity Lutheran School in Clinton Township, Michigan, also has been through the FASTER training. But Trinity is still evaluating the policy.

“We are looking at the school, looking at the church, and looking at our early-childhood center,” Petzold told *The Daily Signal*. “To say teachers shouldn’t carry guns because they aren’t police officers is comparable to saying teachers shouldn’t drive because they aren’t NASCAR drivers. That’s why people are trained.”

Townhall reported that 18 states allow some form of carrying firearms by authorized adults at schools. Some examples are otherwise-strict gun-control states, notes *The Daily Signal*.

California law allows firearms in school with the approval of the local superintendent, according to *Townhall*. In Connecticut, school officials have to approve any carrying of firearms. In Hawaii, no specific law prohibits guns in schools. A school’s “governing officer” can approve concealed carry in New Jersey. Local school boards would decide in Oregon, while Rhode Island requires a state concealed-weapons permit.

Meanwhile, turncoat and former Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens wrote a *NY Times* Op-Ed calling for a repeal of the Second Amendment, according to a report on *www.dailysignal.com*.

Stevens, who retired from the court in 2010, suggested gun control supporters are far too modest in their goals. “The demonstrators should seek more effective and more lasting reform,” he wrote. “They should demand a repeal of the Second Amendment.”

That kind of thinking is par for the course for Stevens: in 2004 he actively worked to assist Islamic terrorists when he authored the court’s 6-3 decision allowing the Guantanamo detainees to challenge their detentions in the U.S. courts.

<https://www.dailysignal.com/2018/03/25/school-personnel-in-these-anti-gun-states-are-trained-in-firearms-use/> <https://>

www.dailysignal.com/2018/03/27/former-supreme-court-justice-urges-total-repeal-of-the-second-amendment/#dear_reader

PA Patriots Stand Their Ground For 2A Rights



While many radicals marched against Second Amendment rights in Washington and across the country, some patriots bravely gathered at those same marches to show their support of the Second Amendment, according to a posting on *ktla.com*.

In Washington, Eric Ciabottonia, 19, and

John Bolduc, 18, traveled with a group of students from Pennsylvania State University to march for gun rights. The freshman engineering majors said they are supporters of President Donald Trump and came to voice their beliefs about the Second Amendment and see what the opposing side thinks.

“I came to open dialogue,” Ciabottonia said, adding that calling for a ban on bump stocks was reactionary. “I like talking to people I disagree with so I can get a broader range of views. I’d say there’s a lot of misinformation and I came to talk to people.”

Bolduc said he actually didn’t have strong political views until 2015, when he said he “started to see how people are misinformed.”

“Memorials are OK. It’s when you start to militarize and politicize a tragedy — that’s when I start to have a problem,” he said.

The two students and the group they were with were peaceful for the most part as they marched near the National Gallery of Art, but were engaging in tense arguments with people around them.

“We got called all kinds of names,” Ciabottonia said. “Some lady told me to get lost because there were kids. Not quite sure what that’s supposed to mean, but as soon as I got here people started talking. So it’s been OK.”

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Patriots stand ground *Continued*

At a Salt Lake City high school, a demonstration supporting gun rights began an hour before the March for Our Lives rally in the same spot, according to CNN affiliate KUTV. The Utah Gun Exchange called its rally the March Before Our Lives, using the word “before” because their march began ahead of the main march, noted the *ktla.com* article.

“We want to show that we are united in the call for change from our leaders,” the group’s Facebook event page said. “Never again do we want our children vulnerable to attacks but until we can count on our leaders to protect our children WE will lead them.”

According to the group, “There is no amount of infringement” on the Second Amendment that will stop evil. Instead, there needs to be focus on mental health and providing care to those in need, the page states, not “punishments to law-abiding citizens.”

In Boston, patriot counter protesters gathered against the misnamed “March for Our Lives” gun confiscation rally in Boston, according to CNN affiliate WBZ-TV. During the march, counter protesters and marchers shouted at each other and police had to step in to keep the peace. It got to the point where police had to form a perimeter around the counter protesters to prevent any potential clashes, noted the *ktla.com* report

Protesters and counter protesters were separated by a fence during the March for Our Lives demonstration in Bentonville, Arkansas, according to CNN affiliate KNWA-TV. Patriots chanted “preserve our Second Amendment.”

<http://ktla.com/2018/03/24/preserve-our-second-amendment-gun-rights-advocates-stage-opposing-protests-to-march-for-our-lives/>



Pro-gun advocate Trevor Jackson talks to an anti-gun supporter during the March for Our Lives rally on March 24, 2018, in Oklahoma City. (Credit: J. Pat Carter/Getty Images)

Pa. School Superintendent: Rocks Will Protect Students

David Helsel, superintendent of a school district in northeast Pennsylvania, thinks he has a brilliant way of protecting students against Islamic terrorists, mentally ill people (who are out on the streets because the ACLU won’t let them be locked), and from other violent threats: give rocks to the students.

Hsel explained his Stone Age plan to a legislative education committee last week, drawing a flurry of local media coverage, according to an article on *www.slttrib.com*.



Blue Mountain School District Superintendent Dr. David Helsel (pictured) is stocking each classroom in his Pennsylvania school district with a five-gallon bucket full of rocks to deter school shooters.

“Every classroom has been equipped with a five-gallon bucket of river stone,” Helsel explained about his Blue Mountain School District in Schuylkill County in a video broadcast by ABC affiliate 16 WNEP. “If an armed intruder attempts to gain entrance into any of our classrooms, they will face a classroom full of students armed with rocks, and they will be stoned.”

Hsel told local news reporters that students in his district routinely drilled on shooter simulations and were given active shooting training through a program known as ALICE, short for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate.

According to ABC, ALICE protocol involves evacuating students and barricading classroom doors for those who can’t safely leave. In at least one school district, in Redmond, Washington, ALICE training also involved guidance for children to distract an intruder.

Hsel described the bucket of rocks, which will be kept in classroom closets, as a “last ditch” option to use as an alternative to students hiding passively under desks. “At one time, I just had the idea of river stone,” Helsel said. “They’re the right size for hands, you can throw them very hard, and they will create or cause pain, which can distract.”

Continued

Rocks Will Protect Students *Continued*

His schools have been using the idea, called “go buckets,” for the last two years, according to *BuzzFeed*, noted the www.sltrib.com article.

Another district had floated the idea of using golf balls, Helsel said, according to *Fox News* but that idea did not seem effective to him.

“Obviously, a rock against a gun isn’t a fair fight, but it’s better than nothing,” he said. “I’m not sure why some people feel that it’s more appropriate to be a stationary target under a desk in a classroom rather than be empowered to defend yourself and provide a response to deter the entry of an armed intruder into their classroom.”



Some students and parents interviewed by the outlet were supportive of the idea.

“At this point, we have to get creative. We have to protect our kids first and foremost,” parent Dori Bornstein told 16 WNEP. “Throwing rocks, it’s an option.”

Susan Spicka, executive director of Education Voters of Pennsylvania, told Buzzfeed that she was at the hearing and a lawmaker responded to Helsel’s bucket of rocks plan by saying, “Can I come out and watch?”, which elicited laughter.

“School districts in Pennsylvania are so underfunded, then they joke about kids having to defend themselves,” she said.

No word on whether School Superintendent Helsel thinks that singing “Give peace a chance” to a terrorist, illegal alien, or other violent offender would also be more effective than a good person with a gun.

<https://www.sltrib.com/news/nation-world/2018/03/24/a-pennsylvania-school-district-plans-to-stop-shooters-by-arming-students-with-a-bucket-of-rocks/>

MEMORIZE THESE SAFETY RULES

1. Always treat all guns as though they are loaded
2. Always keep your firearm pointed in a safe direction
3. Always keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot
4. Be sure of your target and what is beyond it

US Constitution 2nd Amendment: “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.”

PA Constitution Article 1 Section 21: “The right of the citizens to bear arms in defense of themselves and the State shall not be questioned.”

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