

Here is a brief report from the NRA side of things.

I was in Houston for the NRA annual meeting and am pleased to announce that I was reelected to a three year term having already served seven years.

Our President for the last two years stepped aside and Sandra Froman moved up to the presidents slot. As most of you know Kayne Robinson, from Des Moines, IA has served as President for the last two years. Prior to that, he was First Vice President under Charlton Heston. Given the nature of the role of Heston the nitty gritty of running the NRA fell to Kayne. Effectively he has been the administrative head of the Presidents office for seven years-five under Heston and two of his own. He has set an almost impossible role to fill in that he was constantly on the road for the NRA.

During some months he would be home only two or three days. He would mail his dirty clothes back home to his wife Donna who would send clean outfits to him at some motel down the line. It was a backbreaking schedule but you can't wear someone down who is having the time of his life. Kaynes big effort was to get the hunters of America to join the NRA. There are millions of hunters but few actually join the NRA. This has been a historical fact that Kayne has tried to change. The NRA works hard for hunters in every state and yet the hunters don't seem to understand the effort being made on their behalf. At least the hunters do vote and support the NRA at election time which is extremely important. Yet the financial burden continues to be shifted to other gun owners. It is unclear whether this will ever change. Everyone should try and encourage their hunting friends to join the NRA. If all the hunters did join we would really be unbeatable.

Our new President, Sandy Froman, is from Tuscon, Arizona. She was Formerly married to Brunce Nelson who some of you may remember as a premier holster designer and maker. Bruce died suddenly a few years back and Sandy continues to live in their house on the edge of the national forest. She is a full auto aficionado and owns many machine guns. Her favorite way to introduce people to guns is to give them a silenced .22 and move them up to her .50 cal. Ma Deuce from her front porch. She graduated from Harvard Law School and is one tough little lady. She will do a great job.

Our new First Vice President is John Sigler from Delaware. John is an attorney, a former law enforcement officer and served in the Navy aboard a submarine working with the torpedoes. He is very capable as you might suspect.

We elected a new Second Vice President, Ron Schmeits from Raton, NM. I have known Ron for many years and serve on the Whittington Board of Trustees with him. We traveled together last year to hunt in Namibia in Africa and he is a first class person. He is an active hunter and shot a HUGE black bear and elk last season in New Mexico. He owns several banks in the Raton area and eastern NM. He served as President of the NM Bankers Association and is active politically on all levels. Ron has a tremendous financial background and will fill a great need in the NRA to strengthen our financial status. He will make a good representative for us all and I am looking forward to serving with him and Sandy and John as well.

Wayne Lapierre continues to do a fantastic job and I'll discuss his role and the challenges he has in my next note. By the way, the next NRA Annual meeting will be in Milwaukee so everyone should make an effort to get there. I'll also discuss the mechanics of an annual meeting in the future to help those that go to enjoy the show.

Bill