

From the Editor

This issue's "From the Editor" is one I always dread, because there's no way to fake the end of the year, when I'm really writing in early October. That's especially so every four years, when the Presidential elections roll around. For up-to-date analysis of the 2012 election cycle, especially as it impacts gunowners, I suggest you head over to thegunmag.com, our sister publication.

Fortunately, I have just returned from the 27th annual Gun Rights Policy Conference (GRPC), this one held in Orlando, FL, and that always means I get to talk about all the interesting women I met there and some I've come to know over the course of GRPCs and other events.

This year it was a delight to see old friend Linda Farmer there. Linda is the author of the very first resolution to come out of GRPC, the so-called NATO Doctrine, which states that an attack on any class of gunowner is an attack on them all. It has been reaffirmed at every GRPC for the last quarter century, and this year it was especially great to have Linda move it herself, after participating as a member of the Resolutions Committee.

Said committee was chaired, as it has been for the last three or four years, by Contributing Editor Genie Jennings. I got to pay off a drink to Genie that I've owed for at least two years at one of the receptions.

Kathy Jackson, she of the corneredcat.com, was also there, on her way back home to the Pacific Northwest after a month-long teaching assignment in Virginia. For those who are wondering, her column discussing kids and guns will return to our pages in 2013, along with some other material.

Maria Heil, who used to write for us, represented the National Rifle Association at GRPC, in her role as a newly-elected member (by petition) of that group's Board of Directors. We got to catch up a little bit—we always need to discuss tomato harvests, among other things—at lunch after the Conference wrapped.

The undisputed star of this year's GRPC was *Washington Times* senior editorial page editor Emily Miller, whose online series "Emily Gets Her Gun," details her journey to become a licensed gunowner in Washington, DC. Emily was given the Second Amendment Foundation's James Madison Award at the luncheon, and then addressed the crowd in a retelling of the tale. Afterward—when we were supposed to get together before she caught her plane—she was besieged by fans. We got a few minutes to talk, but I highly recommend you look up the series at washingtontimes.com.

Linda Farmer remarked to me on Sunday morning that there were a lot more women this year than in years past. "There were only a

couple of us," she said of the first GRPC.

It sometimes takes a yearly event to measure the progress of friends and family—how much taller Kyle is, how gray Sue has gotten, etc., and GRPC is a way to measure how far women gunowners have come, in a historically short time.

As I close out the 23rd year of *Women & Guns*, I do want to mention the achievements—both on these pages and off—of another remarkable woman: Sheila Link.

Sheila, who has been with W&G almost from the beginning, is stepping down from regular writing duties with this issue, which includes her last Gear & Gadgets.

When she called to tell me her decision to retire from these pages, I did get her to agree to write for us "whenever she feels like it," because a voice like hers is unique.

Her many, many accomplishments, including being the first women president of the Outdoor Writers of America, speak to her achievements in a traditional "man's world," but they don't begin to sum up this remarkable woman, whose counsel and help I have come to rely on for the last 20 years.

Best wishes to Sheila, and to all our friends and readers for a successful and healthy 2013.



Peggy Tartaro,
Executive Editor