

ARMED GAYS DON'T GET BASHED.



The Pink Pistols Utility Manual

by Gwendolyn S. Patton, First Speaker

I. The History of the Pink Pistols

In 2000, Jonathan Rauch, an openly-gay columnist wrote an article for Salon.com. This article set the pattern for an organization, though he didn't know it yet.

"I WON'T quibble over the pros and cons of hate-crimes laws. In a way, I don't need to, because the numbers speak for themselves: the laws are at best insufficient, at worst ineffective. Anti-gay crimes reported to the FBI almost doubled between 1992 and 1998. The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs monitors 16 jurisdictions and found 33 anti-gay murders in 1998, up from 14 in 1997. The coalition also found that gay-bashers were becoming more likely to use deadly weapons: guns, baseball bats, knives. There is not a city in America where gay couples can hold hands in public without fear. Gay-bashing is a kind of low-level terrorism designed to signal that, whatever the law may say, queers are pathetic and grotesque. Beyond a certain point, therefore, law can't be the answer.

*So it is remarkable that the gay movement in America has never seriously considered a strategy that ought to be glaringly obvious. Thirty-one states allow all qualified citizens to carry concealed weapons. In those states, homosexuals should embark on organized efforts to become comfortable with guns, learn to use them safely and carry them. **They should set up Pink Pistols task forces, sponsor shooting courses and help homosexuals get licensed to carry. And they should do it in a way that gets as much publicity as possible.***

This article was noticed by a Pennsylvania activist and reporter named Vin Suprynowicz, who told a Boston resident and former libertarian candidate for Massachusetts State Representative, named Douglas Krick. Krikket, as most know him, got together with three other friends, and formed a sort of club. The four of them together, all members of the sexual-minority community, would meet at a local firing range to practice together. Inspired by the article, they got permission from Rauch to call the group the “Pink Pistols”.

At first, this was a sort of joke, so much so that Krikket acquired the domain “pinkpistols.org”, and set up a website extolling their activities. He was contacted in September of 2000 by Newsweek magazine, and after a small article about a “a new pro-gun, pro-gay political-action group”, Krikket received what he least expected: notes from people across the country, asking if they, too, could start Pink Pistols “chapters”. Bemused by this, Krikket said “sure”. This started the snowball rolling downhill.

Like that snowball, it got bigger and bigger as it rolled, until there were about a dozen chapters across the country.

In the spring of 2001, my partner Maggie showed me an article about the “Pink Pistols”, and said it looked like a really good idea, and that I might be interested. I was startled to see the name Doug Krick associated with it, but pleased at the same time. I have known Krikket since the mid to late ‘80s, when we both lived in the western suburbs of Chicago. We were very close then, working on science-fiction conventions together, getting together to watch bad movies, and, when he decided to get married, he asked me to officiate the ceremony, as I was both his High Priestess and a (dubiously) ordained minister through the Universal Life Church (my father had thought it a great joke when I was about 16 to give me a ULC card and proclaim me a minister).

I contacted my old friend and congratulated him on his newfound fame, and the organization itself. He remarked that there wasn’t a chapter in the Philadelphia area, where I now lived with Maggie, and suggested that I start one. After discussing it with Maggie, we agreed. We acquired our Pennsylvania License To Carry Firearms, and I got my first gun for my birthday at the end of April, 2001. Our first chapter meeting was just a couple of weeks later, which no one but us attended. But a month later, having moved to a new area with a better lunchtime meeting place and a far superior shooting range, we had one attendee, Thomas Nelson of Philadelphia. After that, we attracted more and more attendees, some of whom are still with us to this date.

I have always been involved in various aspects of media, including a short radio internship while in college, so I soon found myself helping Krikket with the greater and greater number of interviews and requests for information. Just a year or so later, he officially made me the National Media Spokesperson of the organization. The title changed to *International* Media Spokesperson when we acquired our chapter in British

Columbia, and then another in South Africa. We even got a couple of requests from Israel, but they never materialized.

The Delaware Valley Chapter, my Philadelphia, suburban, and South Jersey chapter, soon became well-known as the media chapter, and we fielded a growing number of requests for interviews, including local television, magazines such as Jane and OUT, and, *pièce de résistance*, a documentary by Voice of America TV. This documentary was translated into 60 languages, and sent all over the world. I even fielded a nearly-surreal debacle on Fox News, when a contributing analyst conflated several unrelated news stories, and declared that the “Pink Pistol Packing Group” was a network of lesbian gangs, using pink-painted guns to terrorize young girls into declaring themselves lesbians. It was, of course, complete nonsense, and I eventually won an apology and retraction from the Bill O’Reilly show, after dozens of reporters called me to ask if they meant US. (Of course, Bill O. didn’t give the apology himself...he waited until he was taking a day off, and Michelle Malkin delivered it.)

http://www.nytimes.com/cq/2007/07/16/cq_3090.html

Several very important and far-reaching articles came from that: One from Radar Online, one from Reason, another from the Southern Poverty Law Center’s magazine, and last, but not least, the next issue of *Congressional Quarterly*. We started being solicited for our opinions on important court cases involving firearm rights, including *Silviera v. Lockyer*, which addressed so-called “assault weapons” in California, *State of Illinois, v. Alberto Aguilar*, which addressed firearm carry in Illinois, and an amicus brief for the famous *the District of Columbia v. Heller*

(http://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/publishing/preview/publiced_preview_briefs_pdfs_07_08_07_290_RespondentAmCuPinkPistolsGLIL.authcheckdam.pdf)

This was the SCOTUS case that finally clarified that the people have an *individual* right to keep and bear arms. We did not prepare a brief for *McDonald v. the City of Chicago*, (130 S.Ct. 3020 (2010)) but the *Heller* brief was mentioned and briefly quoted:

Amici supporting incorporation of the right to keep and bear arms contend that the right is especially important for women and members of other groups that may be especially vulnerable to violent crime.^[33]

...

[33] See Brief for Women State Legislators et al. as *Amici Curiae* 9-10, 14-15; Brief for Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership as *Amicus Curiae* 3-4; see also Brief for Pink Pistols et al. as *Amici Curiae* in *District of Columbia v. Heller*, O.T.2007, No. 07-290, pp. 5-11.

This spanned a period of 9 years between the inception of the organization and the time of the McDonald case. During this time, Krikket needed to take several hiatuses to handle his own personal issues, and he asked me to step up to run things in his absence. I believe there were four such absences over the years. It was during this time that we achieved over 50 chapters nationwide, and the core message and focus of the

organization was firmly established.

The focus of the group is as Rauch originally suggested. I put it, rather poetically, as this: ***We teach queers to shoot, then teach the world that we have done it.*** This serves two key purposes, first, to prepare members of the sexual-minority community with the skills and knowledge necessary to take individual responsibility for their own protection, and to spread the word of this fact, so anyone considering performing a bias attack on a member of the GLBT community might think: “Gee, this person might have a gun. I can’t tell which gay person might be armed, and which are safe to attack. Maybe I should go to a movie instead...” -- or something similar. In short, it is meant as a deterrent. When weapons are concealed, one cannot tell who is or is not armed.

During this entire time, we had only articles about the organization, a “new chapter e-book” with suggestions on how to start a chapter (now largely obsolete; technology has changed much that was suggested), and a few brief white papers on bridging gaps between communities for members and chapter founders to work from. We had not perfected the process for creating chapters, but we were learning. We had some growing pains, a couple which resulted in “schisms” in the organization, and the birth of at least three other GLBT firearm advocacy groups. We did a plethora of interviews, in print, radio, and television. The group even inspired a television series to create a similar group as a plot point, the “Pink Posse”, a so-called vigilante group in the show “Queer As Folk”. We knew we had “made it” when the 2005 Pride Dictionary officially defined “Pink Pistol” as a gay person who carried a firearm for self-defense. Things were very good, but there were bumps in the road along the way.

In 2006, I was badly injured in a freak car accident -- my trunk lid fell on my head in a high wind -- causing me to deeply curtail my activities. In 2010, suffering from extreme and constant pain, I handed off my duties to Nicole Stallard, founder of the San Jose chapter in California. She had been engaged in appearances all over, speaking on behalf of the right to bear arms and the GLBT community, so this appeared to be an ideal choice. In early 2013, because of her overwhelming workload, I contacted Doug Krick, and was given full control of the organization, as Krikket no longer had time to devote to it. I regained control of the domain and the website, and asked Nicole to remain in charge of the San Jose chapter, as I would resume the burden of spokesperson -- First Speaker -- for the organization on a national scale.

Since then, I have delegated as much as I am able, and this allows me to perform my duties adequately. We are once again attracting media attention, and giving interviews as we did before. But we have also discovered that we need a unifying document, something that takes on the purpose of the original “new chapter” guide, and extends it to the actual core message of the group, for what we have found is that it is our deep commitment to that narrow, simple ideal that has given us such wide appeal. It is frequently remarked upon by the media, and it is what keeps us stable year after year.

This Utility Manual will be that document. It will be a perpetual work-in-progress, changing as it becomes necessary, as technology and tools change, and clarifying the basic message if it becomes muddled.

II. The Message

The Pink Pistols is a “single-issue” organization. This means that we have ONE, and only ONE, issue that lies at the core of our motivations and actions. Our National website at <http://pinkpistols.org> states it this way:

“We are dedicated to the legal, safe, and responsible use of firearms for self-defense of the sexual-minority community. We no longer believe it is the right of those who hate and fear gay, lesbian, bi, trans, or polyamorous persons to use us as targets for their rage. Self-defense is our RIGHT.”

To this end, we do what is necessary to properly and responsibly advocate firearm use, and as said before, we engage in public outreach to make plain our armed status. We also lend our voice, when appropriate, to issues that assist our mission. Clearly, if a jurisdiction bans firearms, or certain kinds of firearms, or makes it difficult or impossible to carry them, it is difficult to properly advocate lawful firearm use in that jurisdiction. In such an instance, we do two things:

- We suggest to our members to act as their individual consciences move them in regards to legislations contrary to our mission. This includes, but is not limited to, calling or writing to their representatives and expressing their individual wishes. We are NOT a “lobbying group”, and because we are not, the organization itself does not directly lobby on legislation. Because the organization does not meet on, substantially plan, or direct the activities of the membership in this, it is not considered an “active participant” in lobbying, and is therefore exempt from the Lobbying Disclosure Act. Here is the relevant section taken from the US Government website on the subject:

“Organizations that, though members of or affiliated with a client, have only a passive role in the lobbying activities of the client (or of the registrant on behalf of the client), are not considered active participants in the planning, supervision, or control of such lobbying activities. Examples of activities constituting only a passive role would include merely donating or paying dues to the client or registrant, receiving information or reports on legislative matters, occasionally responding to requests for technical expertise or other information in support of the lobbying activities, attending a general meeting of the association or coalition client, or expressing a position with regard to legislative goals in a manner open to, and on a par with, that of all members of a coalition or association – such as through an annual meeting, a questionnaire, or similar vehicle. Mere occasional participation, such as offering an ad hoc informal comment regarding lobbying strategy to the client or registrant, in the absence of any formal or regular supervision or direction of lobbying activities, does not constitute active participation if neither the organization nor its employee has the authority to direct the client or the registrant on lobbying matters and the participation does not otherwise exceed a de minimis role.” --

http://lobbyingdisclosure.house.gov/amended_lda_guide.html

- We will, if asked, participate in the preparation of briefs or statements pertaining to a court case or piece of legislation. In the past, we have worked with such groups as the NRA to prepare such documents, and welcome the opportunity to assist by supplying information and viewpoints.
- We have, from time to time, created and sent out questionnaires to candidates for office, from which we draw reasonable conclusions regarding those candidates' probable policies, and their effect upon our mission. We do not tell our members how to vote. When we do this, we simply gather pertinent information from candidates, and present it to our members so they may make their own informed choices. NO CHAPTER may send out their own questionnaires on a national scale, but only to their local candidates, and may not represent such questionnaires as being from the Pink Pistols at large, or nationally, but instead must *clearly state* that it is from a specific chapter, and hence, has limited scope.

This leads logically into the next part of the Pink Pistols mission.

- We do not charge dues. Ever.
- We do not require membership forms. Ever.
- There is no database of members deliberately maintained for the purpose of identifying them.
- Persons who wish to become Pink Pistols members “self-declare”. All that is required of them is to say “I am a Pink Pistol” to become a member of the Pink Pistols.
- Attendance of, or participation in, a chapter is not a prerequisite of membership. Many persons of the sexual-minority community are supportive of the cause, but are not willing to make their identity public.
- Participation in, or removal from, any online forum or mailing list of the Pink Pistols, or a chapter thereof, neither confers nor removes membership in the organization at large. The only way a person ceases to be a Pink Pistols member is by self-declaration that they are no longer such, or by heinous acts described below.
- If a member engages in behavior unbecoming the organization, or contrary to the law, the organization has the authority to eject them, and to disavow any illegal acts. A violent criminal cannot gain assistance in evading the law by association with this organization.
- Pink Pistols National retains rights to the name “Pink Pistols” (as a self-defense advocacy organization. More on this later). If a chapter engages in behavior unbecoming to the organization, or contrary to the mission or message, National reserves the right to remove a chapter's right to use the Pink Pistols name.

This last is critical: Our purpose is to advocate self-defense of the sexual minority community. We do NOT involve ourselves in other issues, such as gay marriage, gay rights, the size or structure of government, political parties, nor do we champion causes such as AIDS awareness or the decriminalization of sex work. We *stay focused* on our specific goal. There are lots of other organizations advocating for these other causes. Rather than divide our energies as an organization, we instead suggest that our members *belong to multiple organizations*, as befits their consciences. We do NOT conflate our name with other causes and movements, of whatever political stripe.

The reason for this is that when we divide our focus, we lose energy in our main mission, and the volunteer structure of the organization cannot maintain proper momentum. Case in point: the old Twin Cities Pink Pistols chapter decided, sometime around 2008-2009, to begin having AIDS awareness activities, sponsor blood drives, and promulgated their position officially on a wide variety of GLBT issues. When PP National asked them to please retain focus on the mission, they elected to sever ties with the Pink Pistols and form a new organization, The North Star Gay and Lesbian Gun Club. A quick search shows that there has been no activity on their Yahoo group since just after 2011, and there are suggestions that they have taken multiple hiatuses from activity.

Since then, a NEW chapter of the Pink Pistols has formed in the Twin Cities, containing some of the members of the older chapter. It follows the model of all other Pink Pistols chapters, reversing the decision of the older, defunct chapter. They are now very successful, reporting 10-15 members at their regular shoots, and over 1000 “likes” on their Facebook page. ***Focus matters.***

The Pink Pistols stays strong and continues to function *because* it maintains its focus, and does not divide its energies, when other groups have the energy, people, time, and in some cases, money to act on multiple fronts. Because the Pink Pistols has limited resources, a single focus allows it to thrive. Consistency in the mission makes it possible for media to maintain a single, unified view of the organization over an extended period of time. This lends us a great deal of credibility.

This is not to say that we are not *for* these other issues! In the case of gay rights or gay marriage, our stance is that we want everyone to have all of their rights, equally. We do not advocate on the other subjects because we have limited resources, not because we do not care.

The important takeaway of this section is: We stay focused on our singular mission *because that's what works best in the long run.*

Dealing with Lawyers and Court Cases

This is **important**: ALL legal issues MUST go through National. It is different from dealing with the press, and we MUST maintain consistency. To avoid any potential accidental contradictions that might cause issues, if an attorney contacts your chapter about an amicus brief or other court case, send them to the First Speaker.

You may be involved in the case if your local expertise is advantageous, but National has evolved mechanisms for dealing with court cases. Any court case, even if it is made clear in the documents that it is the position of a single chapter, *will be perceived as being the official position of the Pink Pistols as a whole*. Therefore, it must go through National to make certain there are no “gotchas” that could hurt the organization or any of its members later. DO NOT handle a legal issue on your own. Forward any such requests to firstspeaker@pinkpistols.org immediately when or if they come to you.

Legal documents aren't just written, they're crafted. The wording seems verbose to a non-attorney, but it's not just excess bloviating, those words are there for a reason. It seems repetitive at times and overblown, but all that verbiage is intended to cover bases, issues, and asses. Consider just one thing that requires asses be covered -- who is paying for the work the attorneys are doing? Combine that with the fact that the Pink Pistols does not collect dues, and it should be clear that this is an important issue, and must be dealt with up front, before the attorneys have put in an appreciable amount of work. Our first amicus brief, on the *Silveira v. Lockyer* case (312 F.3d 1052, Ninth Circuit), was paid for via “passing the hat” and taking donations from members. This took a lot of effort to handle so everything was done legally. We have mechanisms for handling this now that do not involve such machinations.

If you do not come to National for a legal issue but instead continue on it yourself, if a bill comes to National I will simply refer it to YOU to pay, as I did not approve it. This could be thousands of dollars, and it won't be coming out of MY bank account. And that's just ONE issue that can be very, very dicey. So please respect this rule and pass any and all legal case issues to National for proper disposition. When Guns Aren't Legal

It's an unfortunate correlation that the areas of the country that appear to attract the highest concentrations of openly-GLBT persons also seem to be those politically opposed to the lawful use of firearms. If they don't forbid them entirely, they set the bar for a permit unreasonably and unrealistically high.

Top Ranked GLBT Cities by Total Population:

Rank	City	Percentage of city population	GLB Population	
			population	rank
1	New York City*	6%	272,493	1
2	Los Angeles*	5.6%	154,270	2
3	Chicago*	5.7%	114,449	3
4	San Francisco*	15.4%	94,234	4
5	Phoenix	6.4%	63,222	5
6	Houston	4.4%	61,976	6
7	San Diego*	6.8%	61,945	7
8	Dallas	7.0%	58,473	8
9	Seattle	12.9%	57,993	9
10	Boston*	12.3%	50,540	10
11	Philadelphia*	4.2%	43,320	11
12	Atlanta	12.8%	39,085	12
13	San Jose*	5.8%	37,260	13

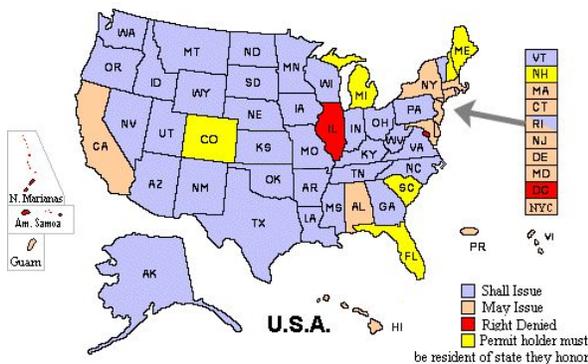
(from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_sexual_orientation)

As one can see from this table, most of the cities with the greatest percentage of their population are also cities where the acquisition of concealed-carry permits is difficult and/or impossible. Some of them have shall-issue CCW, such as the cities in Texas, Arizona, Washington State, and Georgia.

Some cities, such as Philadelphia, make it more difficult to obtain a carry permit than other municipalities in Pennsylvania. This is technically against the State preemption law, but is anecdotally true. A permit can be obtained in Montgomery County, adjacent to Philadelphia County, in under two weeks, as opposed to the several months it can take in the city. This has prompted proposed State law that would allow people to apply for their CCW in counties adjacent to the one in which they live, specifically so this inequity can be nullified.

It is not uncommon for there to be a sociopolitical divide between GLBT support in a community and pro-RKBA legislation. Florida is a state with positive gun laws, and a thriving GLBT community. Contrast this with Chicago, which is GLBT-friendly but is unwaveringly RKBA-hostile, still fighting the decision in *McDonald v. Chicago*. The first proposed carry laws since the court decisions that ordered such to be designed were so restrictive, there was practically no benefit. Keep in mind that some areas of the country may be positive towards GLBT people, but hostile to guns. This is largely a

progressive-liberal attitude, one we pull our hair out over -- most GLBT people feel they must be politically left-leaning because the left is the part of the political spectrum that most loudly claims to support GLBT rights. Since the left supports gay rights, but the right, which does not, supports GUN rights, it is a small step for GLBT people to politically reject guns.



These two maps show the distribution of the heaviest incidence of same-sex relationships (top) vs. state laws regarding concealed carry. Florida has a large GLBT population, and has reasonable concealed carry laws. But most of the rest of the country that has the largest populations of GLBT people are those where gun ownership and concealed carry is either absent or restricted to the point of nullity.

The Pink Pistols advocates the use of concealed firearms because they are the *most effective* tools for self-defense. But if it is too difficult to get a carry permit in your location, do not go without defensive tools simply because you can't carry a gun! Use the most effective lawful tool you can acquire in your area. This may be a stun-gun, pepper spray, or some sort of martial-arts. I carry a stout oak cane because I need a cane to

help me walk. I could carry a lightweight aluminum cane, but I chose heavy oak because I study the art of Cane-Fu (stop laughing, it's real! <http://www.canemasters.com>), and the cane represents a defensive tool that even FAA regulations allow me to carry on a plane. A cane makes a very effective defensive instrument, from Cane-Fu to a western art called *Bartitsu* (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bartitsu>). It's hard for a cop to stop and question you if you are using a cane to help you walk.

We generally don't recommend martial arts for a simple reason: Most martial arts schools today do not teach you to *fight*. They teach you to perform a martial *art*. It's not unusual for karate schools to be more concerned about tournament competition than teaching you how to survive a mugging, and many teachers become offended or outraged at the suggestion you might use what they teach to really fight someone. Still others try to convince you that their "system" is so superior, it's all you need to take on anybody. Here is a good page that describes this problem in detail: <http://www.nonenseselfdefense.com/bestMA.htm>

This is an important concept, so pay attention: *Self-defense is not an act, it is a mindset. The Pink Pistols isn't really a club, it is an ethical choice and a way of life.* We do not advocate engaging an attacker with force except as the last possible option, and stress the minimum amount of force that will extricate you from the situation safely. Your state may have "Castle Doctrine" or "Stand Your Ground" laws, intended to protect you from prosecution or civil action, should you need to defend yourself. But just because you CAN stand your ground doesn't mean you always SHOULD. This is the best description of this issue I have seen in recent memory:

"The bottom line is that physical self-defense is a last-ditch option when other -- more effective -- strategies have failed. It isn't something you do because you're afraid of being [thought a wimp](#). These other options having been tried first, however, give you [points and standards](#) you can articulate to any responding law enforcement officers to show you were engaged in legitimate self-defense. Because you need to know officers hear the self-defense plea all the time. And what it turns out to be is what is legally considered a "fight" and both parties claiming it was self-defense." ...

"If your defensive strategy is oriented on deflecting the immediate threat and escaping before another threat can be offered, then ANY martial art system and training will be effective for 'self-defense.'

If, however, your goal is to 'win' then you seriously run the risk of

- *extending the altercation, thereby greatly increasing your chances of losing or*
- *going 'over the top' and using excessive force.*

Either will get you in deep legal trouble, but the second one more so. This

is why we have a saying training to fight only has two problems. One is if you lose. Two is if you win. Often with you 'winning,' the once-upon-a-time aggressor has now become the legal victim, and you have become the aggressor. Not because he didn't start it, but because you crossed the line from defending yourself to attacking him. Often this line is crossed because your training taught you to behave this way 'in case he doesn't stop attacking'." -- Marc "Animal" MacYoung, No Nonsense Self-Defense

The Pink Pistols is about taking an ethical stance that we are personally responsible for our own safety, and for our individual actions. The use of force, especially deadly force, is to be reserved for the very last resort, after all other options for neutralizing a dangerous situation -- including getting the hell out of there! -- have been exhausted. Don't fight over your wallet, let him have the money. But don't just hand it over calmly, he may decide to "eliminate a witness" afterward. THROW your wallet past him so he has to back away from you to retrieve what he wants, then run the other way as fast as you are able. Consider carrying a separate money-clip for cash and throw *that*, so you do not also throw identification, pictures, your CCW card if you have one, or credit cards. Visible money flying past a criminal's head and landing where he or she can see it, is a strong inducement to retrieve it, thus taking attention off YOU.

The cases where we are most concerned are bias-based attacks, those where the goal is to hurt or kill you specifically because of what you are perceived to be, not to get something from you. The person out on a mission to beat down and hurt, or even kill, a gay person just because they think gay people are disgusting perverts that *should* be done away with, isn't out for your wallet or your cell phone. His target is YOU. So you need to be able to dissuade him from this course of action, and yet stay within the limits of the law. You want HIM to go to jail, not yourself.

Take courses locally available on avoiding victimhood. The NRA has a series called "How Not to be a Victim". There are other, similar classes, and your local range may know how to find them, or may teach them. These courses are very likely to take into account peculiarities in your local laws and ordinances that a more general course or book won't. But in general, you can use force if force is used on you...but you cannot use DEADLY force if you are not THREATENED with death, or at least grievous bodily harm. This threat must be imminent, which means, it's right there in front of you, right now, not some threat that might happen someday. You can only use the amount of force necessary to stop the threat. You can't chase someone who is fleeing, for example, you need to stop once they have shifted from an aggressor to having given up their goal of hurting you and is now running away.

If you take the time and effort to learn how to prevent violence, you can build on that with new techniques to defend yourself from violence you could not prevent.

III. Chapter Building and Operation

Getting Together

The simplest and most basic way a Pink Pistols chapter operates is to get together periodically either for socializing, for practice, or for both. The chapter can do this on the same day, or on different days, depending on convenience to the members, expenses, the proximity of the social/shooting locations, whatever is best for the circumstance. The DeVal chapter used to meet on the same day -- lunch at noon, then shooting at a range a mile away at 2pm. (They have a different schedule recently.) This is convenient for everyone because they aren't in all cases close to one another, and consolidating the events makes it easiest on those who don't drive and need to be picked up. Only doing it once instead of multiple times a month makes more sense. But other chapters may have a social gathering on one day, then the shooting on another, possibly because the range is not close to the social spot, and it would be too difficult or inconvenient to travel between them on the same day.

This is seen most clearly in chapters where the shooting location is out in the country or outside of town, but they want to stay in town to get together for social events. Many towns don't have ranges within city limits, and it's a long distance trip to get there. Some chapters have great difficulty with shooting events because of the local laws -- NYC is particularly hard hit by this, since unless you have a city pistol permit, you are not allowed to even *touch* a pistol. The only range in the city only allows you to rent .22 caliber rifles and take a safety course prior to shooting, even if you are already skilled. As a result, NYC does not get together for shooting as often as they would like, since it is an extreme hassle.

It is highly recommended that a chapter at least try for some measure of consistency in their gathering, if at all possible. Some chapters do find it convenient to meet only when someone goes to the trouble of calling and/or organizing the gathering, others have set days of the month when they nearly always meet. The DeVal chapter has been meeting on the third Saturday of the month for their regular "Lunch 'n Shoot" for the past 12 years. It's possible to attend a DeVal regular shoot without checking to see when it is -- it's ALWAYS on that day and at that time. Consistency allows people to plan their schedule ahead, and makes it clear to the community that you are committed to a course of action.

Of course, things like weather, conflicting major events, and widespread illness can and do cause some meeting days to be cancelled, but these things happen. Most recently, the scarcity and inflated cost of ammunition has caused at least one DeVal shoot to be cancelled, as no one had any ammo, and the range was out or nearly so. Thankfully, this is slowly improving as time goes on.

Okay...Where?

Where to get together is the trickiest bit of your chapter planning and operation. If you follow the general model, you need a place for social get-togethers and a place to shoot. If you are going to gather socially AND shoot on the same day, they need to be close enough together geographically to make this viable. If you meet on different days, you have more latitude in your choices, but it represents a bigger monthly commitment, since you have TWO days where you are traveling and reserving time on behalf of the chapter instead of one.

So, let's break it apart into the two pieces -- social and shooting. Where can you meet safely, consistently, and without getting hassled by the management? We do NOT recommend meeting at someone's house unless there is NO other place to meet that fits all of the criteria. This exposes someone's home to strangers who may or may not be serious about the Pink Pistols, and may only be looking for places to cause trouble or even to look for homes to rob to steal guns. It isn't a common problem, but better to avoid it up front. Also, many people feel more comfortable meeting in a public place, especially the first time they meet someone. So plan for that and find a public place. Okay...where?

Restaurants are the easiest and most likely not to care who you are or what the group is about. Figure, they have two things on their minds: Sell you food and get your money. They don't generally care about your politics, your sexual identity, or anything else. They just want to feed you and put money in the register. Check around the area, either near your range or in a location relatively central to all of your members, and look for a place that is happy to move tables together to give you more space, isn't too expensive, and has been there a while and looks like they're going to stay. TALK TO THE MANAGER and make sure ahead of time that he or she has no problems with you a) bringing in a group, and b) bringing in THIS group.

Most restaurants don't care. So long as you're obeying the law, they could care less. But you may have some difficulties if:

- They have had problems with large groups in the past,
- They have a corporate policy regarding controversial groups in general,
- The CEO is highly religious or the company has an anti-GLBT policy (such as Chick-Fil-A),
- The CEO is highly anti-gun, or the company has an anti-weapons policy.

For example, the chain restaurant "Buffalo Wild Wings" has a company-wide "No Guns" policy in all of their restaurants. They've been taken to task for it, and as of January of

2013, refuse to budge on the subject. Don't assume that a place is friendly toward guns or CCW because they don't have a sign, either. They might have the policy, but not the sign, because they don't want the controversy. Before you commit your group to meeting there, talk to the manager. If he's at all iffy or wishy-washy on the subject, thank him for his time and go someplace else. Nothing is more disturbing than sitting and having lunch with your friends, and, if your discussions are anything like ours, start discussing guns, ammo, training, the law, current events, or what have you, and the manager comes up and says "I'm sorry, I'm going to have to ask you all to leave. Some of the other customers are complaining about the subject of your conversation, and have expressed fears." Make sure the manager will be on your side before some anti-rights person with a wild hair someplace uncomfortable tries to ruin your day.

But what about meeting at the local GLBT Center, you may ask. It has been our experience that there are few GLBT Centers that will allow the Pink Pistols to meet on a consistent basis. If they DO allow them to meet, they will frequently have "no weapons" policies that make concealed carry on the premises problematic. Also, remember that GLBT Centers periodically change management, and the election of a new Board can suddenly result in your group being made *persona non grata* after a heated meeting that you were NOT invited to attend. This CAN also work to your advantage, when a more tolerant and open-minded group comes into power, but don't rely on it -- such good relations can go away as quickly as they started. GLBT Centers are highly political entities. Do not expect them to EVER defend you or support your side. I have not heard of a single PP chapter that has ever met at a GLBT Center on a consistent, long-term basis.

DO NOT TRY TO MEET IN A BAR. Ever. Not EVER. Seriously, let me stress this. Guns and alcohol do not mix. Many states forbid guns in bars, or even in restaurants that "derive more than 50% of their business from the sale of alcohol", so that trendy family restaurant with the great ribs might be legal in one state, but not in another, solely because the restaurant has a bar. If it is at all restricted in your state by a percentage of business, meet someplace else -- the cops will be watching more closely than is comfortable, and you do not know how much of the restaurant's business comes from the bar.

Also on this issue, if someone in your group has a drink with lunch or dinner, ask them quietly if they are carrying, and if they are, have them go out and stow their weapon in their car during the meal. Under NO CIRCUMSTANCES allow any member who has been drinking to accompany you to the range. Even if they just go to hang out and watch, if they are perceived as drunk, it will bring suspicion down on the rest of your group. It would be best of all to simply request members not to drink alcohol at group gatherings. If they are serious shooters, they won't have a problem with that.

The conclusion: Meet in public, restaurants are generally good, but CHECK with the

manager, and avoid trying to “stand on your rights as part of the GLBT community” and try to use the GLBT Center in your town. And NO ALCOHOL AT ALL.

Where do we go to shoot?

The basic criteria for a place to shoot are: They don't care who you are, so long as you are legal, the venue is safe and legal to shoot at, and they don't care how many of you there are. After that, you can consider whether they have a shop, will sell you ammo, have a gunsmith on premises, and is that smith on duty when your group will be meeting, how expensive are they compared to other places, and just like with the restaurant, when you talked to the manager (you DID talk to the manager, right?), he welcomed you without reservation.

The basic places where you CAN shoot are: Public ranges, private gun clubs, and public lands where shooting is allowed.

An example of that last would be the “Game Lands” in Pennsylvania, that allow public target shooting under strict rules. You're on the honor system -- they don't supply range officers. Frequently, there's nothing but a field with some markings or perhaps a tall earth berm around it, and a firing line, maybe made of buried railroad ties. They might not even supply target frames, much less targets. They aren't manned by anyone -- you go in, you set up, run your own range, and clean up after yourselves. FOLLOW the rules, or you may have troubles. The benefits of such places are cost and general lack of hassle. But they have NO services, NO support, but you can shoot there and the cops won't come screeching in wondering what the gunshots are about, hassling you and demanding ID, and tackling startled people with guns.

Private gun clubs are very tricky to use for group gatherings. They generally cost a lot to join, have strict rules, and usually limit the number of guests you can bring in with you at a time to use the facilities. A local private club my partner and I belonged to had some of the most draconian rules I have ever experienced, such as not allowing anyone to shoot who had not taken a course FROM the club first. This course was the equivalent of an NRA Basic Pistol course, tailored to their own special range rules, was only taught once a year, and usually filled up in a couple of hours when spaces were announced. If you missed the course, you couldn't shoot at the range until the next time it rolled around, and managed to get a space. They had other restrictions on how fast you could shoot, whether or not you could carry your weapon in a holster, and that was just for the indoor range. The outdoor ranges had more rules depending on whether you were shooting rifle or shotgun, and everything required classes taught infrequently and which cost a lot of money.

When we did eventually earn our ability to shoot at all of the ranges (we were lucky and got into the classes quickly), we were limited to one guest apiece. It was additionally

nettling that the club would not consider us to be a family for purposes of membership -- we were treated solely as individuals, with none of the “perks” given to married couples. It was a relatively congenial place to go even for a bit of socializing -- I once found myself in a pickup blues band for an afternoon, much to my delight, playing blues harmonica -- but even though this club was only minutes from our home, it was utterly inconvenient in a hundred other ways, and totally unsuited as a Pink Pistols venue in any capacity.

A private club in your area may have far different rules or restrictions, may recognize outside training certifications, and may be more lenient about guest privileges, but in general, such places tend to be very tightlaced and aren't the friendliest toward GLBT persons or families. As with all things, YMMV, and if you're lucky enough to be involved with a private club that welcomes your Pink Pistols chapter, then by all means, consider them. But, unlike a public range, the rules at such a club can change like the wind, much like a GLBT Center, and one Board of Directors that welcomes you may be replaced with one that does not.

Public ranges are the most congenial, with those run by gun shops being high on my personal list for ease of access, friendliness, and not really caring who you are. Some may want you to reserve time for a large group, but that's fairly reasonable. The public range where DeVal has gone for nearly 95% of its gatherings has been friendly, accepting, and supportive. When we had a large group showing up regularly, we would request a block of time on their calendar long in advance, and we usually got an entire bay of indoor lanes reserved for our use.

Ranges that have shops attached can provide a large variety of services, from sales of new firearms, maybe rental to those who aren't ready to purchase yet, ammo, targets, and other accessories, and most importantly, an easily-accessible bathroom. The range DeVal frequents has a classroom space that we have used often, and a small lounge with vending machines and comfortable seats.

All of these methods for building your chapter are suggestions and examples of what you can do, and criteria that may affect your choices, but are not hard-and-fast rules that you must follow.

A Note On Re-Opening Chapters

When a chapter does not respond to contact for an extended period, we consider the chapter to be defunct. If there is a chapter listed in your area, but it is non-responsive, the steps below are still what you need to do. There is only one difference: I will double-check to make certain the old chapter is defunct to the best of my ability before allowing someone to re-open it. Re-opening a defunct chapter is simply creating a new

one from the beginning.

Drama, Schisms, And Tantrums, Oh My!

There should not be two chapters for the same service area. If there is a definite need for another in a region, such as it being too difficult for people to reach the gathering because of distance, it might behoove the people having the difficulty to suggest that the service area be split, and a new chapter added. This should be a very rare occurrence.

If a chapter you belong to has some sort of internal problem or drama -- a falling-out, or the growth of competing factions, I do not condone people splitting off to form their own chapters. Work out your differences! Part of self-defense is learning how to manage crises and avoid conflict and confrontation. This applies to interaction within your own chapter. Just to make it plain, I will not authorize another chapter because someone has "picked up their marbles and gone home." If there is a serious problem and you can't work it out with the rest of the group, and you feel it is something that threatens the group, drop me a note, and I will attempt to facilitate a satisfactory arrangement. But if your reason for wanting to make a new chapter is based on not getting along with the people running a current one, I will not simply authorize a new chapter.

In a nutshell, a new chapter will be authorized only if:

- If one has never existed in that service area,
- When an existing chapter has been determined to be truly defunct, in which case you are creating a new one *ab initio*,
- When the service area of the existing chapter is demonstrably too big to serve its members properly, in which case we will negotiate a fair split,
- And, lastly, when the members in the existing chapter all feel it is acceptable to split off a new chapter in order to best serve everyone's needs.

Do not allow internal strife to be the reason for wanting to start a new group. National will only shut down an existing chapter that has not gone out of touch if they willfully and egregiously do what I list later in this document; they must violate the "ways to crash land." (Page 22)

I must also mention something that has happened in the past. I do my best to be a reasonable person, but sometimes even I get into hair-tangles with people and feelings can get hurt. Others may not put as much effort into avoiding conflict as I do, and arguments can happen. A post on our Facebook page can turn into a flame war, and such drama can result in people being moderated by the admins. Sometimes people have quit the group or stopped running a chapter out of a perceived slight. Please consider that, if you are a chapter head, National does NOT have a membership list for

your chapter and has no way of getting in touch with them, so if you quit suddenly, they are now out in the cold, and many of them may have no direct communications with the organization except through you. Don't put them in that position.

If you are truly of a mind to leave, please tidy up your affairs before you drop off the map. Arrange for someone else to take over the chapter and get them in touch with me. If you run their website, consider handing it over to the new chapter head or someone else in the chapter. Don't strangle their connection with the rest of the organization just because you have an issue. And please do not just take your chapter off on its own. Some of your members may not have a problem with it, but others may resent it because they joined the PINK PISTOLS, not "Fred's Gay Gun Club", or whatever you decide to call your new group. They may not want to go off on their own like that. They might object because they have friends in the organization and don't want to be perceived as cutting themselves off from those friends. They might not even agree with your reason for leaving, much less taking them with you.

If you want to quit, you have that right. But you have a responsibility to your members to address THEIR concerns, not just yours.

Put them first. That's what it means to be a leader.

So, What Are The Steps For Starting A Chapter?

The very first thing you should do, if you have decided to start a Pink Pistols chapter, is to find another person to help you. If you can find more than one other person willing to help, that's even better! *We no longer allow a chapter to open with a single, founding member.* As with everything else in this document, there is a good reason for this:

During our first wave of explosive growth, we allowed a lot of chapters to open on the strength of a single individual expressing interest. With very few exceptions, these have gone silent, fallen out of touch, or simply gone defunct. Many did so never having held a single gathering, social or practice. If a chapter starts having a minimum of two dedicated persons to run it, the probability of that chapter's success goes up dramatically. Each additional founding member increases that chance. This is due to several factors:

- A chapter is a fair bit of work. If you have more than one person, you can spread the workload.
- During the first few months of a chapter's existence, no one else knows about it, and gatherings will be small. It is more enjoyable to meet with friends and shoot together, rather than doing it alone for several months until the word gets out.
- When you run a chapter alone, if you cannot make your usual gathering due to a

scheduling conflict or illness, there will be no one to go to the regularly-scheduled gathering. If there are walk-ins, they will see no one present and *may assume you aren't a functioning chapter.*

We estimate that for every member willing to be seen in public, associated openly with the organization, there are ten or more who self-declare as members, yet are uncomfortable being publicly known as a member. This may be because they are concerned about being “out of the closet”, or, more commonly, “out of the gun safe.” They may belong to other GLBT organizations, and being known to be a gun advocate may make such memberships uncomfortable or impossible, so it is preferable to embrace the ethical choices of the Pink Pistols, but remain unknown as a gun owner. These people may decide later, when the chapter’s novelty to the local GLBT community has worn off, to join openly. Be patient...but it’s easier to have patience when you have some company. So wait until you have help before trying to start your chapter.

The next thing to do is to find your meeting venues, as described above. This also helps you determine your service radius, since it may be based upon reasonable travel limits to and from your meeting places. Consider the modes of transportation that people in your area may use -- do they drive, or do they use public transportation? CAN people in your area carry a firearm on public transportation? Will they have troubles if they bring a rifle case? Can they legally drive to your meeting place with a firearm in the vehicle? Some states allow you to transport a firearm in a locked case, separate from ammunition, in a part of the vehicle not easily accessible to the driver. Some require someone transporting a firearm to go DIRECTLY from home to the range, and back again, without making ANY other stops. This may make it difficult or illegal to have your practice gatherings on the same day as your social gatherings. Do your homework, and have everything worked out ahead of time.

Seriously consider locating a self-defense attorney in your area whom you can recommend to your members. Many self-defense attorneys will be sympathetic to our mission, and may be willing to give you a great deal of assistance. I have done this; such an attorney can inform you as to local ordinances, State laws, and other factors that can affect your chapter’s operation in that area. They sometimes are willing to give lectures or training sessions on self-defense law. This gets their business cards out to a number of people who may someday have great need for their services -- it gives them a captive audience of potential clients. They are also useful resources when you need to educate the local press on the legality of an issue. It’s all well and good to say “I’m not a lawyer, and I don’t play one on TV,” but having a sympathetic attorney to give a sound bite or two can make a very strong impression.

Decide on your chapter’s name. It should be descriptive of who you are and the area you serve. It could be as simple as “San Francisco Pink Pistols”, or more evocative of the local region, as in “Valley Of The Sun Pink Pistols,” or “Delaware Valley Pink Pistols.”

You want it to be memorable, simple, and representative. People in the Philadelphia metropolitan area know from the name that “Delaware Valley” means a certain geographical area in the general vicinity of Philadelphia, including some of southern New Jersey and northern Delaware. We get a fair percentage from the other side of the river in New Jersey, where the laws are extremely strict. It’s easier for them to come over into the Philly suburbs to practice, than to stay home and go to a closer, more local range.

Resist the temptation, however, to grab a very large area you cannot reasonably serve in your chapter name. We at one time allowed some chapters to take names that are far too broad, resulting in the impression that other chapters are not allowed to form in a very large area. Unless you can drive or otherwise travel to your chapter gatherings from anywhere in your state in a reasonable length of time -- New Hampshire or Rhode Island are good examples -- please do not name your chapter after your state. Nearly all states can easily support more than one chapter.

Once you have your name finalized, create for yourself some kind of web presence, so people can look you up and find information about your chapter. This can be as simple as a Facebook or Google+ page, an email mailing list, or a website. It is *not necessary* to buy a domain name and create a full-fledged website, but if you want to and can afford the expense, both financial and in terms of time commitment, feel free to do so. Put basic information on it, such as your meeting locations, dates, and times of your gatherings. Some web hosts allow you to build a professional-looking website very easily. A forum is a nice added touch, and a photo gallery can be very useful. But don’t feel that you must create such a site -- all you need is someplace your members and potential members can find out when and where you are meeting, and a way to contact the chapter, to ask for information or just to talk and answer questions.

Once you have this information in hand, contact Pink Pistols National (at the time of this writing, contact me, the First Speaker) and provide your chapter’s name, how many starting members you have, your expected service area, and an URL or email address for your web presence. Include the chapter founder’s contact information (just the individual who will be the contact person, not ALL of the founding members!), so we can contact you regarding press opportunities or other issues. *National will never give your private contact information to anyone, unless compelled to by a law-enforcement warrant.* If we get a press request in your area, we will contact you and pass on the contact information of the *reporter*, so you can decide whether or not to contact them yourself. Do not post your personal information on a publicly-accessible site -- send it in an email or direct message. The only contact information you should EVER publicly post is your web presence URL and/or an email address at which you want people to contact you.

At that point, National will update the “find a chapter” list on the pinkpistols.org website to include your new chapter.

Web? Email? Phone?

You need to have some sort of web presence, so potential members can find you. This can be as simple, or as fancy, as you wish. There are a couple of things you can do to make it easy for members to get in touch with you, yet insulate your personal accounts. Consider getting a GMail account, or if you have a web host, create a special email address associated with your chapter, and use that for “official” email. This is useful when:

Your personal email address isn’t memorable, such as XXSam008XX@(some email provider).com. If possible, get one that says (Chapter Name/Service area)@(some email provider).com -- “BartlettPinkPistols@(notarealprovider).com” can make it more intuitive and memorable for people trying to contact your chapter. Some providers even allow you to forward messages to your personal account -- but use care when replying, that you don’t reply from your personal address and reveal it. Gmail allows you to forward messages to another account, and to authorize that other account to send email using the chapter account email address.

There are also ways to set up a phone number for your chapter, such as Google Voice. This number can be set to ring your personal phone, and provides inexpensive voice mail and message transcription to email. I myself have such a number. I frequently get phone calls for information, or from the press, and the text of the message is sent to my email, where I will get it quickly. Don’t feel that you must do this -- it is simply a useful convenience.

Dealing With The Press

You very likely will, at some point, need to deal with the press. Frequently, you’ll first hear from some reporter doing a “news of the weird” style story. This reporter may not have ever heard of the organization before, and thinks it’s a goof, or something humorous, but in recent years, the word has gotten out that we’re serious. When you get a call from a reporter, you should look them up and, if possible, read some of their past articles. Get a feel for their reporting style and potential agenda. Are they stridently anti-gun? Are they stridently anti-GLBT? Or do they support one or the other or both?

Such press contacts, if sincere, can be a real boon to your chapter. Historically, we have had very few “hatchet pieces”, stories where the reporter seemed sympathetic during the interview, but later slanted their article so as to paint an unflattering portrait. I can count such articles on the fingers of one hand in over ten years of coverage. But it can happen, and can go great lengths toward avoiding such by doing your homework.

Dealing with the Government

Our primary concern is to serve our mission statement. That which distracts from the mission statement causes us to lose focus, and degrades our ability to serve our members and each other. So what serves our mission statement?

- Learning to shoot.
- Teaching others to shoot.
- Teaching the public who we are, what we do, and why.

But there's another class of activities that serve the mission statement: Changing laws that make it difficult or impossible for our members to function effectively. Anti-rights legislation that removes, restricts, or makes inaccessibly expensive the ability for citizens to handle or own firearms, knives, pepper spray, anything that might be a valid "arm", prevents us from doing our job.

The Pink Pistols is not a lobbying organization. But we do have a great many members of conscience, who are entirely within their rights to make their desires known to their elected officials. As we said in the "When Guns Aren't Legal" section, we must be free to use what IS legal until we can work to change the laws we feel infringe upon our rights. No law is "settled". Just because something is the "Law of the Land" doesn't mean it is never subject to review or challenge ever again. Any law can be changed. The opponents of the right to keep and bear arms have no compunction to challenge the laws that protect our rights -- why should we have compunctions when it comes to changing laws that degrade them? We currently have a decision from SCOTUS that supports the individual right to keep and bear arms -- DC v. Heller -- but a future court might someday revisit it and overturn it, setting us back into the days when the right to keep and bear arms was considered a "collective" right. We need to encourage and take actions to defend the laws that protect us, and challenge the laws that hurt us.

Pink Pistols National, while it does not lobby as an organization, does file amicus (friend of the Court) briefs on legal challenges to our rights. Continuing in the tradition of the Pink Pistols going back to the *Silviera v. Lockyer* case in California, we have been engaging in the practice of submitting amicus briefs in key court cases nationwide. We had an amicus brief in the landmark SCOTUS case *DC v. Heller*, which was mentioned in the *McDonald v. Chicago* case in a prominent footnote. Since the beginning of 2013, the Pink Pistols has submitted amicus briefs in three cases: *Shew v. Malloy* in Connecticut ("assault weapons" and magazine size restrictions), *New York State Rifle and Pistol Assn., Inc, et. al. v. Andrew M. Cuomo, et. al. (NY SAFE Act)*, and most recently, *Doe v. Wilmington Housing Authority* (Firearm possession in public housing). Costs for legal preparation, filing, and local representation have been donated, provided

pro bono, or otherwise covered. We will continue to so act in the best interests of the mission statement of the Pink Pistols in pursuing legislation that secure for the membership their rights in this regard.

The Ways to Crash-Land

In Robert A. Heinlein's book "Starship Troopers", he makes reference to the Federated Services' standing orders that result in the severest of punishments, including murder, desertion, and striking a superior officer in time of war. These rules had the smile-inducing nickname "The 31 Ways to Crash-Land", and were treated as the "never do these" rules of his military.

The Pink Pistols also has it's "Ways to Crash-Land", things we request **strongly** that chapters NOT do. This isn't because we're control freaks, they're all intended to maximize the effectiveness of the chapter to fulfill the mission statement while avoiding what Obi-Wan Kenobi called "Imperial entanglements". We don't have many such rules, but they are intended to prevent distractions, facilitate ease of operation, and avoid unfairly negative public perceptions. In chief, they are:

- Engaging in spam communications. Chapters shall NOT engage in what is generally considered unsolicited contacts such as mass email campaigns, fax campaigns, robocalling, or intruding on the privacy of others. If someone has requested association or inclusion in a mailing list, that is acceptable. "Mining" addresses from other, non-Pink Pistol sources to solicit membership or other involvement is unacceptable, as it may open up the organization to legal action under anti-spam legislation. It is also generally considered rude, and we do not wish to create unnecessarily negative impressions. If a chapter is engaging in this activity and is asked to stop by National, STOP. If you do not, your chapter may have the right to use the Pink Pistols name withdrawn.
- A current rule that MAY someday change (I hesitate to say it will never be done, necessity may warrant it in the future), is that the Pink Pistols does NOT use membership forms or collect dues. There are reasons for this -- the Pink Pistols is an ethical choice of a way of life, and individual choice and responsibility are its hallmarks. Gatekeeping via fees or applications infringe unnecessarily against individual ethical development. To put it bluntly, what we do not collect, a rogue agency cannot file suit to demand, and what we do not charge cannot be tracked or taxed. In addition, money is perennially tight, and we would rather our members keep their money, so they can buy a defensive tool, get training, and pay for any required permits, fees, refreshments at gatherings, or ammunition. All too often, we have seen pro-RKBA (and pro-GLBT) organizations that are in continuous membership-drive mode -- they get tables at shows and events, pushing membership to get initiation fees and dues, which are then spent on

more tables at events...lather, rinse, repeat. This process eventually replaces the actual mission of the organization, as it becomes a steady cycle of fund-seeking rather than focused action on the organization's original mission.

- Chapters must NOT engage in activities that OVERTLY promote violence against any specific individual, especially elected officials or celebrities. It is totally acceptable to use a "thug" target that depicts a generic attacker. It is NOT acceptable to use a target or effigy of a government employee or official. So NO Bush or Obama targets, no burning of recognizable effigies at events, etc. Such actions can call down the wrath of law enforcement or federal authorities such as the Secret Service, and can contribute to an impression of the Pink Pistols as "domestic terrorists". We are responsible, lawful individuals. We promote self-defense, not violence. If you have an event planned using a government figure as a target or effigy, you will be asked not to do so. Failure to do so can result in your chapter losing the right to use the Pink Pistols name, and may result in those responsible being reported to the appropriate agencies. **We do not do these things. Period.**
- Please keep chapter activities on the local level, within your service area to promote focus. If you have an issue or idea that is national in scope, please contact Pink Pistols National; we welcome ideas and people who wish to step forward and lead. We reserve the right to check with counsel on major activities.
- If we get reports that a chapter is acting such as to cause the organization to be seen in a grossly negative light, we will investigate this. Causing the public to see us negatively makes it impossible to effectively fulfill our mission statement. Build the group UP, don't tear it down!
- Do not violate the law, or incite or instruct persons to do so. This includes evasion of tax laws, violating election regulations, or to commit acts of overt violence or terrorism. If laws are being violated, we may be required by law to report it. We promote lawful actions only.

These are the bare-bones "Ways to Crash Land". We've tried to list those situations that have come up in the past and caused trouble. We wish to find commonality with other people, regardless of their orientation or politics. This list is not exhaustive, they can be changed at any time, but the information will be made available ahead of time and we will do our best to make *as few such rules as possible*.

Merchandising and Products

From time to time, chapters or chapter members have created products that promote the Pink Pistols. T-shirts, pins, coffee mugs, etc. have at one time or another been created and promoted to the membership and the general public. All National asks is that you let

us know what you're doing. We may help you promote it if we feel it is of exceptional value to the membership. We also need to know how our symbols and marks are being used, in case there is a conflict with law or the proper perception of the organization.

The Pink Pistols does NOT demand a portion of your profits. We may make requests in some circumstances (i.e., if you are offering training for sale, we may ask if you can give a discount to Pink Pistols members, or some other similar request), but I cannot recall an instance where a product was actually disallowed. We may not feel it is something we wish to endorse, but we don't typically prevent such things unless we perceive some serious negative impact upon the organization. (I, personally, am a free-market capitalist, though not all members are, and I believe people should be allowed to create wealth for themselves.) If a product or service is found to be detrimental, of poor quality, or breaks laws of any kind, we may ask you to rectify this, or you may lose the right to use Pink Pistols symbols and marks. Basically, give good value for value received, and you're golden. Don't rip people off.

To be on the safe side, let us know what you're doing. We don't want to stop you from doing anything that serves the mission statement, and won't.

Well That's About It

This document is a continuous work-in-progress, and will be edited and expanded from time to time. If you perceive an issue that you feel should be addressed, please contact me about it.

Good luck with your new chapter!

Respectfully Submitted,

Gwendolyn S. Patton

First Speaker, Pink Pistols National

Resources:

Pink Pistols National Website: <http://www.pinkpistols.org>

Pink Pistols Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2204691521/>

Pink Pistols Google+ Page:

<https://plus.google.com/u/0/b/107388892404429036625/107388892404429036625>

Pink Pistols Yahooogroup: <http://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/pinkpistols/info>

Gun Facts: <http://gunfacts.info/>

Gun Laws by State: <http://www.gunlawsbystate.com>

Knife Rights: <http://www.kniferights.org/>

Cane-Fu: <http://www.canemasters.com>

No-Nonsense Self-Defense: <http://www.nononsenseselfdefense.com/>

Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership: <http://jpfo.org/>

NRA-ILA: <http://www.nraila.org/>

Second Amendment Foundation: <http://saf.org/>