

# CRPA On The GO

by Kevin Small, CRPA Grassroots Specialist

## Grassroots Outreach - Outreach, Mobilize, Engage

CRPA sat down with Glen Caroline, Director of Grassroots Programs and Campaign Field Operations for the NRA-ILA, to discuss the importance of grassroots activism in the fight for our rights in California.

### CRPA:

**Coming out from DC doesn't happen every year, how historic is this meeting for the NRA especially being able to do it in Southern California?**

Glen Caroline:

I haven't been to California for NRA in many years so having the opportunity to get back out here was too good to be true for me. As you know, we did our Second Amendment Law Symposium today and tomorrow we are going to have what I think is going to be an important grassroots meeting with myself representing NRA headquarters, the CRPA, and the Members' Councils to talk about how we can collaborate more on the grassroots front to make a difference here in California. So I think anytime you

can have staff from headquarters get out and meet with the grassroots of California, it's a great opportunity and I'm glad I was able to do it.



### CRPA:

**Tell me about the investment that the NRA has in California and the potential of that investment collaborating with CRPA and the relationship that we have?**

Glen Caroline:

We raise and spend a lot of financial dollars here in California; what I hope to do as the Director of the NRA-ILA Grassroots Programs and Campaign Field Operations Division is to have that financial investment matched by an investment in grassroots resources. I know that CRPA and Members' Councils have volunteers all across the state, and we have a lot of new and emerging grassroots programs that I think we can collaborate on together. But I think since we have such a solid grassroots base of support, it's important for us to further harmonize our efforts and to make sure we take advantage of all the targets of opportunity we have in California because you know better than I just how challenging the environment is here and I think one way that we can help right the ship a little more is to more fully engage and coordinate our grassroots efforts.

### CRPA:

**Awesome, and that's probably included in this next question, but I did want to get more of a pointed answer. Just as far as with the NRA and CRPA working together, what are some of the specific things that you hope to accomplish in California, not just for the 2018 elections but for 2020?**

Glen Caroline:

I think the first thing I would like to see happen from a grassroots perspective is for me personally to get a better lay of the land of the different grassroots resources and programs you have been working on and then to share our best practices of things that we have learned over the years, particularly in the realm of grassroots organizing for campaign work and especially targeting our outreach to millennials on college campuses, because I think it's really important that we all make an investment in the next generation of grassroots activists. So specifically, my goal would be to find out what resources each organization has so we can make sure that each one of us is spending our time and our efforts in the area that we can get the best return on that investment.



**CRPA:**

**So, tomorrow you have the NRA Grassroots Summit where you will be speaking to some CRPA and Members' Councils volunteers ; looking forward, what are some words of encouragement that you can offer them in your speech tomorrow?**

Glen Caroline:

I think the main takeaway is, change takes some time to occur, but inevitably occurs in NRA's favor when people don't give up and they don't give in and I think by making incremental steps towards your end goal, that leads to bigger more cumulative victories. I know coming from Massachusetts it is difficult to stay energized and stay to stay focused when it seems like you are swimming against the tide, but we have seen in states across the country, we have seen in various election cycles, that when we harness our energy and our focus towards a common mission, we may not get everything we want all at once, but incrementally, we've seen that empowerment of the grassroots is the long term strategy for us to accomplish our mutual goals.

**CRPA:**

**Finally, there is obviously a stigma here in California where there are lots and lots of regulations; what would your message be to those people who have kind of turned away from the efforts and just committed to moving away?**

Glen Caroline:

I would say that sometimes in life the easy course of action is to at times take the path of least resistance and move locations to improve your lot, but I think the people of CA and NRA members and gun owners deserve a vested core of grassroots activists that aren't looking to move to another state that may be more friendly, but to make CA a more friendly state for gun owners who live in the state. It is a shame when restrictions on a constitutionally protected right is what drives people to seek different locations to live. So, I want good Californians who love their state, who have grown up here, who have moved here from other states, to really invest their time and energy in changing this state so it's a better place, not only for them to live as gun owners, but of equal if not more importance, for their children and their grandchildren moving ahead.

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