

October Legislative Report
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1. **Domestic Violence.** State lawmakers strengthened the laws by ordering that persons subject to domestic violence orders (there are three levels of such orders) can no longer possess a firearm. However, most experts in the field agree that these orders must be supplemented by the involvement of abuse prevention and local law enforcement staffs. Let's act as "first responders" when we know about potential/actual victims and make them aware of the "need of three (laws, abuse prevention and law enforcement staffs)".
2. **Constitutional Amendment-Right to Work.** Virginia has had a Right to Work Law since 1947. (union membership may not be a condition of employment). Supporters of this amendment say having this law in the State Constitution would make it harder for future legislators to change it. Others ask is this an appropriate reason for inclusion in our State Constitution?
3. **Legislative Privileges.** Virginia Supreme Court firmed up a privilege for legislators that allows General Assembly Members and some people who work with them to keep certain documents secret. Is this consistent with our efforts for more transparency in government? And should there be some reporting system which lets us know how frequently this privilege is being used?
4. **State Advocacy Legislative Objectives for 2017.** These will not be finalized until either December and/or January. In 2016 a work and save plan for employees at small employers without effective ways to save for retirement was given much attention as well as the State Ombudsmen Plan (providing extra help to those working in nursing/adult care homes). We may see these objectives again in 2017.