

The National Congress of Old West Shootists

6820 University Ave. PMB 234, Cedar Falls, IA 50613

(319) 277-6839 info@ncows.org http://www.ncows.org

The National Congress of Old West Shootists (NCOWS™) was founded in 1993 to promote the sport of Western Action Shooting™ and to preserve the heritage of the Old West, 1866-1899. To this end, our organizational goals are:

1. To conduct and sponsor family-oriented Western Action Shooting™ events and other activities appropriate to the Old West on national, regional, and local levels.

2. To strive for the highest level of historical authenticity in weapons, clothing, and accouterments while participating in NCOWS-sponsored activities.

3. To engage in historical investigation to enhance our overall level of authenticity and increase our knowledge of the Old West.

4. To actively promote a positive public image of Western Action Shooting in particular and of the safe and responsible use of firearms in general.

5. To establish a membership of like-minded individuals and Charter Clubs (NCOWS Posses) to help the sport of Western Action Shooting grow and



prosper. NCOWS now has numerous Posses nationwide and we also have members in several other countries. (For more information on forming an NCOWS Posse see any issue of *The Shootist* or log on to our Web site: <http://www.ncows.org>.)

The National Congress of Old West Shootists is a democratically-run non-profit corporation governed by a Board of Directors, the **Territorial Congress**, composed of fifteen **Territorial Senators**, elected by and from the entire membership, and any number of **Territorial Representatives**, one each elected by and from the **NCOWS Posses**. National officers are elected by and from within the **Territorial Congress**, and consist of the **Marshal** (President), **Deputy Marshal** (Vice President), **Secretary**, **Banker** (Treasurer), and **Judge** (Chief Range Officer). These officers, with the addition of the **Editor**, a **Senate Delegate** (elected by the Territorial Senators) and a **Representative Delegate** (elected by the Territorial Representatives), make up the **Executive Committee**, which oversees the day-to-day operations of NCOWS. NCOWS holds annual general membership business meetings (Conventions), one in February in conjunction with our annual Old West Show and Sale. We are a democratic organization, responsive and responsible to our membership as a whole. We invite you, your family, and your friends to join us.

The sport of Western Action Shooting is one of the fastest-growing shooting sports, both in popularity and in numbers of participants. It is a sport that



presents a positive public image of shooting and firearms. It appeals to anyone who has an interest in the Old West, and particularly to those who share an enthusiasm for the firearms, clothing, and accouterments of the period from the end of the Civil War to the turn of the century. Popular weapons for competition include the single-action and original double-action revolvers, lever action rifles, and period shotguns of the Old West as well as the single-shot rifle of the buffalo hunter and soldier.

NCOWS hosts an Annual National Shoot for a full week in the summer. In addition, a number of NCOWS specialty shoots are held over the year. Several NCOWS Posses host NCOWS Regional Shoots at various locations around the country, and, of course, the NCOWS Posses themselves run monthly and specialty shoots throughout the year. Specialty shoots include but are not limited to silhouette shoots and the increasingly-popular single-shot rifle "Buffalo" shoots. A complete schedule of NCOWS and NCOWS Posse events can be found in *The Shootist* and on the NCOWS Web site.



But NCOWS events are more than just shooting. They are a celebration of our Western heritage. They provide a time and place for coming together to share mutual enthusiasms for historic firearms, authentic costume, and the people and events that made up that unique, brief, exciting period we know as the Old West. Whether you shoot or not we believe you will find something to interest you in our organization. Of course we are primarily a shooting organization, and our primary focus is on shooting the traditional firearms associated with the Old West (1865-1899). Participation in NCOWS-sponsored events does require some basic minimums in terms of guns and clothing, which must all be historically authentic to the period of 1865-1899. Complete details on approved firearms, calibers, clothing, and accouterments will be found in the NCOWS *Tally Book*, free to all members, or at the NCOWS web site. Competition is in two main weapons divisions: **Black Powder** and **Smokeless**, each of which contains two classes, **Duelist** (one-hand revolver) and **Shootist** and further broken down for **Men and Women**. Other shooting categories are **Pistoleer** (black powder only, pre-1872 firearms), **Seniors**, (65 and older) **Elders**, (70 and older) **Working Cowboy** (1 revolver, 1 rifle), and **Junior** (12-17). The required degree of authenticity in weapons and clothing is the same for all divisions.

We freely admit that we're rather strict in adhering to a high level of historical authenticity for participation in our events. We believe that the enjoyment of everyone involved — participants and spectators — is increased by maintaining an authentic visual appearance at our events, and we pride ourselves as much on our "look" as on our skills with historic weapons.

