



Louisiana Open Carry Awareness League October 2013 Newsletter

Hello! Speedy Mercer here, your VP and Media Admin for the Louisiana Open Carry Awareness League welcoming you to another edition of the LOCAL newsletter!

- **Elections**

Nominations for officers are due in by the end of November guys! Elections are held at the December meetings which are just around the corner so, if you have anyone you want to nominate, now is the time to throw their hat into the ring! The official **LOCAL Officer Nomination 2013** thread can be found [HERE](#).

- **OC awareness activity**

We have been passing out our Tri-folded pamphlets like crazy this month! Steve can't fold the last batch he bought fast enough to keep up with demand! (That's why I pay out of my pocket to have them machine folded!) We have been posting pictures of them at their new locations both on Facebook and on our [Picasa Picture page](#).

LOCAL has purchased a full page ad in the [LSA's](#) newsletter! The ad can be seen [HERE](#). This ad will be seen by our core audience and was paid for by member donations. Thanks guys!

November Meetings:

The **Northwest** Chapter of LOCAL will meet at the Shreveport, LA IHOP at 8010 Youree Dr. at 6:30 pm on the first Wednesday of the month.

The **SELA** Chapter of LOCAL will meet at the LaPlace IHOP restaurant, 220 Belle Terre Blvd, LaPlace @ 6:30 the Second Wednesday of the month.

Florida Parish LOCAL meeting the 2nd Saturday of the month at the Grand Chinese Buffet, 1601 Washington St, Franklinton, LA at 6:30 pm.

Baton Rouge LOCAL Meet up will be the 3rd Wednesday of the month at the IHOP on College Dr. near I-10 @ 6:30 pm

Other meetings will be announced once the dates are firmed up...

- **Regional/Area Coordinators**

One of our members stepped up and is now our new **Northeast** Regional Coordinator... *Mr. Leonard Clark*, former NRA instructor and Hunter Education instructor who is currently working at the Caldwell Correctional Center in Columbia, LA.

Another member has stepped up to be our **Lake Charles** area Coordinator as well! Welcome and thanks to *Riley Belile* of Lake Charles! Riley writes: "I am a retired railroader. I am a former U. S. Army commissioned officer, O.C.S. 66'-69'. I began carrying openly in 1977, but switch primarily to concealed carry when I convinced the local Sheriff to grant me a permit. My concealed permit from the state is #35, so I was primed when the gate opened. I have been a member of the Southwest Rifle & Pistol for 20 something years, with a short period as secretary of the club. I have taught not only my six children to shoot, but have introduced shooting to many young people in my life."

Mr. Eric Hebert of **Lafayette** is our third member to accept the position of Area Coordinator! He writes: "My name is Eric Hebert, and I have lived in the Lafayette area most of my life. My hobbies include riding my Harley, and cooking for my friends. My career path has consisted of machining for the past 35 years. I have been open carrying consistently for 2 years, and have very frequently explained and educated others about this right.

I have discovered LOCAL on the internet, and have used their references to research and comprehend these laws for not only myself, but for others who question my reasoning for open carry. I have been honored by the request of becoming coordinator of this area not only because I love people, but also because I enjoy helping and educating. Under the best of my abilities, I shall uphold my role as coordinator of Lafayette, and I will contact everyone on my list and introduce myself accordingly.

Thank you for the opportunity.

Eric Hebert."

Congratulations to our new Coordinators and their Area members on their new Area Coordinators! They will be contacting their area members and arranging meetings and seeing what they can do to meet their member's needs in the coming weeks.

Speedy Mercer
League VP, President, Northwest Chapter of LOCAL
Shreveport, LA

- **From The President**

I want to apologize for this newsletter getting out so late this month. It has been a busy month but a productive one. I started the month by printing and folding 1300 of our tri-fold pamphlets. I ended the month with a second batch of 1750 pamphlets nearly gone.

Our members are stepping up as never before to help spread the message that the citizens of Louisiana have the legal right to openly carry firearms if they chose to do so. Still, there is much more work to do.

In the past week I've seen a forum post from an open carrier detained by a deputy while shopping at a Louisiana Wal-Mart. The deputy did not know Open Carry was legal and a second deputy had to inform him. When the deputy asked about the store policy the Wal-Mart manager stated that guns weren't allowed because there was no way to know if the OCer was planning to rob the store or not. The OCer in this case has contacted the Sheriff's Department and Wal-Mart Corporate and is seeking legal advice.

Around the same time in another city, a LOCAL member was told by a Shoney's restaurant manager that guns weren't allowed. Our member contacted corporate and then corresponded with the Area Manager who cited complaints by customers in his Mississippi restaurants after Open Carry became legal in that State. Our member arraigned for face to face meeting with the Area Manager at his restaurant to discuss the issue.

In both of these cases the Open Carriers acted responsibly and calmly. They left the scenes and then began working their way up the ladders of the agencies or businesses with phone calls and emails. No demonstrations or marches. No arrests.

Open Carriers are often accused of trying to create a scene or act out to attract attention. These two recent cases help prove that stereotype wrong. When you Open Carry you represent all gun owners to the public. Be safe. Be professional. Always be courteous. Lead by example.

Steve Raacke
LOCAL President

- **Treasurers Report**

Philip reports If you or your significant other uses Office Depot Discount card for personnel or business use, LOCAL will get a small rebate for any purchases made when we show the Store Purchase Program Card. This rebate is for ALL members and goes into the general fund.

NRA

*Freedom through
Strength*

**JOIN TODAY
SAVE \$10!**