



Louisiana Open Carry Awareness League January 2014 Newsletter

Upcoming Meetings:

The **Lafayette area** LOCAL meeting will be held on Tuesday, Feb 11, 2014 at Extreme Machine & Urethane 202 E. Angus Dr. Youngsville, LA 70592 at 6:30 pm.

Northwest area LOCAL is meeting Wednesday, Feb 5th at Southfield Grill, 1810 Benton Rd, Bossier at 6:30 pm.

Lake Charles area LOCAL meeting will be held on Monday the 10th at CiCi's Pizza, 3533 Ryan St, Lake Charles, LA at 5:30 pm.

CENLA area will meet Tuesday, Feb 11 at 5pm. At the Ryan's restaurant on Mac Arthur Dr. in Alexandria.

The **Southeast Chapter** of LOCAL will meet at the IHOP restaurant, 220 Belle Terre Blvd, LaPlace, at 6:30 pm on Wed, Feb. 12, 2014.

The **Baton Rouge area** LOCAL meeting will be on Wed, Feb. 19th at the IHOP restaurant on College Drive in Baton Rouge, La, at 6:30 pm.

More meetings will be announced as they are scheduled...

Coming Gun Shows:

Feb 8-9 Bossier City

Feb 15-16 Lafayette

Mar 15-16 Kenner

Mar 22-23 Bossier City

Mar 22-23 Gonzales

Elections:

At this month's meetings we will be electing Chapter officers. Please be thinking about who you want to elect to run your chapter. If you are happy with what you have, let your officers know and hopefully they will stay for another year!

New Forums site

We will be making the old forums Read-Only and transitioning to the [new forums](#) on **March 1** so please go to the [new forums](#) and set up your account there and go ahead and start posting there instead of on the old site.

Business Accountant needed for LOCAL

LOCAL registered as a nonprofit and began the process of filing for incorporation last year. Now its tax season and we need a professional who can tell us what we need to do and to handle whatever tax filings we need to do as a corporation. So we are hoping that LOCAL has an accountant who is familiar with handling the needs of a nonprofit, 501c4 corporation in its ranks. Surly we have to have at least one member who makes a living doing these sorts of taxes and would be willing to take us on as a client. If so, I urge you to contact LOCAL at cpa@laopencarry.org so that we can make sure we stay legal in the eye of the IRS.

All Politics are Local.

As the following article from the Capital City News shows, we have some important choices to make this year with regards to local/State politics. Now is the time each of us should be looking for information about those in office and the ones seeking to take their places. LOCAL encourages all of its members to be politically aware and active. The choices we make at the local and state levels have a major impact on our rights, often more so than national elections.

Voters Face Important Choices in 2014

Landrieu, Maness, Cassidy Seeking Louisiana Seat in Senate This Fall

BATON ROUGE — Politics will dominate much of the news during 2014 as the nation goes to the polls in a number of important elections. Louisiana will be in the spotlight because one of the most important races will be for the U. S. Senate seat currently being held by Sen. Mary Landrieu. Landrieu is considered one of the most vulnerable Senate Democrats because of her support for Obamacare and a host of liberal causes and her close ties to President Obama.

Landrieu is being challenged in Louisiana's Nov. 4 open primary by Congressman Bill Cassidy of Baton Rouge and Col. Rob Maness, USAF (ret.). Cassidy is a practicing physician. Maness retired

from the Air Force, where he was a B-1 Bomber pilot and commander of a B-1 Bomber Squadron. During Desert Storm, he flew bombing missions from Barksdale AFB to the Mideast.

Both Cassidy and Maness are Republicans.
A runoff if necessary will be Dec. 6.

Here in the 6th Congressional District, Cassidy's seat is up for grabs.

The candidates include Paul Dietzel II, Sen. Dan Claitor, and Cassie Felder, all Republicans. Dietzel is the founder of an internet company called Anedot. He is the grandson of the late Paul Dietzel, who coached LSU's 1958 National Championship team.

Claitor is an attorney and two-term state senator.

Felder is a practicing attorney.

Also on the ballot this fall will be all of the district, family, and juvenile court judges from the 19th Judicial District. Rumors are floating around about which incumbent judges will have opponents, including these:

- Metro Councilman Trae Welch is expected to run against District Judge Mike Erwin.
- District Judge Mike Caldwell could have opposition.
- District Judge Trudy White could draw two opponents, Gideon Carter and Alfred Williams.
- District Judge Kay Bates has two possible opponents.
- 1st Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Duke Welch is up for reelection, and he reportedly has a possible opponent.

Area school boards will be up for reelection this fall. These include members of the East Baton Rouge and Central school boards. Qualifying for the fall elections is Aug. 20-22, 2014.

LSA Newsletter, Annual Meeting and Guests

Louisiana Shooting Association is this States' largest gun rights organization. It puts out a quarterly newsletter which goes out to 3110 people in the LSA database, all who are interested in guns, shooting and liberty.

Late last year LOCAL members donated over \$100 and bought a full page ad in the upcoming LSA Quarterly newsletter. This is one positive way we can reach out to the pro-gun community and spread our message.

The 2014 Annual Meeting of Members and Elections will be held on Sunday, 16 February 2014 at Cabela's, 2200 W. Cabela's Parkway, Gonzales, LA in the upstairs meeting rooms. Cabela's opens at 9:00 AM, and LSA will begin to admit members to the meeting at 9:30 AM. They hope to be done with the meeting by 1:00 PM. You will be allowed to renew or join the LSA at the meeting.

LSA has announced that U.S. Senator and Gubernatorial Candidate David Vitter will be their esteemed guest and they will also honor State Rep. Jeff Thompson as the recipient of the 2014 Louisiana Shooting Association Legislative Excellence Award.

You can learn more about La Shooting Association by visiting their website at:
<http://www.louisianashooting.com/>

If you are able to make it to Cabela's on February 16 and want to join LSA please attend the meeting. LOCAL President Steve Raacke, an LSA member, will be attending as always and would love to meet you there.

Exercise Your Rights But Be Prepared To Defend Yourself Legally After An Arrest

LOCAL exists to educate the public about the right to legally bear arms in Louisiana and to support those rights. We want people to exercise their rights. That said, we don't live in a perfect world and those of us who have made the decision to Open Carry need to be aware of the realities and be prepared to face them.

I'm not talking about the urban legend of being the first one shot if a robber walks into the Quickie Mart or having your gun snatched out of your holster and used against you.

I mean you need to be aware of the threat of arrest and incarceration while open carrying.

Recently an email was sent to LOCAL asking for help finding a pro-gun lawyer from a 24 year old husband and father of two who was an active member of his local volunteer fire department and otherwise upstanding community citizen. He was shopping in his local Walmart store and was open carrying as many of us do. Most of us are aware that Walmart has a corporate policy to follow state laws regarding guns in their stores and this has made it a popular place to practice the right to openly bear arms. So it was for this young man.

Yet, while shopping in the Houma Walmart sporting department this OCer was approached from behind by a Houma police officer who was assigned to work an extra duty detail at that store. The officer ordered the OCer to "Put your hands on the counter" and disarmed the OCer before cuffing him. The OCer was upset and let the officer know. Instead of invoking his right to remain silent he argued with the officer, threatened to sue and let a few curse words fly. This was all used against him and he was charged with a felony and several misdemeanors including Intimidation of an Officer and Disturbing the Peace and Refusing to Leave/Trespass even though he was never previously told to leave the store or that he could not carry there. He had to pay a bail bondsman \$2500 to get out of jail. That's more than two grand out of his pocket that he won't get back. Also, his personal life has been affected with loss of work, stress on his marriage and even a suspension from his volunteer fire department duties.

After he contacted LOCAL we put him in contact with Morgan Allison, a pro-gun lawyer in Morgan City. Morgan took the case after a payment plan was set up. At his arraignment the OCer found out that the DA had dropped the felony charge but he was still facing the misdemeanor charges. If he can't beat those his chances of a successful civil suit are almost zero according to his lawyer. His trial is set for March. We will be following it closely.

This person was like many of us. He works hard and lives paycheck to paycheck. He has a nice family and is active in his community. He was doing nothing wrong and was not in a gun free zone. Yet in a matter of a few minutes his world spun 180 degrees and he became a criminal. He didn't have a plan to handle getting detained or arrested and had to go looking for a lawyer after the fact and after he had lost his cool which helped the officer pile charges on him.

This isn't the first time we have seen this. We have had the assault upon a OCer in Whole Foods in New Orleans by a NOPD officer and the arrest of an OCer in Monroe who was charged with trespass in a place where guns were not banned and no employee had asked him to leave. We have heard from citizens who have been arrested and jailed for having openly carried guns when asking police officers for directions and we have heard from OCer who were told to leave Walmart with their guns on and were then arrested in the store parking lots.

Just this week there was a report of a person arrested while openly carrying while waiting for some girls to come out of a bar/strip club. He was in the parking lot and the police officer walking the girls out saw his gun and arrested him for RS 14:95.5 "Possession of firearm on premises of alcoholic beverage outlet". This person was also slammed with a \$25000 bond by the judge. This OCer was clearly in violation of 14:95.5 and the judge intends to make an example of him.

Know your rights but also know where the law says your rights don't exist. Know when to be silent and have the number of a pro-gun lawyer who you have already established a professional relationship with. Don't dig yourself into a deeper hole than your lawyer can get you out of.

Gun Talk host Tom Gresham has said, "Owning and carrying a gun needs to be looked at as if it were a 2nd or part time job. It's not just strapping it onto your belt in a holster and walking out the door. You must practice with it. You must learn the laws and know them backwards and forward. You must know a lawyer who you can call any time of the day or night if you are forced to defend yourself or if you are arrested for exercising your right to carry. You must stay informed about gun laws and the fight to protect your rights."

Setting yourself up for an arrest by carrying in the parking lot of an alcohol beverage establishment is silly. You should know better and if not you should at least have the number of a lawyer who can get you out of jail or get the charges reduced so you don't go broke trying to pay the bondsman. You should know not to argue with and cuss the officer who cuffs you in the middle of the store. You never win the fight on the side of the road. Be calm, ask for a supervisor and explain your rights but then invoke your right to shut the heck up. Make your lawyer's job as easy as possible.

Be safe. Carry Responsibly.

President's Prose

Again this month I take time out to apologize to our members for this newsletter coming out so late. As is typical in a volunteer organization, life seems to take priority sometimes and other tasks, like getting this newsletter put together, seem to get pushed back.

This month began roughly for me with the death of my spouse, Tena. We were together for 15 years and her death on Jan 2 was tough on me. As I was getting though that I was faced with extra work issues when the "Artic Vortex" weather systems began hitting us I sure hope February is a better month. It seems to be shaping up to be a good month for LOCAL. We have several new members and there are meetings planned across the state again. We have lots of pamphlets and other items printed and ready to hand out. We have merchandise for sale at our online Zazzle and Cafe Press stores. We have 2574 people who have "LIKEd" our Facebook page. Our other social media sites are active too and we regularly receive emails from people just learning about us and their rights to bear arms.

There is a lot of good information in this issue of the newsletter. Please read through it and give us your feedback.

Thanks, Steve Raacke, LOCAL President

From the VP:

Man, have I been busy! We have been making a TON of behind the scenes changes in the programming of the web sites. We are now fully on our new hosting service and off of the host we shared with a group we no longer wish to associate ourselves with. This also gives us MUCH more control over our data and fate at almost exactly the same cost!

I have modified our site to use Server Side Includes (SHTML) so that we don't have replicated code all over the place to try and manage. Now I can change the Headers, Footers, Menus and Sidebar of ALL our web pages from single points. This is a HUGE time saver and makes us much more flexible.

We are having issues with access to our data and an inability to customize our Forums on the free service we have been using and our new hosting service offers free forums that we control 100% at no extra charge so we are migrating toward this. The new forums are up and running at <http://laopencarry.org/forum> so please check them out! You WILL have to re-register as we can't port over the users from the old site. We are not able to get our old posts from the old forum either due to a lack of access to the databases on the old service. The plan is to keep the old site up as an archive and make it read-only. This way we lose nothing. I have also modified the site to email me whenever a new user registers so that I can set up their access to the member areas if they are LOCAL members.

You may have noticed the NRA banners and links on our sites. We are now NRA recruiters and able to offer NRA memberships at our meetings and from our web sites. We will receive a small commission from each member signed up from the links on our sites or at our meetings.

If you have a suggestion for the websites, please email me at webmaster@laopencarry.org with your suggestion/addition and we will see what we can do!

Speedy Mercer
League VP and Webmaster, President, Northwest Chapter
Shreveport, LA

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