



## Louisiana Open Carry Awareness League August 2014 Newsletter

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### Upcoming Meetings:

The **Lake Charles** group will meet Monday, August 4th at 5:30 pm. at Ci-Ci's on Ryan in St. Lake Charles.

The **Northwest** area LOCAL is meeting Wednesday, August 6 at Southfield Grill, 1810 Benton Rd, Bossier at 6:30 pm.

**NOTE:** *I haven't heard from any of our meeting organizers yet this month. When I hear from them, I will post their meeting dates, times and locations.*

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### Upcoming Gun Shows

**Gonzales** - August 2 & 3, Lamar Dixon Expo Center

**Lafayette** - August 9 & 10, Lafayette Event Center

**Kenner** - August 16 & 17, Pontchartrain Center

**Houma** - August 23 & 24, Houma-Terrebonne Civic Center

**Bossier** - August 30 & 31, Bossier Civic Center

**Chalmette** - August 30 & 31, Fredric J Sigur Civic Center

**Note** - *This is the first gun show in St Bernard Parish since Katrina.*

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### We need a few New Orleans members to work proposed event!

If you live in the Greater New Orleans area and would like to volunteer to work a booth at a joint LOCAL and another Self Defense Organization for a one day event, **PLEASE** contact [VP Speedy Mercer](#) **ASAP** so we can firm this up. It will mean BIG things for LOCAL and our mission!

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## **LEO threatens to arrest people legally OCing or selling guns legally.**

In July a Law Enforcement Officer came by our table at a gun show. He heard us informing people that "If you are 18yo or older, not prohibited from buying or owning a pistol, you may carry it openly in La with certain restrictions such as bars, government buildings, school zones, etc..." This officer, who was off duty, in plain clothes and was with his girlfriend or wife, pulled out his badge and proclaimed that we were going to get people arrested because if he caught anyone under 21yo with a gun they were going to jail and if he found out who sold it, the seller was going to jail too. We asked what statute he was going use to arrest someone legally selling or carrying a gun. Of course he insisted that he could arrest for unlawful carry or sales but could not cite any local or state law. Well, here at LOCAL we have an unwritten rule. "If you say it, you should be able to cite it."

## **Here is what the law says about carrying a gun under the age of 21.**

Source - <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=78747>

### **RS 14:95.8 - Illegal possession of a handgun by a juvenile**

*"It is unlawful for any person who has not attained the age of seventeen years knowingly to possess any handgun on his person. Any person possessing any handgun in violation of this Section commits the offense of illegal possession of a handgun by a juvenile."*

Also see - <http://legis.la.gov/lss/lss.asp?doc=78703>

### **RS 14:91 - Unlawful sales of weapons to minors**

*"Unlawful sales of weapons to minors is the selling or otherwise delivering for value of any firearm or other instrumentality customarily used as a dangerous weapon to any person under the age of eighteen. Lack of knowledge of the minor's age shall not be a defense."*

The laws listed above are what we use to explain to people the legal right for a person to conduct a private sale of a firearm to someone under the age of 21 and for some over 18 to buy that weapon and to carry it on his person.

A person under 21yo cannot buy a handgun from a licensed dealer due to federal reporting laws at the point of sale. But a person over 18yo can buy a handgun from a private sale or be gifted one by a friend or family member.

Keep in mind that when we argued this with the LEO at our table he got extremely agitated and upset that we had bucked his view of the universe. His girlfriend/wife saw how unhinged he was becoming and, thanking us for our time, ushered him further down the aisle.

Remember this if you are young and are openly carrying. You may be arrested and have to defend yourself in court from these types of charges. Know your rights. Research the laws in your area and have a professional relationship with a knowledgeable, gun friendly defense attorney who can take your case should you be caught up in this sort of drama.

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## **Yes, Open Carry Is Legal But They Don't Want You To Know**

While sitting at a gun show table recently we had a Law Enforcement Officer stop by. He looked through a pamphlet and we gave him a quick greeting and asked him if he and his fellow officers

were actually aware that Open Carry was legal in Louisiana.

The LEO replied that he knew that OC is legal and most of his fellow officers were up to speed on it but there was just one problem with what we were doing. He said that he didn't want the general public to know that Open Carry is a valid carry option. He told us that he and his fellow LEOs were concerned that if the word got out then "everyone" would start open carrying. This would make their job harder because they would not know who the bad guys were and who the good guys were when "everyone" is openly carrying a firearm.

This argument is silly. Open Carry has been legal for more than 200 years in Louisiana. "Everyone" could have already been OCing if they had chosen to do so. The fact is, very few gun owners ever practice Open Carry and very few ever will no matter how well we go about informing the general public. Some will try it for a short time and give up. Some may do it on a rare occasion. The number of people who openly carry on a daily basis is tiny and will probably always be a small fraction of the gun owning public.

This officer and others like him don't want you to know your rights. They don't want you to exercise your rights. Be informed. Educate yourself. Get training and practice. Don't let those who see themselves in charge keep you in the dark.

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## Reports from the Slidell and Ponchatoula Gun Shows



As you may or may not know, LOCAL has had tables manned at two gun shows in July. The first was in Slidell on July 12 and 13. We had a good two days there and were welcomed by the event organizers and several of the vendors there. To see a report and photos from this show check out this thread in the LOCAL discussion forum - <http://laopencarry.org/forum/viewtopic.php?f=15&t=124>

LOCAL was also at the Ponchatoula show on July 19 and 20. The attendance was low but we gave out lots of pamphlets and networked with more businesses to get our pamphlet displays into several locations. A report of the Ponchatoula show can be found in our discussion forum at -

<http://laopencarry.org/forum/viewtopic.php?f=15&t=132>

LOCAL will have a table at the **Gonzales** gun show on **August 2 and 3**. We will have a thread in the discussion forum after the event and will mention it in our September newsletter. So stay tuned for details.

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### **Addressing Lack Of Attendance At LOCAL Meetings**

Last month LOCAL got a question via our online contact form asking us "Are LOCAL members required to attend meetings?" The answer is, No. You pay your dues and participate as much or as little as you wish.

In the past few months we have seen a dramatic drop-off in meeting attendance. From Shreveport to Lafayette, from Baton Rouge to Covington, some meetings are consisting of only one LOCAL member or none at all.

There has been talk for a while about how to grow membership as well as attendance at meetings. We have a thread in our discussion forum where we are asking for LOCAL members to give us their input. What can we do for you and what are you willing to do to help. Give us your feedback at - <http://laopencarry.org/forum/viewtopic.php?f=18&t=129>

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### **No OC in Opelousas?**

Recently on an Open Carry discussion forum a post was made stating...

"I was at a gas station this morning in Op. I was approached by an officer asking if I had a concealed permit. I asked why because I thought La was an OC state. He stated yes but the City of Opelousas is not. I showed him my permit and he asked if I would just cover my weapon while I was in city limits. He was very polite about it all. So if you are in this city, be aware."

So far nobody has been able to confirm that there is an ordinance in Opelousas and the person who was told this has made a phone call to the City Hall there and states that he was given an ordinance number which he was unable to write down at the time.

So far we are unable to verify this ordinance or even if it is constitutional. Keep in mind that Louisiana only has partial Preemption of gun laws and any local or parish ordinances on the books before July 1985 are grandfathered in.

Cite - RS 40:1796 - <http://legis.la.gov/lss/lss.asp?doc=97860>

If you know anything about this ordinance in Opelousas please let us know. If possible please cite the statute number and quote the wording or provide a link to it for our use. Thank you.

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## Open Carry is Legal? Since When?

People often ask us, "How long has Open Carry been legal in La?" The answer is, since at least the mid-19th Century.

"In *State v. Chandler*, 5 La. Ann. 489, 490 (1850), the Louisiana Supreme Court held that citizens had a right to carry arms openly: 'This is the right guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States, and which is calculated to incite men to a manly and noble defense of themselves, if necessary, and of their country, without any tendency to secret advantages and unmanly assassinations.'"

Cite - <http://www.guncite.com/court/state/5la489.html>

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## Only Police Are Allowed To Open Carry? Nope.

Have you ever had someone tell you that only Police Officers can carry firearms openly? Well, it's not true and there is case law to back it up. "The carrying of an unconcealed weapon is not a special privilege or advantage enjoyed by a police officer. Each citizen is guaranteed the right to keep and bear arms not concealed on his person."

## State v. Nelson, 367 So.2d 317 (1979)

Cite - [http://www.leagle.com/decision/1979684367So2d317\\_1606.xml/STATE%20v.%20NELSON](http://www.leagle.com/decision/1979684367So2d317_1606.xml/STATE%20v.%20NELSON)

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## Training coming up this month.

LOCAL Founding Member Brannon LeBouef will be hosting a NRA Basic Pistol Instructor Course at his New **St Bernard Indoor Shooting Range** in Arabi, La on Aug 2 and 3. Details are on Facebook at -

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1437019153249759/>

Our friends over at **Hard Corps Tactical** are offering a Women's' Only Self Defense class at the Southern Shooters indoor range in Alexandria on Sunday August 10. Details at -

<https://www.facebook.com/events/246629892203538/>

**Hard Corps Tactical** will also have a Basic Pistol course which meets the requirements for the La Conceal Handgun Permit at the Green Gables General Store in Pineville on Sunday August 17.

More info at - <https://www.facebook.com/events/901579223191769/>

Our supporters at **Kuyper Consulting** are offering a CHP class at The Grand Church in Kinder, La on Saturday, Aug 30. These guys are top notch and offer other classes such as CPR and First Aid and we appreciate them telling their students about LOCAL during classes. Learn more about this class at - <https://www.facebook.com/events/258974604277907/>

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## Requested changes made to LOCAL sites

We had a few requests to change the default [Forum](#) page to the index page instead of the Portal page. We also noticed that when referencing LOCAL's sites in [Facebook](#), the NRA logo instead of LOCAL's logo was being presented. Both of these issues have been fixed.

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