



*Open Carry is Legal
in Louisiana!*



Louisiana Open Carry Awareness League December 2014 Newsletter

Upcoming Meetings:

The **Lake Charles** group will meet at CiCi's pizza, Ryan St., Lake Charles at 5:30p, Monday, December 8. The **Northwest** area is now holding meetings by request. Contact us if you would like to meet up.

**For the most up to date list of meetings dates and times please see our website at <http://laopencarry.org>*

NOTE: *When I hear from our area representatives I will post their meeting dates, times and locations.*

Gun shows

Dec 6 & 7 - **Ponchatoula** - Ponchatoula Lions Club

Dec 6 & 7 - **Bossier City** - Bossier Civic Center

Dec 13 & 14 - **Lafayette** - Lafayette Event Center

Dec 20 & 21 - **Kenner** - Pontchartrain Center

Rifle Reports...

The Lake Charles group will meet at CiCi's pizza, Ryan St., Lake Charles at 5:30p, Monday 8 December. Besides more apologies, we will discuss various new laws & any observations made by the group. I will have tri-folds to pass out as well as the information on the local lawyer who has agreed to be our representative.

I attended the Lake Charles gun show 15-16 Nov. and passed out tri-folds to folks standing in line. I also set up a tri-fold holder on the table at the entrance to the gun show & observed lots of men pick them up. I passed out over 50 tri-folds & was happy to see them disappear from the holder. Nolan was at the gun show also passing out our tri-folds.

I have had several conversations with the public around Lake Charles as I go about my shopping, all with positive results. I have been observed by both city Policemen & Sheriff Deputies, without so much as a raised eyebrow. life is good.

Riley



Gonzales Gun Show AAR

On the weekend of November 22 and 23 LOCAL President Steve Raacke manned the LOCAL table at the Gonzales gun and knife show. The crowd was steady over the weekend but, according to the dealers there not many people were buying. Lots of interested people stopped by the LOCAL table and asked questions about the right to open carry. A good percentage did not know that open carry was legal and that no permit or license is needed to exercise this right. As we have had happen at past shows, there were some negative comments such as one gentleman who stopped by to tell us that by telling people to open carry we were going to get it outlawed. Others stated that they conceal carry but were too nervous to openly carry their firearms due to fear of being harassed by law enforcement.

Often our table seemed to confuse people who stopped by. Everyone who stopped by our table was greeted and received a rehearsed "elevator speech" describing our organization and our mission:

L: "Hello. We are Louisiana Open Carry Awareness League, a gun rights group formed in 2009 to educate the public about the right to openly carry their firearm in public in our state. If you are 18 years or older, not a criminal and can legally own a firearm you can legally carry that firearm in most public places in Louisiana. "

Several people, after hearing our greeting, would pat a pocket and say: "No thanks. I already have mine."

L: "Have your what? LOCAL membership?"

G: "I already have my permit."

L: "There is no permit to open carry in this state."

G: "Oh, wait. What?"

L: "There is no permit required to openly carry your firearm in Louisiana, sir."

G: "I mean I have my conceal carry permit. I already took the class. "

L: "That's nice sir but we aren't talking about conceal carrying your firearm. We are talking about exercising your constitutional right to carry your gun openly."

G: "So that is what your class is about?"

L: "We don't offer a class. We offer information so that you can learn about your right to carry."

G: "So I still need a permit to carry my gun, right? Where do you teach your classes?"

L: "Again, Sir, we are not a conceal carry class or instructors. We aren't offering courses. We are a gun rights organization focused on informing the public that Open Carry is legal in Louisiana and advocating for those who wish to carry in this manner."

After a couple minutes of going in circles they would flip through a pamphlet and walk away still wondering if they needed to sign up with us to take some sort of class.

There are many uninformed gun owners who regularly attend gun shows and in addition to finding some who don't know open carry is legal you sometimes run into some who don't know even the basics that many of us take for granted. I asked one person looking at our handouts if he was a NRA member yet and if not he could join the NRA through LOCAL, get a discounted NRA membership and a free LOCAL membership. He stared for a second and said:

G: "What's the NRA?"

L: "The National Rifle Association. You know, one of the reasons you can walk around here looking at all of the nice guns you want to buy."

G: "Uh..." (crickets)

L: "Have a nice day, Sir."



LOCAL is an NRA Recruiter

Speaking of the NRA, you do know that LOCAL's Area Reps can sign you up to be a NRA Member at a reduced rate don't you? You can also sign up on-line for that same reduced rate at our web site here:

<http://laopencarry.org>

Another one for the Heard At The Gun Show file...

A guy was looking at a revolver on a nearby table and asked the dealer, "The tag says this is a 44 Special. What makes it special? Is it because of the shiny chrome finish on it?"

The dealer answered, "No, Sir. That's the caliber of ammo it fires. 44 Special. "

Seriously, there were about four of us who overheard this and nearly fell over. These uninformed and untrained gun owners make up a sizable segment of the gun show audience and we need to continue to reach out to them and help educate and guide them if possible.

LOCAL will have a table at the next gun show in Gonzales. LOCAL President Raacke will be there January 24 and 25. Additionally, other LOCAL members have expressed interest in manning a table at shows in Slidell and Mandeville. If so, 2015 will be a busy year for LOCAL's public outreach. Stay tuned for more details in the near future.

Unconstitutional Ban On Open Carry in Abbeville To be Removed?

As reported in our April 2014 newsletter, LOCAL member Brandon LeBlanc has been working to get an ordinance banning Open Carry removed from the books in the City of Abbeville. Brandon spoke before the City Council and even put up a petition to have the ordinance, which was enacted after statewide preemption went into effect, struck down.

Progress has been slow and Brandon met constant resistance to his efforts. He was told by the city attorney that the ordinance would most likely be ruled unconstitutional if anyone was arrested for it but it would be left in place. The attorney stated that he would advise the police Chief not to make any arrests under this law. This wasn't enough for Brandon and he contacted local media outlet KATC and told them about the problems he was having. The story producer interviewed Brandon and even contacted LOCAL for more information. We were glad to help. The story aired in mid-November and can be seen at: <http://www.katc.com/news/carrying-a-gun-is-illegal-in-some-acadiana-cities/>

Also mentioned in the story is the illegal ban on Open Carry being enforced by the city of Opelousas which we covered in detail in our October 2014 Newsletter. Brannon has worked hard to pressure the elected officials in his city to do the right thing and he is getting results. He tells us that due to the media involvement the City Council is considering removing the ordinance when it meets in January. You can still help Brandon with this effort so that the City of Abbeville doesn't think the pressure is off of them. His petition has less than half of the 1000 signatures he was hoping for. Go to: <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/578/160/022/demand-the-city-of-abbeville-to-remove-ordinance-13-21-illegal-possession-of-a-firearm/> and sign the petition now. If you are in the Abbeville area please consider attending the City Council meeting in January and supporting the constitutional right to open carry in Abbeville.

Founding Member Brannon LeBouef Talks Training on NOLA.com

In a story posted to NOLA.com LOCAL founding member Brannon LeBouef talks about the importance of getting training when considering purchasing a firearm. The article at http://www.nola.com/crime/index.ssf/2014/11/self-defense_series_is_getting.html clearly states that Open Carry is legal in Louisiana and discusses how a firearm isn't the answer to every problem. LeBouef served as a Marine and Law Enforcement officer and is now the owner of the new Saint Bernard Indoor Shooting Center as well as NOLATAC Firearms Training. The article states: "Pulling the trigger and shooting someone is a just small part of the picture. You've got about 49 percent that happens before you pull that trigger and about 51 percent that happens after you pull that trigger" he said. He says the 49 percent is making good decisions, such as avoiding conflict, not going into places you shouldn't be and doing things you shouldn't be doing. Once the trigger is pulled, he says, the other 51 percent is the legal and emotional aftermath. "Even though you may be 100 percent justified and you had to do it to save your life you still shot another person and that's something

that we're all going to deal with in different ways" LeBouef said.

To read the article and the video that is included please click on the link above. As you already know, LOCAL has always encouraged our members to seek out training and to learn as much as possible regarding legally carrying a gun. We recommend classes like the ones taught by Brannon and others who are experienced and can help you better understand and overcome the risks you may encounter when carrying.



RAC Law Firm, Pre-Paid Legal Protection For Armed Citizens

In the September 2014 issue of our LOCAL Newsletter we discussed the importance of protecting yourself by having a plan to handle the legal consequences of an armed encounter and introduced you to the Armed Citizen Legal Defense Network. The ACLDN plan offers its members the money needed to defend against an arrest after a use of force encounter. You find a pro-gun lawyer who is either part of the network or not and, if you are arrested, the ACLDN can help pay the cost of defending you in court.

While the ACLDN is a great plan, some of our members may want another option. So this month we want to let you know about the Ray, Alexander & Craig, LLC or RAC Law Firm. The RAC Law Firm was established by three Baton Rouge area attorneys who are each strongly pro-gun as well as being experienced criminal defense lawyers. While they each have their own independent law firms, they combined forces to offer a membership plan which would offer up to \$100,000 in legal services to members after a self defense shooting. Membership is about \$150 a year and members get a emergency phone number which can be called 24/7 for emergency legal representation. You can call for legal questions about guns too. This plan is basically a retainer with three skilled Baton Rouge attorneys who will work to keep you out of prison. Learn more about the RAC Law Firm and what it has to offer by going to: <http://racuslaw.com>. Be sure to check out the Bio page to learn about the attorneys behind this legal assistance plan.

Many firearms instructors will tell you that the gun fight is only the first fight you will be involved in if you have to use your gun in a self defense situation. The second fight will most certainly be a legal fight. You could easily loose your home, your job and even your marriage. It happens more often than you may think. You need to consider who you are going to call when you are standing in what will soon be a crime scene. The time to be looking for a lawyer isn't after the cops show up and start asking you questions. The time is **now**.

To help you find a pro-gun attorney LOCAL has put together a list of lawyers who you may want to look at. We have over 20 lawyers listed at: <http://laopencarry.org/forum/viewtopic.php?f=37&t=10>. We are always looking for more to add to this list. If you are a civil or criminal defense attorney in Louisiana please contact us with your information and we will add you to our list.

Remember To Vote on December 6th.

It's almost over. The runoff election between Democrat Mary Landrieu and Republican Bill Cassidy is less than a week away. In November the Republicans took control of the Senate and this runoff election, if Cassidy wins, will solidify their position. Many of our members supported Rob Mannes in the Primary and he got a respectable

14% of the vote when the ballots were counted. Since then he has endorsed Cassidy and the polls look good for Cassidy to win the runoff. Of course, we have to do our part and show up to the polls. Cassidy claims to be against any restrictions on gun owners, treaties with the UN or in favor of judges like Sonia Sotomayor or Elena Kagan. Cassidy has an "A" rating from the NRA where Landrieu has a "D" for her support of the Obama/Bloomberg gun control agenda. On Saturday, December 6, go to the polls, hold your nose one more time and let's pull the lever for the lesser of two evils again.

Please Join LOCAL Today

Since 2009 LOCAL has been informing the public about the right to Open Carry in Louisiana as well as advocating for more gun rights. We have done this with the generous help of our members and supporters. Their donations allow us to keep our website up. The gun show tables and pamphlets we pass out are paid for from the dues our members send in as well as additional donations. We are a small group but we want to be able to do more. We need members who can help us. If you are reading this newsletter and have not yet joined LOCAL please take a minute to go to: <http://www.laopencarry.org/> and click on the Join/Donate tab on the top line just under the State Flag. You can join online or print out a copy of the membership application and mail it in. Annual LOCAL memberships cost only \$10. Are you an NRA member yet? If not we have a better deal. Click the **Join Here** button on the NRA box on our webpage and sign up for a 1 year NRA membership for only \$25 and we will throw in a 1 year membership to LOCAL for free. Joining LOCAL won't put you on any mailing lists. You will only receive monthly newsletter announcements or other important email alerts from us as they become necessary.

Thank you to our President Steve Raacke for getting most of the data for this month's newsletter together!

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