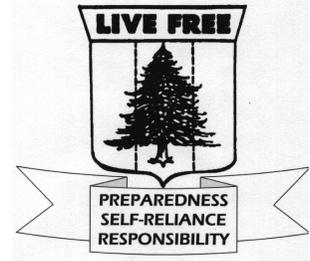


LIVE FREE REPORT

Spring & Summer 2012

LIVE FREE USA, P.O. BOX 3295, MUNSTER, IN 46321

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LIVE FREE USA 43RD ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

The 43rd Annual Meeting of Live Free USA was convened at Cabela's Conference Center in Hammond Indiana at 1:00 PM on Saturday March 24th. The organization's president delivered a short speech on the history and mission of Live Free USA followed by a State of the Organization report to the members. The financial report stated that the starting balance January 2011 was \$2,643.45 and ending balance December 2012 was \$4,167.32. Live Free income in 2012 totaled \$9,176.87 against \$7,653.00 expenses. Membership dues accounted for about 50% of the income with book sales and event contributions accounting for most of the remainder. **Contributions accounted for less than 5%.** Printing and postage were the biggest expense, followed by books, advertising and training programs. There are 5 well-developed chapters, 3 chapters in organization and 3 more proposed at this date.

Membership Service Awards for 2012 were presented to: Mark Smith, Lisa Kujawa, Tim Powers and John Boch. These awards were for outstanding organizing, recruiting and educational program achievements. One amendment to the bylaws was passed. This limits officers to 5 consecutive terms in any office starting with the 2013 election.

Officers Elected for the 2012 through March 2013

- | | |
|--|--|
| •/ President: James C. Jones | •/ Membership Secretary:
Larry Chisausky |
| •/ Vice President: John Boch | •/ Fund Raising Director: Lisa
Kujawa |
| •/ Treasurer: Marie Jones | •/ Publications Director: NO
NOMINATIONS |
| •/ Recording Secretary: Mark Smith | •/ Directors at Large: Brian
Clay, Brian Duffie, Tim
Powers, Richard Rock |
| •/ Training Director: NO
NOMINATIONS | |
| •/ Safety & Security Director: Joshua
Goines | |
| •/ Public Relations Director: NO
NOMINATIONS | |

The election of some new and younger officers into key positions provides the potential for the organization to survive and grow into the future as founding officers retire. The fact that three key directorships remained open will continue to limit some programs and burden the elected officers and staff. It is the duty of each officer to build a team and designate Deputy Directors. **The Board of Directors can designate "provisional" officers to fill the vacant offices if and when qualified candidates are presented.**

2012 Summation

2011 was a very good year for Live Free, USA., a continuation of the growth that started in 2009. That growth was based on the continued efforts of the original small Core Group. Now we are building that core group with new, younger members. In the past three years we have tripled our membership, increased our activities, doubled our funds and developed more dedicated leaders and instructors. You all can be proud of what you have accomplished.

- / We still need to fill all of the offices with active Directors and Deputy Directors. Those Directors need to take the initiative in building teams and launching programs that support the Live Free mission.
- / We still need to expand our organization through chapter support initiatives, and regional training events
- / We need to continue to improve our Internet visibility, publications and videos.

But we are moving forward and helping responsible Americans towards greater preparedness, self-reliance and freedoms. You are doing that!

Where must we go from here?

1. Live Free USA is the only not-for-profit, tax deductible, non political organization dedicated to helping people declare independence and self-reliance in a very dependent and unprepared society.
2. Economic deterioration, terrorism, declining energy sources, declining water supplies, climate changes, food shortages, multiple epidemic diseases, natural disasters, growing criminal gangs, and many more real and obvious dangers are wolves at the door of civilization.
3. Against these dangers we see the cuts in police and fire protection, over stretched medical support, deteriorating infrastructure, a highly dependent and vulnerable transportation system and total dependence on fragile electronic equipment and networks. All while the population and its needs explode.
4. The tipping point where the resources and support systems can sustain this number of people at this level of security and comfort has passed. Very bad things are going to happen to a very unprepared generation. We have seen the first tremors in the past 10-years. There will be ups and downs, but the downs will be more and more sever. **The ups must be used wisely to prepare and organize and learn and build self-reliance.**

CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT

While individual membership and national organization development remain important, the future of Live Free USA depends on the development

and support of a network of effective local and regional chapters and affiliated groups. The cost of fuel will increasingly limit the range of large events like Camp Independence. In the event of a general collapse or other large-scale emergency only local (e.g. town, county) groups will be able to effectively provide mutual support. The main objective of conducting local and regional preparedness seminars and fairs is to strengthen the survival environment and build close self-reliance communities within the area. These groups can then network with adjoining areas as needed. **The success of these groups depends completely on the existence of one or more aggressive, creative and determined leaders.** Ultimately, Live Free can only provide support and contacts for these leaders. Usually such leaders already have a few associates and families ready to form the core of a new chapter. When that is the case we usually are able to build rapidly. Well-developed chapters start to establish bylaws, designate formal officers and schedule programs. Most do some fundraising and/or have dues to support operations. In some cases the Live Free “chapter” is a self-reliance and preparedness subgroup of an existing organization.

World and national conditions (economically, politically, environmentally) will continue to degrade and time is running out for building self-reliance. **Survival is now a “main stream” public concern.** Open programs receive considerable public support and participation when offered. This is the time (maybe the only time) to recruit and organized with confidence and haste. Depending on virtual organizations and internet networks for real survival and real self-reliance is suicidal. Real leaders, real organization of real face-to-face people will be the only thing that will provide real safety and real freedom in the future.

GET READY FOR 2012 PREPAREDNESS MONTH PROGRAMS

September is National Preparedness Month. This is a key opportunity for Live Free members and chapters to put on public service emergency preparedness seminars and fairs. **Last year Live Free chapters sponsored five events that helped their communities while increasing support and membership for local Live Free organizations.** Early scheduling of these events for September 2012 will allow Live Free to maximize publicity and promotion of the programs. Setting dates, establishing locations* and lining up exhibitors and speakers early is vital to success. **Lets have even more and better programs this September!**

**Live Free used, county parks, Cabala’s stores, sports and fraternal organization halls and public libraries in 2011.*

The Camp Independence Phenomenon

The annual survival and self-reliance gathering that we now know as Camp Independence started with 6 people going out Tippecanoe River State Park in Indiana in December of 1968. The event has adapted and changed over the years. Peaking in the early 1980s with massive national news coverage and

declining in the (everything is safe) 1990s. The event started growing again throughout the early 21st Century. The event held this May filled the camp facilities to capacity and strained the volunteer staff and food providers. There were more classes, more families, more children and more costs than ever before. While we are delighted with the success, we face some challenges for next year. The park is not going to build any more cabins. We will reserve the entire facility for May of 2013, but we need to consider ways to provide these services to the growing membership and public. A few options are:

- / Limit cabin availability to chapter members
- / Increase cabin rent to reflect our costs (\$20.00 per cabin)
- / Schedule a spring and a fall Camp Independence at Tippecanoe. This would require a whole separate planning staff for each event.
- / Conduct a second Camp Independence type event at a state park in Southern Indiana later in the year. This could serve Southern Indiana and Illinois, Kentucky and Ohio.

We need input and offers of help to implement the last two options.

SHOW ME THE MONEY!! Please

The Live Free dues in the 1980s were \$20.00 per year. That's right, we have not raised them in about 25-years. We have no plans to increase our dues in the near future, but we do need to pay our bills and keep expanding our programs. Dues alone will never cover our costs. The sales of books, DVDs and logo items have managed to close the gaps for a while. As we grow, we are planning to expand our DVD and logo item sales to all members and chapters via mail order and the website store. In addition, we may have the volume to negotiate deals with survival supplies to give discounts to members and a small percentage to Live Free. **We have no grants or major sponsors, so any contributions are much needed.**

SPECIAL RENEWAL OFFER!!

Renew or Extend Your Current Membership With This Coupon And We Will Add Two Free Months To A One Year Renewal And 6 Free Months To A Three Year Membership Renewal

DON'T WAIT! OFFER EXPIRES August 1st 2012

Name: _____, E-mail: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

Renew for: 1-year for \$20.00 [] 3-years for \$50:00 []

Contribution: \$_____ Total Enclosed \$ _____
