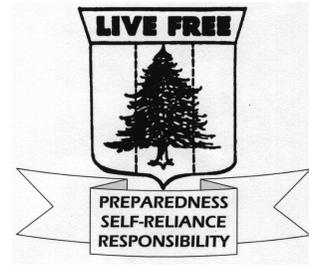


LIVE FREE REPORT

Summer 2011

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ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

This years annual meeting was conducted at the Cabela's Conference Center in Hammond Indiana on March 20th. While the organization is over 40-years old, we did not have official "annual meetings" every year, so this would be about the 30th Annual Meeting. Jim Jones made the annual "State of Live Free" report. He stated that great progress has been made in the past year. **Membership has tripled and we have multiple chapters throughout the region that are already active or in the formation process. In 2009 we were only able to run one activity on any weekend, but in 2010 we often had two or even three activities going on in different areas on the same weekend.** National membership is also increasing with possible chapters forming in 2012. Special recognition was given to the "Old Guard" core group of active members who's loyalty held the organization together through some very tough and lean times. The 2010 Members Service Awards" were awarded to Gary Dunlap and Lisa Kujawa. These two members took the initiative to organize chapters and set up monthly survival and self-reliance education programs in their localities. They have recruited dozens of new members and supported the Live Free mission with exemplary energy and devotion. Jim stated that our rate of growth is increasing almost daily and will soon overload our small volunteer staff. The challenge for 2011-12 will be to continue to improve our programs, publications and activities with a much greater number of members and chapters to support. He expressed the hope that many of the new members just becoming active will become officers, Deputy Directors or action team members in the next six to twelve months. The election of officers was conducted at the end of the meeting. There were several offices for which there were no nominations. This puts additional tasks on the existing officers and will impact our progress if not filled. **Open offices can be filled by the elected officers (Board of Directors) between elections.** The results of the election are as follows.

President: James C. Jones
Vice President: Tim Powers
Treasurer: Marie Jones
Recording Secretary: No Nominations
Membership Secretary: Nick Carlson

Fund Raising Director: Lisa Kujawa
Public Relations Director: Paul Arnswald
Training Director: No Nominations
Publications Director: No Nominations
Safety 7 Security Director: Brian Duffie

The meeting was followed by an Outdoor Safety and Survival Class that drew in a big crowd of non-members. This program began with the posting of the colors and pledge of allegiance conducted by the local Cub Scout troop. Many of the participants purchased books and/or joined Live Free. We also had interest in forming new chapters from three different areas.

More Help Needed!

As you organization grows our existing officers and volunteers become overloaded and programs and publications can begin to falter just when we need to be improving. **The elected officers need to energetically build teams and designate Deputy Directors now to spread the work and establish future leaders.** New members with skills need to consider filling the open officers positions or becoming Deputy Directors for various duties. Below are listed just a few of the areas where we could use help.

Websit Manager	Youth Program Coordinator
Newsletter Editor	Social Media Coordinator
Deputy Training Directors	Online (website) Store Manager
Camp Independence Manager (2012 >)	Medical Support Team Coordinator
Instructor Development Manager	Keeper of the Flags

Preparedness Month Programs Planned

We have requested that all chapters conduct at least one emergency preparedness workshop or seminar that will be open to the public during September. These events should be held at an accessible location such as a public library, legion halls or conference centers. Often these facilities are available to not-for-profit organizations (Live Free is) free of charge. Each chapter should take advantage of publicity through local newspapers that often publish “community calendar” listings. Flyers should also be printed for distribution at gun shows, fairs and other locations. If locally available speakers are not sufficient, Live Free can provide limited support from adjoining chapters. Your chapter may want to consider selling survival and self-reliance related books and other items at your events to support your chapters further programs. **If the location, time, date and titles of the program can be established before July 15th, Live Free will be able to publicize the events with combined ads, news releases and flyers.** The Live Free NW Indiana Chapter has reserved the Cabela’s Hammond Indiana Conference Center for Saturday September 17th for a Citizens Awareness and Preparedness program. There will be a follow up program there on Sunday November 6th.

Instructor Registration and Certification

In order to meet the increasing need for survival and preparedness related education throughout the region, Live Free is expanding its certification and recognition programs. Our objective is to establish a secure database of qualified instructors on a wide variety of survival and self-reliance related subjects. **This list would not be published, but would be used to refer instructors to organizations requesting their help.** Live Free USA membership is not required for participation at this time. To participate:

- / Provide documentation of related certifications such as military certificates, NRA certifications, etc.
- / Provide documentation of having instructed related classes for community organizations, schools, fraternal organizations, etc.
- / Conduct two or more related classes at Live Free chapter meetings and/or regional events.
- / Any combinations of the above.
- / Then fill out the Instructors Data Questionnaire *

In order to encourage maximum participation we are waving the registration fee (normally \$20.00) and we will send the instructors certification brassard free to the first ten who register. We have also simplified the registration form to one page. We hope that this program will be a service to the communities and concerned organizations throughout the region. Request forms from lifnow@aol.com or from your chapter leader.

Chapter / Affiliated Organization

Live Free USA has reached a point where we are too big and spread out to have just centralized activities. In many areas we have enough members to form the core of active chapters that can better serve members in a small geographic area. **While we continue to develop our national organization and a few major events, our focus will be on organizing and supporting local groups.** These groups will be able to have more frequent meetings and activities while building local preparedness and self-reliance capacities. There will be minimal requirements and no chapter dues at this time.

Each chapter is required to:

1. Have at least 3 paid LF members
2. Have a designated Chapter leader and Deputy Chapter leader (LF Members) with contact information provided to Live Free USA.
3. Conduct at least one public education program in their region each year.
4. Conduct at least on training event open to all LF members each year.
5. Conduct at least one open meeting (LF members and guests) each year
6. Conduct all activities legally, responsibly and in accordance with the Live Free, USA mission statement.

Live Free USA would support the chapters by:

1. Refer new members

2. Conduct periodic combined events
3. Provide publicity and website contacts
4. Publicizing activities in the newsletters and flyers
5. Provide literature instructors and speakers.
6. Coordinating combined programs that benefit all members and chapters
7. Establishing discount programs and multi-chapter purchases when possible.

Contact us about joining a chapter near you or helping to organize a new chapter in your area.

Winter Operations

It is not too early to start planning winter survival training operations for 2011-12. Winter survival training is critical for the testing and development of year-round survival techniques. Last years events in Illinois and Indiana were significantly impacted by impending driving conditions. While we welcome cold and snow for these programs, we will not put participants in danger driving in blizzard conditions or ice roads. **Therefore all plans must provide for advanced registrations and phone system for last-minute changes or cancelations.** At this point we can anticipate an outdoor (tent) camp in Will County IL in December and a cabin based program at Tippecanoe River State Park in February 2012, but this could change.

Live Free Flag Contest

We are accepting design ideas for a new Live Free flag. Our original flags are outdated. We would like to have a new (official) flag before the next annual meeting. There is no prize for the winner, just the honor of being the designer of your organizations official flag.

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