



## LIVE FREE USA ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

March 23rd, 2014, Cabela's Conference Center, Hammond Indian

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:08 PM
2. The pledge of allegiance was made
3. Jim Jones thanked everyone for attending and noted that some had driven a considerable distance to attend. All northern Indian and Illinois chapters were represented and most officers were in attendance.
4. Jim Jones delivered the **"State of Live Free USA Report"**. The following is a synopsis of that report.
  1. Financial Report in brief: We started 2013 with \$3,809.19 and ended with \$6,032.89 having spent over \$8,000.00 during the year for mission related events and equipment. The major income sources were: memberships 34%, book sales 32% and training events 26%. Only 2% was from contributions. Major expenses were: printing and postage 26%, book purchase (for resale) 18%, Advertising 17% and facilities rental 10%. Further expenses were for a website upgrade and a new public address system.
  2. Membership decreased slightly on the hardcopy mailing list but increased significantly on the on-line membership side. Jim Jones encouraged people to join on-line to get access to download and other benefits of the new site. It was also noted that we now offer "Life Membership" for \$250.00 and have had some takers.
  3. John Boch Live Free's VP and the President of Guns Save Lives took the floor to discuss some initiatives and proposals. John reported on the cooperative programs between GSL and LFUSA including the special "Live Free" preparedness information editions of the GSL newsletter that is mailed to thousands of GS and LFUSA members throughout the region. He brought packages of these publications for attending chapter leaders to take back to their areas for distribution. **It was proposed that LFUSA chapters sponsor "hybrid" GSL/LFUSA events in there areas where both groups would provide speakers. Gun rights are an important element of preparedness and such events should help both organizations in thier missions.** Jim

Jones encouraged everyone to support GSL and to consider sponsoring these events THIS YEAR.

Many in attendance had questions for John regarding Indiana/Illinois concealed carries issues. This only emphasized the value of having these cross-state and multi group activities

John also reported that there would be another **Preparedness Expo in Clinton Illinois this summer**. This is great event and cooperative effort between The DeWitt County Sportsman's Club, Guns Save Lives and Live Free USA. It is an excellent example of what can (and should) be done even with limited resources when we work together. Flyers and a firm date should be available very soon.

4. Jim Jones reported that Live Free USA has 6 active chapters that meet frequently and hold public events. We have another 4 chapters that meet less frequently and one chapter that is currently inactive. We also have two new chapters forming. Jim noted that it is critically important that any group/chapter have at least two leaders, clear long-term goals and consistently scheduled meetings and activities. **Knowing that it is hard to line up monthly programs, he suggested that adjoining area chapters develop a schedule of monthly events (meetings, trips, camps, classes, etc.) that would be shared and alternated so that a Live Free member would have a number of alternative events within driving distance, but no chapter would have to do more than 3 or 4 events per year.** The chapter leaders were encouraged to meet after adjournment to work on this plan.
5. The new website allows members to apply for instructor certification on-line. Currently we depend on documentation and/or observed teaching to support applications. We plan to augment the program by issuing cards that specify the areas in which the instructor is qualified and requiring affidavit or pledge of responsibility. Annual reports may be required as well. A certification fee may be charged starting in 2015.
6. Camp Independence 2014 was discussed. Current reservations and registrations are behind 2013. This may be because of the weather concerns. Lisa Kujawa reported that the Amish will send prepared food again, but we will need help to heat and serve it. She also reported that we had lots of items for the raffle, but requested that each chapter should contribute items. Jim Jones noted that we had many good classes on schedule this year, but no one was yet available to set up the night rescue, parole program. The Safety and Security Team may coordinate this event. The Medical Team will meet to set up a program for Camp Independence and maybe some follow up events while Larry Chisausky recovers from his recent illness. **Live Free will gladly provide any supplies that anyone needs for training at this event or other chapter programs.**  
Cabela's has recently contributed eight training bows that can be used for archery training at Camp Independence and by chapters at their gatherings.

7. Live Free is working to conduct a "Preparedness and Self-Reliance Expo" in this region. While we would like to do a full two-day event at a county fairgrounds facility we would need more funds and support than we now have. **We must set dates and secure facilities and speakers very soon for an event in October.** If we cannot get enough support and investors to do a "traditional" expo, we may do one in cooperation with Green Farms Aquaponics in Valparaiso. This would combine emergency preparedness with sustainable living alternatives on a free indoor/outdoor facility. Green Farms would provide the site and significant support. A finale decision needs to be made by April 6<sup>th</sup>. **WE NEED INVOLVMENT, SUPPOR AND INPUT NOW!**
8. The new website is based on the Word Press system. Chapter leaders and officers should be able to use it more effectively to post blogs, post events and other functions. Leaders requested reestablishment of access and some Word Press information. This should be done with the next few weeks. It was suggested that here are ways to use thw Word Press system to actively contact member. This will be investigated also.
9. **Miscellaneous Issues:**
  - It was requested that meetings at Cablea,s be scheduled for 1:30 PM instead of 1:00 PM for those who have further to drive
  - Jim Jones reported that we have again lost our newsletter editor and need to look for a new editor. We also need more articles contributed; proofreaders and we have a full page of ad space that could help pay for printing costs. Note: American Survivor is the oldest, continuously published survival and preparedness publication in the US.
  - Live Fee has done 7 "Radio Live Free" podcasts and three podcast interviews for Dr. Prepper and the Preparedness Radio Network. We expect all of these to be available soon and links will be added to the Live Free / AmericanSurvivor.org site. Once they are up we will resume interviews using FreeConferenceCallHD.com and we welcome volunteers to be interviewed.
10. The future of Live Free USA: Jim noted that there are some significant bequests' available to the organization and several dozen life membership obligations. **These require the perpetuation of an active, incorporated, tax-deductable organization well beyond the lifespan of many senior members.** The organization has assets and a well-established reputation and foundation to be preserved. Most importantly, our mission\* is vital to the future. We have a three-year term limit that started in 2013 so many officers will need to be replaced in the next few years to assure continuity. **Younger members should consider becoming Directors or Deputy Directors in the near future. Officer's duties are clearly established in the By-Laws.** We need self-motivated active officers who initiate programs.

### **This ends the “State of Live Free” report**

5. **Membership Service Awards** were given to Larry Chisausky, Mark Brake, Dave Pappas, Lisa Pappas, Steve Lemons, Beth Duensing, and John Boch. It was noted that many others have made outstanding efforts in the past year as well.
6. There were no amendments, proposals or resolutions from the floor
7. **The following officers were nominated and elected.**
  - President: Jim Jones
  - Vice President: John Boch
  - Recording Secretary: Mark Smith
  - Membership Secretary: Beth Duensing
  - Training Director: Larry Chisausky
  - Fund Raising Director (in absentia): Nick Carlson
  - Safety and Security Director: Dave Pappas
  - Directors at Large: Richard Rock, Tim Powers, Jerry Buis, Brian Clay, Mark Brake, Lisa Kujawa.
  - NOTE: There were no nominations for Publications Director or Public Relations Director. These may be filled by the board if nominees become available.
8. There were no further issues and the **meeting adjourned**

*\* A definition of the mission statement was defined as “To advocate, educate, and facilitate the practices of family emergency preparedness, self-reliance, sustainable living and survival to protect the future of life and freedom for future generations of Americans.*

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