

# LSA QUARTERLY



The Louisiana Shooting Association

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### Louisiana Gun Culture Paul Angrisano

I was recently given the opportunity to travel to Europe and one of the highlights of the trip was a private tour of the Heckler & Koch Germany production factory. The tour was amazing and served to reinforce my belief that HK makes some of the best guns on the planet, but more than that, it afforded me the opportunity to speak with some "gun guys" from another culture. As we traveled around we met people from all over the world and I started to make it a point to ask people what they thought about guns. I left the question as open ended as possible and I got a variety of answers.

Some very nice folks from Japan who had never held a real gun said there wasn't a street in Tokyo you couldn't safely walk and they didn't need a gun. They looked at my party like we were crazy to live in the US when we said there were entire sections of most major cities you wouldn't want to drive through, much less walk through. Australians and New Zealanders were likely to own a rifle and hunt. The French folks I met thought the US was still the Wild West. Although I understand there is a bit of shooting in France but it is kept under heavy regulation. Germans were very enthusiastic but their opportunity to shoot and shooting sports are vastly different from our own. For example, they are limited to five rounds in pistol competitions. That is after they have proven they are 25 years old (under 25 requires a psyche evaluation), are trustworthy, personally adequate, have expert knowledge, and a necessity for ownership. Self defense is not considered a necessity.

If you get a chance to go to Oktoberfest, it is a great time. The food was delicious, the beer like none I'd had before – but I kissed my safe when I got home.

I knew before I left that Louisiana has a gun culture like very few places but that experience made me really reflect on what we have here. I've traveled around the US and found places with very few or no guns and places with gun cultures similar to our own. Texas and Arizona spring to mind, but never before has the term "Sportman's Paradise" rung so true. If you hunt or fish you already know we have some of the best hunting and fishing in the world. If you are a sport shooter however, you might not have realized the same thing applies.

Within an easy drive of most metro areas, there is a shooting sport event every single weekend. High Power, USPSA, ICORE, Rimfire, F-Class, Sporting Clays etc ad nauseum. We have it all at our fingertips. Jump on the LSA website, Louisianashooting.com, or Bayoushooter.com and you can find out what you can shoot and where. There are calendars and forums dedicated to competition and training classes.

Speaking of shooting classes, we have a cultivated an environment that draws world class firearms teachers to our area as well. Tiger Mckee, Kyle Lamb, Louis Awerbuck, Tom Givens, Max Michel, Todd Louis Green and more have all recently taught classes in southern Louisiana with more to come. They range from Tiger Mckee in December of 2012 for Carbine and Scott Reitz of LAPD fame in October of 2013 for handgun and shotgun with many more in between. These gentlemen are the best in their fields teaching self defense techniques, mindset, competition and more. I remember a time when I had to travel to places like Thunder Ranch to get that level of training and it is now available in our backyard on a regular basis. If you have never taken a class, it is an eye opening experience. I've been to more than my fair share now and I've yet to meet a first timer that didn't get a tremendous amount out of two days on the range with a professional of this stature. We are even seeing some local companies offering top shelf classes as well as bringing in instructors like The Advantage Group and VATA.

When you consider that here in Louisiana we have fewer restrictions and more opportunity than most other places on this planet you are really doing yourself a disservice if you don't go pick up a gun and find game to hunt, a sport to shoot, or shooting class to take. There is no shortage of arms or opportunity, especially with the internet. We have a world class gun culture right here at home.

### Links to help find places to go shoot-

Louisianashooting.com Bayoushooter.com

### Nationally recognized Firearms trainers that frequent Louisiana

Tiger Mckee - Shootrite.com
Tom Givens - Rangemaster.com
Louis Awerbuck - yfainc.com
Kyle Lamb - Vtac.com
Max Michel - maxmichel.com

### **Local Firearms Training organizations**

The Advantage Group - http://unitytactical.com VATA www.vatatrainingcenter.com/

### **Meet your Board of Directors**

Over the next couple of issues we will feature a short biography of each member on the Louisiana Shooting Association Board of Directors.

### Daniel E. Zelenka, II, President

Originally elected to the Board in 2007, Dan served as Treasurer then was elected President in 2009. His current term expires in 2013.

Dan was born in New Orleans, Louisiana in 1960, and became enamored with guns at an early age. He received his first rifle, a Remington .22 LR for Christmas when he was 10 years old, and started hunting small game the following year. Dan hunted mostly deer and small game in Louisiana and Mississippi until he graduated Louisiana State University in 1982. The following fall, Dan went to Montana on an elk hunt and has been an enthusiastic big game hunter ever since, hunting in a number of states as well as Canada, Mexico and South Africa.

Dan graduated from Loyola University School of Law in 1986, serving on the Law Review, and thereafter becoming law clerk to then Chief Justice John Dixon of the Louisiana Supreme Court. After his clerkship ended, Dan entered private practice in which he continues until today. In October 1998, the City of New Orleans filed suit against gun manufacturers and dealers. This provided the impetus for Dan to become active in supporting the right to keep and bear



arms. Dan assisted in drafting the amendments to the products liability and state preemption laws that killed the New Orleans suit. He continues to work for our gun rights, drafting and revising bills and testifying for or against them as is appropriate.

In addition to hunting, Dan is an active competitive rifle shooter earning the Distinguished Rifleman Badge in 2007 and making the President's 100 with a service rifle in 2009, 2010 and 2011 at the National High Power Rifle Matches at Camp Perry. Dan holds High Master classifications in Across-the-Course, Mid-Range, and Long Range high power rifle competition. Desiring to pass on his love for shooting to future generations, Dan resurrected the Louisiana Junior High Power Rifle Program, which he directs and coaches.

#### Jay D. Hunt, Ph.D., Treasurer

Originally elected to the Board in 2009, Jay's current term expires 2015.

Although Jay was born in Texas in 1962 and lived in many places (Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, and Lyon, France), in his heart he has always been a Louisiana boy. Jay's mother was born and raised in Pointe Coupee Parish and Jay spent all of his free time hunting and fishing in Louisiana with his Uncles, even when he lived out of the state. Jay paid his way through the University of Tennessee at Martin by working his family's soy bean farm in Pointe Coupee Parish. Jay would take the Spring quarter off each



year to help with planting, and then return to school for the Summer quarter. After completing his B.S. in General Biology, Jay went to the University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center in Memphis to complete his Ph.D. in Molecular Biology while doing his research at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. After completing his degree, Jay worked at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine for four years in the Department of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics before returning to Louisiana in 1994 to become a member of the faculty of LSU Health Sciences Center School of Medicine in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. Jay left LSUHSC in 2005, and currently works in Global Medical Affairs for Millennium Pharmaceuticals.

Jay has been a private pilot since 1992, although his busy schedule rarely yields time to stay current. Jay is Director of the Across-the-Course High Power Rifle program at the Palo Alto Rifle and Pistol Club, he is a member of the Board of Directors of Southeast Louisiana Firearms Safety, Inc., which operates the Honey Island Shooting Range, he is an avid big game hunter, and loves to fly fish out west when his schedule permits.

### Kendall Comeaux, Vice-President

Originally elected to the board in 2000, Ken's current term expires in 2014.

Ken is a Life member of the LSA. He has lived and worked in Lafayette Parish all of his life, retiring from the U.S. Postal Service and then working at Lowe's for a several years before retiring completely.

Ken's fascination with firearms goes back to his childhood, although his folks would not indulge his interest. Therefore, when he came of legal age for purchasing a handgun, he bought a Colt Woodsman. After he taught himself how to shoot, he became interested in Bullseye Pistol competition, as he had visions of the Olympic podium in his head. Ken thought that Bullseye competion would be a great place to start, although soon the local and regional matches became a thing of the past and he had to look elsewhere for some type of pistol competition. After trying his hand at IPSC-type matches, he realized that shooting at static targets from a static position was more to his liking. He transitioned to Handgun Silhouette and traveled far and wide to shoot until he finally tired of all the travel.

Ken had always had a secondary fascination with rifle shooting. After meeting up with a cousin who told him of the High Power rifle matches in which he previously had competed in at the St. Bernard R&P Club, they decided to go to a match sponsored by the Southwest Gun Club of McComb, MS. These match were shot at a range near Amite, LA, which has subsequently been closed due to the encroachment of houses. There, they handed Ken am M1 Garand rifle, showed him how to load it and adjust the sights, gave him some M2 ball ammunition, and squadded him on the firing line. He shot a 405 of a possible 500 and ticked off his cousin. The basics he learned shooting pistols all those years prior to this time made transitioning to a rifle a little bit easier. He qualified as a Distinguished Rifleman in 1992 with the M1A rifle and DCM-issued ammunition (the DCM was the forerunner to today's CMP).

Today, Ken kids himself that he is just picky about what and when he shoots, but the truth is he has gotten a little lazy and just does not have the financial resources he used to have. He does miss it and will probably start saving his pennies to build an F-class rifle for next year.

Ken is currently the chairman of the Friends of the NRA committee in Lafayette and also serves on the state funding committee for that organization. In Ken's opinion, this is the best of the NRA programs because fifty percent of the money raised stays in Louisiana to help groups begin and perpetuate local shooting programs. If your organization needs some help with funding your program, or if you want to start a new one, this should be your first stop for funding.

### Paul J. Prokop, Esq., Secretary

Originally elected to the board in 2009, Paul's current term expires in 2015.

Born in Massachusetts in 1947, Paul became an Eagle Scout and worked as a short order cook, waiter, golf caddy, Boy Scout camp counselor, morning newspaper delivery boy and commercial diver in Alaska. Following graduation from the US Coast Guard Academy in 1969, he served for 32 years on active duty with the USCG. Career highlights included 12 maritime bulk drug seizures during his last at sea command and command of the first Coast Guard expeditionary force to report to Saudi Arabia in response to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August, 1990.



Along the way, Paul earned a law degree from George

Washington University (J.D.) and a Master of Laws degree from Georgetown University (LL.M.).

Retiring in 1998, he owns and operates Kenner Kourier Service, Inc., a warehousing and delivery company in New Orleans.

Firing rifles and pistols began early with his Dad (a WWII Army Engineer), continued in the Boy Scouts and took permanent root in the summer of 1966 as a Coast Guard cadet with marksmanship training at MCB Quantico, Virginia. He was beyond lucky to have his training coincide with the Marine Corps Rifle and Pistol team's down time on base – he spent two weeks firing the M-1 Garand (every morning) and the Colt .45 semi automatic pistol (every afternoon) under their watchful eye and superb coaching. Qualifying as an expert in both weapons, Paul thought that he was at the top of the heap, until he learned about leg matches and distinguished shooters. Despite having fired in 16 leg matches and finishing first leather 6 times, no leg points have come his way. Highpower rifle is now his game, with a M-16, not a M-1, but expanding girth and failing eyesight are now taking their toll.

A benefactor member of the NRA, a private pilot, a certified SCUBA dive,r and a NRA Master Class highpower rifle marksman, Paul's leisure time these days is consumed by a 1963 Thunderbird and a 1965 Imperial, both convertibles used in Mardi Gras parades.

### Paul J.M. Angrisano, III

Originally elected to the board in 2010. Born in New Orleans in 1977, Paul grew up with guns on both sides of the family. Starting with a BB gun at age five and a bolt action .22 at seven, soda cans weren't safe at the camp in Louisiana or ranch in Texas. Paul's grandfathers were both World War 2 veterans that took him out to target practice and hunt throughout his formative years. Paul graduated from LSU in 2000 with a BS in Marketing and went on to work in finance, eventually settling into real estate acquisition and appraisal.

A firearms enthusiast, Paul has collected firearms all his life and began shooting competitions in college. Since then Paul has shot rifles, handguns, and shotguns in various types of competition ranging such as USPSA, High Power, Three Gun, and Sporting Clays. In an effort to improve shooting skills, Paul took his first formal class at Thunder Ranch in 2002 and has since attended about 30 classes at various schools around the country.

Family trips fishing and hunting have become priorities now that Paul has five year old twin sons that he wants to pass his enthusiasm on to. When time allows, you are likely to find Paul with friends and family at the ranch hunting, teaching the boys firearms safety, or offshore fishing.

### A View from the Shooting Range Michael G. Strikmiller

Part 3 of 3

In the last two installments we looked at the various types of shooters and hunters that come out to the range to get their equipment ready for this year's hunt. As we begin the 2012 hunting season, the person newest to the sport will be getting ready to begin a life-long passion or delve into the world of utter frustration. Hopefully a few observations from years of working a rifle line can help prevent the latter. Let's take a look.

So you are interested in hunting. First thing you need to consider is what type of hunting you think you want to do-now and possibly in the future. This will determine what firearm purchase you will want to make. Typically when you ask someone what you should buy they will tell you that you need and that usually is exactly what they are using. Surely what they have always used can't possibly be wrong for you-could it?

Getting back to the "what type of hunting" question will guide you where you need to start. Say you are not really sure but you have been reading the various outdoor magazines, talking to friends, and maybe you went on a couple of hunts when you were just a youngster with your Dad. At that time someone let you use what they had available and your memory tells you that you couldn't hit the broad side of the national debt if you tried, but you had a good time. Now you want to get into hunting birds, ducks, squirrel, rabbit, deer and possibly hog. Sounds like anything and everything, which is a tall order for a beginner. Well that tells you right off that you will be looking at 1 or 2 firearms. If you want to go with "I only want to purchase one" idea you will need to get a good shotgun. If you want to hunt deer and hogs, a 12 gauge would be a better fit. For those who don't think a shotgun should be used for deer hunting, you need to think again as the assortment of ammunition and shotgun flexibility makes this very possible. Good quality shotguns can be had in semi-auto configuration for \$450-850.00. With Ghost Rings and scopes a shotgun is a formidable firearm.

But you say no I don't what to bird or small game hunt-I'm interested only in deer hunting. Well a shotgun will still work for you but the thinking usually goes "I need a rifle". Now you have to decide on a few

more things like: caliber; action; iron sights or scope. What I would suggest when purchasing your first rifle is to get something that is considered popular and versatile. The old reliable 30-06 is so common and has such a wide range of ammunition that it almost speaks for itself. Nearly every gun store, sporting goods or hardware will have ammunition in this caliber.

It may not be everyone's pet caliber but you have to admit it is probably the most popular. Imagine steping out of your vehicle after a long drive to the hunting camp only to realize that you left your box of ammunition on the kitchen counter at home many miles away. Now what? Well if you have one of the Ultra Magnums, Short Mag, Weatherby's or a specialty load like a 25-06 you may just be out of luck but if you have a 30-06 just drive to the local Wal-Mart and get what you need. Even if there isn't one nearby I would bet that a gas station in a typical hunting area will have what you need.

I'm not pushing 30-06 as there are others that fit the bill such as the .270, .243 and the .308. All are so common as to be readily available just about anywhere. Should you decide to up-grade to a different, more specific caliber, a trade in with one of these is a little more favorable then say a Rem 7mm Ultra-Mag. The main point here is that for a first rifle you don't need a hot rod to go from point A to point B.

When you have decided on a reasonable caliber and are ready to make a purchase the hunt begins. One of the things that you don't want to do is get a big box store package deal. Look instead at getting a quality brand name such as Remington, Winchester, Ruger, Savage, Browning and many others. Yes, you will pay a few dollars more but you will have something reliable, common, and easy to get scoped up.

Why not get a package deal? Well often these package rifles have low end options that you wouldn't want. Some of these options are cheap plastic stocks versus a higher quality laminate or walnut. A low end scope with cheap rings will not usually hold their setting causing grief that can turn to pure frustration. Many package deals have run of the mill triggers that don't allow for adjustment, low end finish on the metal, pressed in barrels, and just overall Spartan appearance, not to mention a cheap scope. As a first time buyer you can be easily persuaded by salesmen so take your time! So, are all package deals the same? No they are not! Many of the brand name manufactures have special order packages that have fitted and sighted in hunting packages. You won't find these on the shelf at the local box store except maybe places like Cabelas. You need to go to the manufactures web site or get a complete catalog. Ordering one of these packages may take a few weeks to come in but the end result may be worth it in the long run.

Before we leave rifle selection there is a trend I would like to mention. That is going to an AR type rifle for hunting creating a package similar to the shotgun-something that can be a do all for rifles. AR rifles now come in many calibers and yes I did say it was a better idea to stay away from exotic calibers on your first purchase. What is so exotic about .308 or even .260? These are offered in many AR platforms as are other calibers. The beauty of the AR platform is that once you have a lower it can be modified by swapping uppers to reconfigure it to a different caliber or even have a nice home defense model.

There are many good companies offering package deals in a variety of calibers for the AR. Companies like Rock River, Bushmaster, DPMS, Olympic, Stag, and Armalite to name a few. You may be surprised by what is available but again it is limited so choose something that will suit your hunting needs first and build on the platform later if it becomes necessary.

Least that I forget the old reliable lever gun. These have been around for 150 years or so and have probably taken more animals then most other rifles in this neck of the woods. Also some of the new bullet designs have made it possible to load out a lever gun with a 308 cartridge. Modern innovations have updated an old reliable warhorse.

A quality scope can range anywhere from \$400-1000 and up depending on the optics and magnification. Cheaper scopes can be found but have a tendency to fail to hold setting and can fog up while gathering moisture. Variable power is another option that many people feel they have to have when a good fixed power scope that is on the higher quality end of the scale is much better than a variable power

scope for the same price. No matter which way you go with a scope, purchasing cheap rings will definitely ruin your day. What makes rings cheap? It is the strength of the material and the ability of that material to hold a set torque or tightness to the rifle and the scope without damaging either. Rings need to be torqued to the rifle or the base to a set manufactures requirement. The scope needs to be torqued down in the rings. All of this insures that nothing comes loose on recoil. This is one of the biggest problems encountered at the range, scopes coming loose. A loose scope means a missed opportunity. If your rifle doesn't have back-up iron sights then a hunting trip can go sour in short order. The services of a good gunsmith can set this up for you and bore sight the scope to get you started.

Today we have the valuable resources of the Internet to help search out information on products and services. High quality products give better performance and reliability than cheap ones. Today's manufacturers respond to public opinion much faster than ever before. See what they have and get the best you can afford. It will last you a lifetime if you take care of it. Being new to the hunting sport doesn't mean you have to be uninformed. With a little research you can have great equipment for a cherished pastime.

Hunting is no different than any other sport. For some it will come natural. For others it will take patience and practice. There isn't much you can do about nature but you certainly can practice. After you have your setup and before you make your hunt you will need to come to the range and check out the settings. Either iron sights or a scope need to be "sighted in" before you can reliably determine if what you are shooting at will be hit. You need to know or make a reasonable decision on ammunition and ranges that you will encounter. Sight in your rifle and write down the settings you determined at the range and bring that information with you on the hunt. If you decided to go with a shotgun you will have to check out the pattern it makes with the ammunition you will use to determine at what range you can effectively engage game. Crippling an animal serves no purpose so don't do it. Be sure of your equipments effective range and the ammunition's ability to meet that requirement. There is no better place to do that than at the range.

Hunting season is here so come out to the range. See you there!



### Louisiana Shooting Association, Inc.

An NRA-Affiliated State Association www.louisianashooting.com

A 501(c)(4) Non-Profit Corporation founded in 1966

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Covington, Louisiana September 19, 2012

### THE LOUISIANA SHOOTING ASSOCIATION UNEQUIVOCALLY SUPPORTS ACT 874 AMENDING ARTICLE 1, SECTION 11 OF THE LOUISIANA CONSTITUTION

Article 1, Section 11 of the Louisiana Constitution currently reads:

§11. Right to Keep and Bear Arms

"Section 11. The right of each citizen to keep and bear arms shall not be abridged, but this provision shall not prevent the passage of laws to prohibit the carrying of weapons concealed on the person."

Under this provision, the legislature is not supposed to pass any laws abridging our right to keep and bear arms unless the law involves concealed carry. Note that there is no restriction on the legislature's power to regulate concealed carry, including the outright banning of it. The legislature, however, on any number of occasions has refused to believe that constitutional limits apply to its power. Laws that restrict our gun rights do get passed.

Courts are supposed to protect citizens from laws that overstep the legislature's constitutional authority. Unfortunately, the Louisiana Supreme Court has ruled that a law infringing on our right to keep and bear arms is constitutional if it passes the "rational basis" test. Under the rational basis test, the court must determine whether the legislature had a rational basis for passing the law in question. If the court can discern any rational basis for the law, it will declare the law to be constitutional.

Act 874, Amendment 2 on the ballot, should it pass in November, provides major improvements over the current constitutional provision. First, it contains NO carte blanche authority for the legislature to restrict concealed carry. Next, it declares that the right to keep and bear arms is a fundamental right. And finally, it dictates that courts must use a much higher standard of review in determining whether a law is constitutional.

If the proposed amendment passes, the Constitution will read:

§11. Right to Keep and Bear Arms

"Section 11. The right of each citizen to keep and bear arms is fundamental and shall not be infringed. Any restriction on this right shall be subject to strict scrutiny."

It states, in very clear language, the standard of review that must be applied by a Louisiana court. "Strict scrutiny" review requires that the court either find a compelling state interest for the law or declare it unconstitutional. Finding a compelling state interest is a much higher threshold than merely needing a rational basis. Further, under strict scrutiny, the restriction must be tailored narrowly to only restrict the targeted behavior, while protecting the rights of those not targeted.

To put it another way, under rational basis, the presumption is that a restriction is valid unless there is no way to support it. In stark contrast, under strict scrutiny, the presumption is that a restriction is invalid unless there is no way to avoid it. This is a HUGE difference.

Dan Zelenka, President of the Louisiana Shooting Association, practicing attorney and gun rights activist, says "LSA unequivocally supports this amendment. The language of the amendment is vastly superior to the existing language of the Louisiana Constitution in protecting gun owners from future anti-gun legislative action. This constitutional amendment is the most important advancement in the right to keep and bear arms in Louisiana history. "

The Ballot on Nov 6th will read:

"Do you support an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Louisiana to provide that the right to keep and bear arms is a fundamental right and any restriction of that right requires the highest standard of review by a court? (Amends Article I, Section 11)"

Please VOTE YES on November 6 and urge others to do the same!

Join the Louisiana Shooting Association <a href="https://www.louisianashooting.com">www.louisianashooting.com</a> or contact Jay Hunt <a href="mailto:jdhunt3@louisianashooting.com">jdhunt3@louisianashooting.com</a>

## 2013 M1 Garand Raffle

<u>All</u> Proceeds Support Junior Shooting Programs in Louisiana



The 2012 Winner will be decided on October 20, 2012.
The 2013 Winner could be...YOU!



To obtain raffle tickets, please complete the form, make a check payable to the Louisiana Shooting Association, and mail to:

Louisiana Shooting Association c/o Jay D. Hunt, Treasurer 350 Quill Ct. Slidell, LA 70461

Drawing to be Held on **October 19, 2013**Winner need not be present at drawing to win
Please \$5.00 minimum purchase for mail orders.



### M1 GARAND RAFFLE TICKET REQUEST FORM



Name			
Mailing Address			
City	_ ST	_ Zip	
E-mail Address			
Daytime Phone Number _			
Please send me	_ tickets at \$1.00 pe	er ticket. Total Enclosed	d \$
I would like to save the cost of p e-mail that my donation was rec	_ ,	hold my ticket stubs and send	l a confirmation
I would prefer that the LSA mail	my ticket stubs to me.		



### The Louisiana Shooting Association

### An NRA-Affiliated State Association

Membership Application

Louisiana Shooting Association

			c/o Jay D. Hunt
Louisiana Shooting Association			350 Quill Court
	New Member	Renewal	Slidell, LA 70461
Name			
Mailing Address			
City, ST Zip Code			
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### HAVE AN ARTICLE TO PUT IN THE NEWSLETTER?

I'd like to invite all LSA members to share any article they have written that pertains to the shooting sports or activities. With the growth of the organization over the years we have seen many experts over a wide range of disciplines and backgrounds join the association. We would like to welcome those of you to share your wealth of knowledge. If you have an article that you'd like to submit, please email it to <a href="mailto:thetedeo25@yahoo.com">thetedeo25@yahoo.com</a> with "Article for LSA" as the topic.

### CREATE AN ACCOUNT

If you joined LSA using a paper application form, please go to the LSA website, <a href="http://www.louisianashooting.com">http://www.louisianashooting.com</a> and create an account. By doing so, you will greatly assist the Association's secretary in getting information to you. You will also be sent automatic renewal announcements. You must have an account to join or renew online or to purchase LSA merchandise from the LSA online store.





