



# Michigan Open Carry News

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## Michigan Open Carry News

Editor: Dan Griffin

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## Letter From the Board

### Handgun Registration: From Racism to Repeal

During the 1920's, Detroit and other northern cities witnessed a resurgence of the KKK. In 1924 Charles Bowles, a candidate backed by the KKK, ran for mayor and received the most votes. Election officials ruled that votes for him would only be counted if the voter clearly wrote his name and spelled it correctly.

At about the same time in 1925 Dr. Ossian Sweet purchased and moved into a home at 2905 Garland in Detroit. He asked a few friends to stay at the home. They armed themselves for protection. On the evening of September 8th and 9th a crowd of whites gathered, letting Dr. Sweet know he was not welcome, while Detroit police officers stood by and watched. On the evening of the 9th the crowd became violent, throwing stones and proclaiming that Dr. Sweet and his family would be removed from the home. Dr. Sweet and his friends feared for their lives, believing that the house might be set on fire with no help coming from the Detroit Police Department. Someone at the home fired from the second story striking and killing a member of the crowd and injuring another.

Dr. Sweet and the others were arrested and put on trial in November 1925. The defense attorney (recruited by the NAACP) was University of Michigan graduate

Clarence Darrow. The defense hinged on the fact that the prosecution could not identify who fired the shots. The all-male, all white jury could not come to a decision, and a hung jury was declared.

Dr. Sweet and the others were tried a second time and Mr. Darrow had each individual tried separately. Mr. Darrow raised a civil rights defense for Dr. Sweet, since Dr. Sweet had witnessed lynchings while growing up in Florida. He also put forth that Dr. Sweet had a responsibility and duty to protect his family and property from the violent crowd, and that he could not rely on police protection. Again an all-male, all white jury was seated and this time came back after four hours of deliberation with an acquittal of Dr. Sweet's brother

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***“Congress has no power to disarm the militia. Their swords and every terrible implement of the soldier are the birthright of Americans.”***

**— Tench Cox,  
Feb. 20, 1788**

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Some of the MOC Board and Members at the Annual MOC Members Meeting

Henry, who had admitted firing the fatal shot. Subsequently, charges against all the others in the home were dropped.

As a result of the two trials, and due to the strong KKK influence in Detroit, Public Act 372 of 1927 was signed into law. Public Act 372 created a local gun board in each of the 83 counties in Michigan. In addition, handgun registration was moved from county to state control.

89 years later, one remnant of our racist past, the county gun boards, are gone thanks to Public Acts 3 and 4 of 2015. However, we are still required to register our handguns with the State. Numerous bills have been presented over the past several years attempting to end handgun registration.

Michigan is one of only a handful of states that require some type of firearm registration. Please contact your legislators and let them know it is time to end handgun registration.



David Dellinger  
Board Member at Large

## Secretary's Report

As of August 2016 Michigan Open Carry had 409 voting members. The following is a chart showing MOC's membership over the past year.



## Treasurer's Report

Our new credit card system is continuing to work out well. All funds and expenses disbursed were detailed.

## IT Report

There have been no recent changes. However, our IT Director has been investigating some new initiatives.

## Legislative Updates

There are no new legislative updates. The legislature has been in recess and doesn't come back until September, and then they are only going to be back for just a little while until the election, so we don't anticipate any meaningful movement soon. However, after the election we expect significant activity.

## Old Business

### Tri-folds

Our current stock is low. Discussed the potential of pending legislation generating a significant rewrite. The board voted to approve the purchase of an additional 2,000 tri-folds to last us through the end of the year.

### MOC Merchandise

Additional MOC clothing, including T-shirts, polos, and hats, has been purchased and

is due in early September.

### **501(c)(4) Status**

Plans are being made to finish the documentation with our Assistant Treasurer. Timing has been difficult.

### **DeVos Place in Grand Rapids**

MOC has received a response to our complaint against the Kent County Convention Arena Authority referencing the prohibition of MOC and MGO to carry firearms at the Women's Expo. A copy of the complaint is available online [here](#). After looking at their response with our attorney, we are left wondering if they will pursue a settlement as the CAA's new attorney did not present any legitimate affirmative defense.

### **Bylaws Update/Rewrite**

Three changes were put forward to the membership at the Annual MOC Member Meeting in August and all three changes were approved. The latest revision of the bylaws will be available online soon and the link will be included in this newsletter.

### **Retention Committee**

All members whose memberships have expired through August 22, 2016 have been contacted via phone and email.

### **Clio Lawsuit Update**

There has been no new news. We are still waiting for the MGO v. AAPS lawsuit to be combined at the Michigan appellate court level where they will hear oral arguments.

### **MOC Partnership with Firearms Legal Protection (FLP)**

MOC is still working with FLP and including FLP brochures in our membership packets.

Firearms Legal Protection, LLC is a legal services company comprised of attorneys dedicated to protecting the rights of lawful gun owners in all 50 states (excluding Washington, D.C. and US Territories). FLP assists its members with the legal issues that occur following the lawful use of a firearm in self-defense. FLP covers uncapped attorneys fees for all criminal and civil matters, as well as other coverages depending on the plan. FLP offers several plans to fit any budget and need. There are over 1,000 attorneys in the system, including MOC's own attorney Dean Greenblatt.

For further information on FLP or to sign up, visit <https://firearmslegal.com/miopencarry>

### **MOC Materials Inventory System**

CloverGo can handle our inventory with some caveats. We will see how this works out for us.

### **Old Forum Transition**

There is a need to make sure all MOC members have access to the MOC Forum Member's Area. However, some members, particularly new members, do not use the forum or have not registered. There was a discussion on ways to automate this "automatic access" using our membership system.

### **Women's Advisory Committee**

Tabled, no discussion.

### **Business Memberships**

Tabled, no discussion.

## **New Business**

### **2016 Election Results**

The 2016 Election was held at the Annual MOC Member Meeting in August. The election results are as follows: Johnny Roehrig, Vice President; Ryan Ransom, Treasurer; and Dave Dellinger, Board Member at Large. Congratulations to the winners and "welcome" to Dave as a new board member. Be sure to read Dave's "Letter From the Board" at the beginning of this newsletter.

All three bylaw changes were approved with a greater than 90% approval. In addition, we had a record number of ballots cast this year.

### **Deputy Membership Coordinator**

Dave Dellinger was appointed by the board our new Deputy Membership Coordinator.

## SE Region Report

We had an impromptu event at Oakland Tactical in August. Radio station W4 Country (102.9 WWWW-FM) was there. We will have a lunch in Southfield the end of August (past event when you read this). We also have our last picnic of the year in Okemos on September 17. We received a good report from a parent in Howell who open carried at his child's school orientation day without incident.

## SW Region Report

No report this month.

## NE/NW/UP Regions Report

MOC will have a table at the Oscoda County Riverfest the end of August (past event when you read this). MOC is teaming up with the Oscoda County Gun Owners' Association which is holding a raffle. This should be a big draw because of the prizes. We expect a lot of traffic and hope to sign up some new members. We are also currently working on a few more upcoming dinners, and we might host a seminar and dinner at the Grayling Gun Club in the future, with maybe a shoot afterward. MOC is also anticipating having to assist Montmorency County with their understand of Michigan's firearms laws, including preemption.

## Mark Your Calendar

Even though we try to keep up to date here, sometimes events are scheduled after publication and hosted before the next newsletter, so please check our forum or facebook pages for late-breaking events.

**September 17 — 12 noon until 3:00 PM MOC Regional Picnic in Okemos,** Michigan Open Carry and Michigan Gun Owners once again team-up to bring you one more Regional Picnic! Our final picnic for 2016 will be held at Wonch Park in Okemos.

MOC and MGO will be providing traditional BBQ foods and beverages, but we always recommend bringing a dish to share. This creates a nice mixture of different foods for everyone to try. This is NOT a requirement to attend the picnics. These picnics are a great venue for veteran members and amateur firearm owners to get out and meet with like-minded people. If you are new to open carry, these events are great for a first-timer to get out and try it without fear of harassment.

Please come on out and meet with the Leadership from both organizations and join the party! The carrying of a firearm is recommended but not required. Wonch Park, 4555 Okemos Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864 .

**September 24 — 4:00 PM Michigan Open Carry Dinner in Hastings,** Michigan Open Carry is inviting you and your friends to come to Vitales Restaurant. We'll be there having good food, pleasant conversation, and answering any questions we can. These events sponsored by Michigan Open Carry, and hosted by MOC members, are a great way to learn more about the lawfulness of open carrying of a handgun. Vitales Restaurant, 150 E. State St., Hastings, Michigan 49058

**September 29 — 9:00 PM Michigan Open Carry Board Meeting,** online via TeamSpeak

**October 1 — 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM Michigan Open Carry Membership and Legal Fund Drive in Howell,** Michigan Open Carry will be holding a membership drive and legal defense fundraiser at Peacemakers Indoor Gun Range in Howell, MI on Saturday, October 1, 2016. This is an MOC Sponsored Event which means there will be a \$5.00 discount on new membership purchases and renewals. Also, there will be heavily discounted merchandise of our older stock. There is no greater time to join the cause and keep us fighting in Lansing and in court! Stop by to support Peacemakers and say hello to the SE Region Coordinators. Peacemakers Indoor Gun Range, 158 Catrell Dr., Howell, MI 48843

**October 27 — 9:00 PM Michigan Open Carry Board Meeting,** online via TeamSpeak

### Do you have an idea for an MOC event?

If you have an idea for a new Michigan Open Carry breakfast, lunch, dinner, seminar, or other event, or if you want to sponsor one or set one up, contact Michigan Open Carry at [board@miopencarry.org](mailto:board@miopencarry.org) and we'll put you in touch with the right person.

# County Gun Boards: Goodbye and Good Riddance

Dan Griffin, Editor, MOC Newsletter

I remember my first appearance before the Ingham County Gun Board. This was long ago and far away. I arrived at the appointed hour. I presented my case. They summarily dismissed me.

“You do not need a concealed pistol license, Mr. Griffin. You don’t carry large sums of money. And you are an engineer at General Motors, so we know that you can’t have a pistol on company property. You have no need. You are denied.”

That was the old gun board’s decision on my first few CPL applications. But I didn’t go into this blind. (Well, I went into this somewhat blind, but more on that later).

Once I decided to purchase and carry a pistol the first thing I did was to get basic pistol training. The second thing I did was to get more basic pistol training. This included not just care and handling, but legal instruction on the firearms laws of Michigan. This was in the early 1990’s before “shall issue” CPLs. I found out about a concealed carry class being taught at Delta College in Bay City. It was a long drive from the Lansing area but I figured several days inconvenience was worth it.

The class was taught by an Assistant County Prosecutor and a retired sheriff. I found it very instructional for someone who had little experience with guns outside of hunting with a shotgun. I asked about open carry because that is what I wanted to do. I had zero knowledge of the open carry movement. I didn’t even know such a thing existed, and at the time I don’t think it did, at least not for another fifteen years or more. I was told by the retired sheriff that open carry would get me arrested and thrown in jail.

“But is it legal?” I asked. “Well, yes,” I was told, “but no cop will allow it. Maybe if you’re walking in the country, but not in a city. They’ll arrest you for brandishing or they’ll find some other charge.” Remember, this was a retired sheriff telling me this with a prosecutor backing him up. So I thought, “Well, that’s disappointing.” Maybe not in those words, but my thoughts were that I wanted to open carry—not for any political statement or to present to criminals that I am armed or to normalize it among others, but simply because that was the easiest and most comfortable carry. I had no other agenda. But not having enough money and legal knowledge to fight a potential arrest and prosecution I decided to stick to concealed carry.

So back to the beginning of my story. I went to my first meeting with the gun board and they denied me. “We typically require that the applicant take a concealed pistol class before granting a CPL,” I was told.

I doubted the veracity of that statement, but that’s when I presented my concealed pistol certificate from Delta College. “Here you go.” Only the representative from the Michigan State Police showed no reaction. They then began making up excuses to deny me. I told them that my life was worth no less than the trooper sitting at the table with us or the Assistant Prosecutor asking me questions.

I was not successful that day, nor was I successful at any other time until Michigan passed our “shall issue” legislation. If I had lived in Clinton County, a few miles north, I would have had no problem. But a non-restricted CPL in Ingham County was typically a “no go” for all but the most well-connected.

I’m glad those days are over. “Shall issue” eliminated most of the county gun boards’ arbitrary decisions, and Public Acts 3 and 4 of 2015 put the final nail in their coffin.

County gun boards—goodbye and good riddance.

## MOC Resources

Here are some useful Michigan Open Carry Links you will want to keep handy.

[Michigan Open Carry Informational Tri-fold](#)

[Michigan Open Carry Email Updates](#)

[Michigan Open Carry FAQ](#)

[Open Carry in Michigan Without a CPL](#)

[Michigan Open Carry Member Map](#)

[Michigan State Police Legal Update #86](#)

[Donate to the MOC Legal Fund](#)

[MOC Link to Firearms Legal Protection Memberships](#)



**Want to attend the monthly MOC Board meeting online?**

Each month Michigan Open Carry holds our Board of Directors meeting online via TeamSpeak. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Please use the link below to download TeamSpeak ahead of time and join the channel by 9:00 PM sharp.

<http://www.teamspeak.com/downloads>

The TeamSpeak server address is [ts.miopencarry.org](http://ts.miopencarry.org)

If you have any questions or concerns about setting up TeamSpeak, please contact our IT department at [it@miopencarry.org](mailto:it@miopencarry.org)

There is also a video walkthrough located at:

[https://miopencarry.org/pages/ts3\\_tutorial](https://miopencarry.org/pages/ts3_tutorial)

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## From the Editor



The MOC Newsletter welcomes editorial inquiries, comments, and feedback. Would you like to publicize an event? Are you interested in writing an article for your fellow open carriers? Send all correspondence to [dgriffin@miopencarry.org](mailto:dgriffin@miopencarry.org)

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Looking for back issues of the Michigan Open Carry Newsletter?

- Jan 2016
- Mar 2016
- May 2016
- Jul 2016
- Feb 2016
- Apr 2016
- Jun 2016
- Aug 2016



*Joint MOC/MGO Summer Picnic in Battle Creek*