



# Arizona Citizens Defense League

## Protecting Your Freedom

Volume 2011, Issue 4

AzCDL's Membership Newsletter

November 2011

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John Wentling—Vice President  
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P.O. Box 10325  
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<http://www.AzCDL.org>

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(<http://www.AzCDL.org>)

- AzCDL Goals & Successes
- Legislative Updates
- Court Cases
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## 5,000 Members! Woo Hoo!

### Congratulations and THANK YOU!



As this was being written, AzCDL was a couple of gun shows away from recruiting our 5,000th member. We were celebrating our 4,000th member just 9 months ago in February 2011.

Over 1,000 new members joined AzCDL in the first nine months of 2011. At this rate we expect another 350 to join by the end of the year. 6,000 members is just a matter of months after that.

To put things in perspective, when AzCDL was established in June of 2005, we managed to grow from 4 to 42 by the end of year—mainly by persuading close relatives and friends.

By working every gun show we could drive to, in addition to two Board members spending the entire legislative session at the Capitol, we grew to a whopping 252 members by the end of 2006. That year we held our annual meeting in a small strip mall banquet hall and managed to feed everyone present with two extra large submarine sandwiches from the deli across the street.

In 2008, we recruited our 1,000th member. Three years later, in February 2011 we were up to 4,000 members. Now, nine months later, we're at 5,000 members. Our annual meeting attendance has grown also. Gone are the days of store bought soft drinks and deli sandwiches. Over 400 members attended our last two annual meetings. Last year, in Phoenix, we maxed out the capacity of the hotel meeting space we were using.

As our membership grew, volunteers stepped forward to assist at the gun shows. Some took on the responsibility of becoming area coordinators. One, Duke Schechter, became AzCDL's Membership Director and overall event coordinator. We now have most of the gun shows in the state managed by the following unsung heroes:

- Tom Woodrow—Tucson
- John Rosado—Phoenix  
(hat tip to Shawn Nealon for standing in for John while he was away)
- Ed Martinez—Phoenix
- Mark Spencer—Sierra Vista
- Stephen Wenger—Show Low
- Drake Mitchell—Cottonwood
- Joe Nye—Prescott
- Kirk Ferst—Yuma



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## AzCDL Membership grows to 5,000



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### To all our volunteers—THANK YOU!

Supporting our event coordinators is a very dedicated army of event volunteers, too numerous to list here, who give up their weekends to stand at the AzCDL table convincing passersby that an investment in AzCDL is better than buying the latest gee-whiz item at all those other tables.

If you would like to help out at gun shows and other events, let us know by sending an email to Duke: [americanicon@cox.net](mailto:americanicon@cox.net).

### When everyone participates, everyone wins!

AzCDL's hard working volunteers are just one part of our success formula. It works like this:

- We lobby for improvements to your right to bear arms at the Capitol.
- While we lobby at the Capitol, our

membership (YOU!) puts the pressure on legislators with your letters and phone calls.

- The more members we have, the bigger our impact.
- The bigger our impact, the more pro-rights legislation gets passed.
- The more success we have at the legislature, the easier it is to recruit members.
- The more members we have, the more success we have at the legislature.

Can't volunteer? Not a problem. Support us by renewing your membership.

### AzCDL is a true independent grassroots organization. Your donations pay the bills.

Like any other organization, AzCDL needs money to operate successfully. We don't have a rich "sugar-daddy,"

and we are not affiliated with any organizations that dole out grant money to groups who dance to their tune.

Upgrade to a Sustaining Annual member and help us "protect your freedom" even more.

Better yet, become a Life member. One hundred and eighty three of your fellow AzCDL members have demonstrated their commitment to improving your right to bear arms in Arizona by becoming Life members. Many of them also spend time volunteering at our event tables and continue to donate beyond the cost of their membership.

Regardless of what level of membership you can afford, your commitment is demonstrated by renewing your membership.

An AzCDL membership is about the same price as a box of ammo. Which is more important? Owning the ammo or being part of a movement to protect the right to buy that ammo?



## 2011 Annual Members Meeting



The sixth annual Arizona Citizens Defense League's meeting of members, held on October 1, 2011, was a huge success!

Over 400 openly armed citizens gathered at the Tucson Expo Center to celebrate the legislative victories of 2011.

AzCDL requests that attendees practice "tasteful open carry" at our events, in order to remind the public of our "freedom to carry" in Arizona.

Speakers this year included:

- Gabriela Saucedo Mercer, candidate for Arizona's 7th Congressional District.
- Senator Frank Antenori, representing Legislative District 30.

A lifetime achievement award was presented to Senator Russell Pearce for his tireless support and sponsorship of AzCDL-requested legislation.

Senator Pearce was the primary sponsor, and force behind, Arizona's history making Constitutional Carry legislation.



Door prizes this year included a Ruger LC9 pistol, and Front Sight class certificates and lifetime memberships.

And, the winners are...

- Dan J. (Phoenix) - Front Sight certificate for a 4 day Defensive Handgun class.
- Walter P. (Casa Grande) - Front Sight "Don't Tread On Me" lifetime membership.
- Gene C. (Tucson) - Front Sight Diamond all-inclusive lifetime membership.
- Paul A. (Tucson) - Ruger LC9 semi-automatic pistol.

In addition to the door prizes, a fundraising Silent Auction was held.

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# 2011 Annual Members Meeting



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We thank all who donated and bid on the many silent auction treasures.

The following members reserved Gold and Silver tables for the annual meeting. Because of their generosity,

AzCDL gained over 30 new members: Arizona State Rifle and Pistol Association (ASRPA), Gregory Baird, Richard D. Jones, Adam Kwasman, Chester Manning, Gabriela Saucedo Mercer.

A special thanks to AzCDL Communi-

cations Director, Charles Heller, for emceeding the meeting and keeping it all running smoothly.

Next year's annual meeting will be held in Phoenix in October. We're expecting an even bigger crowd. Mark your calendars!



## Winning Raffle Tickets Drawn!



At our October 1st annual meeting, in front of a crowd of over 400 attendees, winning raffle tickets were drawn for our two pistol raffles.

David H. of Tucson held the winning ticket (#17) for the Springfield XD pistol in .40 S&W.



Included with the pistol were two 12 round magazines, polymer holster, two-magazine pouch and magazine reloading tool.

Brian L. of Tucson held the winning ticket (#299) for Ruger's LCR lightweight double-action revolver



chambered for .38 special.

A hat tip to Defensive Arms and Ammo of Tucson for handling the transfers.

When you read this, our next fund raising firearms raffles will already be underway.



## Federal Firearms Legislation



While AzCDL's focus is primarily on Arizona legislation, we keep an eye on what is happening at the federal level.

Since President Obama has promised "under the radar" gun control, it is unlikely he will sign any pro-rights firearms bills. On the other hand, since the House is controlled by Republicans and the Senate is marginally controlled by Democrats, the likelihood of any anti-rights firearms related legislation getting passed is slim.

The following highlight what Congress has been up to regarding your right to keep and bear arms.

### The Good

S526—Removes impediments to the Mohave Valley Shooting Range.

S570—Prohibits tracking multiple firearms sales.

S1249 & HR3065—Encourages state owned public shooting ranges.

HR58—Would allow firearms sales,

through Federally licensed dealers, across state lines.

HR126—Would require the ATF to video record (and not alter) the testing they do on firearms.

HR645—Would repeal the D.C. ban.

HR822—Would allow anyone with a CCW permit to carry in any other state that does not prohibit discreet carry. This has become controversial among pundits who worry this would lead to federal standards for CCW permits.

HR1443—Would prohibit the EPA from imposing restrictions on hunting and fishing equipment (i.e., lead ban).

HR1865—Would prohibit the Army Corps of Engineers from banning firearms on land they control.

HR2613—Repeals the 1,000 foot school zone ban.

HR2615—Eliminates the "sporting purposes" exception in the 1968 Gun Control Act that prevents some firearms, like shotguns, from being imported.

HR2900—Allows someone who is licensed to carry concealed in their home state to carry in any other state that allows concealed carry. Unlike HR822, this bill would apply to Vermont citizens.

### The Bad

S32 & HR308—Establishes magazine capacity limits.

S34 & HR1506—Would ban you from possessing firearms if you are on the attorney general's "watch list."

S35 & HR591—Would regulate gun shows out of existence.

S176—Would create federal standards for state issued CCW permits.

S436—Would implement Obama's gun control concepts from his editorial following the Tucson attack on Rep. Giffords.

HR367 & HR496—Would make it illegal to carry a gun near a building where a member of Congress is known to be.



Ever wonder why there is an AzCDL?

It all started with a handful of activists, who didn't like the status quo when it came to the right to bears arms in Arizona, and decided to do something about it.

The image of freedom in Arizona doesn't match reality. The state constitution says that our right to bear arms "shall not be impaired." Yet, in 1990 a state appellate court ruled that it was not an "impairment" to restrict "concealed" carry.

In 1994, the Arizona legislature, instead of simply affirming the right to carry openly or concealed, declared that if you expected your clothing to cover your firearm you were required to undergo 16 hours of training, followed by a written and shooting test, and then submit a request for the privilege to carry concealed—but for only 4 years. After that, you had to take another 4 hour class, pass another test, and submit another set of fingerprints. The process had to be repeated every 4 years.

And, you could only take these courses from instructors approved by the Department of Public Safety (DPS). Even though it was not part of the law, the bureaucrats who ran the CCW program decreed, via administrative "rulings," that training had an expiration date and could only be conducted in Arizona.

The same year that the permit system was created (1994), the appellate courts ruled in two decisions that "concealed" is in the eye of the observer. If a firearm in your vehicle couldn't be seen from outside the vehicle, it was concealed. If your openly carried firearm, holstered on your right side, was not visible to someone on your left side, you were carrying a "concealed" weapon. The only sure way to carry openly or in your vehicle, without breaking the law, was to obtain a CCW permit.

Then, in 1997 the legislature, at the urging of law enforcement, declared that you no longer had the right of "innocent until proven guilty" in a self-defense situation. The burden of proof was now on you to prove your innocence—after you admitted to the "crime."

## Why AzCDL?

Firearms preemption was Balkanized. Cities like Tucson were able to ban firearms, worn by law-abiding citizens, from their parks.

The disintegration of Arizona's right to bear arms seemingly went unnoticed. Long time residents focused on the "old days" when it seemed everyone wore a gun, and didn't seem to be aware that things were different now. People moving in from states with restrictive gun laws were happy that they would be "allowed" to carry a firearm. They confused "permission" with "freedom."

There were those of us who decided it was time to restore what had been lost. What began as online gripe sessions became face-to-face strategy meetings, which led to formally organizing in 2005. That same year, we experienced success at the legislature—the first improvement in the CCW training requirements since they were created in 1994.

As our success grew, so did our membership. It took a few years for the legislature to realize we weren't a passing fad and that we are "the" gun lobby in Arizona fighting every year for YOUR right to bear arms.

You can find a complete list of what we've accomplished at our website. Here are some highlights:

### The Right to Keep and Bear Arms

Constitutional Carry—The history making restoration of the right of law-abiding adults to carry openly or discreetly without first seeking written permission from the government via a "permit."

Prohibiting state and local government officials from confiscating lawfully held firearms during a state of emergency.

Strengthened state preemption of firearm and knife laws.

Requiring state and local government buildings or events that prohibit weapons to provide temporary and secure storage that is readily accessible on entry and permits immediate retrieval upon exit.

Preventing private or public employers, property owners, and others from banning firearms in a locked vehicle.

### Self Defense

Restoration (in 2006) of "innocent until proven guilty" in self-defense situations that was taken away in 1997.

Strengthening the elements of justification for the use of force.

Castle Doctrine (stand your ground) strengthened.

Clarification that a person has no duty to retreat in any place they have a right to be.

Establishment of a justification for the defensive display of a firearm.

### Concealed Weapon (CCW) Permits

Elimination of the fingerprint and training requirements for CCW permit renewals.

Expansion of training experiences that qualify for a CCW permit.

Near universal recognition, by Arizona, of concealed weapon/handgun permits held by residents of other states.

### We're not done!

Our ultimate goal is to eliminate any need for an AzCDL, but we don't see that happening any time soon. Arizona has experienced decades where "feel good" laws have been passed trampling our fundamental freedoms. We've only been at this for 6 years.

We've been successful because we have members, like you, who believe in what we're doing and support us with your time and your money.

As the saying goes, if you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

