



Arizona Citizens Defense League

Protecting Your Freedom

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AzCDL's Membership Newsletter

November 2013

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Activists Wanted!

"All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing"

If you understand that restoring and protecting your right to bear arms does not end with your AzCDL membership donation, then you are an *activist* and we are proud you are a member.

The Obama administration has declared war on gun ownership. Every time one of their supporters goes on a killing spree, this Administration and their allies in Congress call for renewed restrictions on the right of law-abiding citizens (you!) to keep and bear arms.

This national effort has emboldened anti-rights legislators at the state level. During the 2013 legislative session, we saw more bills filed to strip you of your firearms freedoms than to protect them. Fortunately, with the help of dedicated AzCDL *activists*, we were able to stop every bad bill that was filed. Unfortunately, because many members were content to let the "other guys" do all the work, many good bills also died.

This coming (2014) legislative session it is going to get worse. We are expecting renewed and stronger attacks on your right to keep and bear arms, with the weakening of "Stand Your Ground" and state firearms preemption being high priorities.

The ONLY thing that will ensure that your state legislators keep their promise to uphold the U.S. and Arizona Constitutions is pressure from YOU. Your AzCDL membership donations buy you two very powerful tools for protecting your rights. The first is two full time lobbyists who work tirelessly at the Legislature. They testify at hearings and work behind the scenes promoting pro-rights bills and calling attention to bad bills.

The second and equally important tool is AzCDL's [Legislative Action Center](#). This is the same tool used by several national pro-rights firearms organizations for contacting Congress and the White House.

AzCDL's Legislative Action Center is where you get to personally demand that Arizona legislators and the Governor protect your rights. Nothing gets a politician's attention more than receiving several thousand constituent letters demanding their support on legislation. And, we make it easy for you with pre-written messages that take less than a minute of your time to send out. If you are not getting our legislative alerts, now is the time to sign up.

<http://cqrcengage.com/azcdl/home>

Your active involvement and support are vital if you want to help restore, protect and preserve your right to keep and bear arms in Arizona. Without your support, AzCDL's influence on the legislature is weakened. If you are not involved, or believe the "other guy" will do it for you, you might as well be supporting legislation being pushed by the anti-rights groups.

Support Freedom – Become an Activist!



Arizona's Legislative Process



German Chancellor Otto von Bismarck is credited with stating that "Laws are like sausages, it is better not to see them made."

The following is a synopsis of the Arizona legislative "sausage making" [process](#) along with some insight into the legislative sleight of hand that can help or hinder a bill's progress.

Article IV, Part I, Section I of the Arizona Constitution states that "the people reserve the power to propose laws..."

Every session, AzCDL brings proposed laws to legislators willing to sponsor them. If the political climate is right, and the sponsor is willing, the proposed idea gets introduced as a Bill and assigned a number.

If a bill has only one sponsor, it's pretty much dead on arrival. Once a bill is filed, AzCDL's lobbyists work with legislators in both chambers (House and Senate) getting co-sponsors. The greater the number of co-sponsors, the greater the likelihood the bill will succeed.

Once a bill is introduced and numbered in the originating chamber it goes through a couple of perfunctory "reads" by the full chamber then the Leadership of that chamber may assign it to a committee.

Session deadlines are set for bills to progress. If a bill does not get assigned to a committee it dies. Thousands of bills are filed each session. Many do not get assigned to committees. The majority political party controls the process and the flow of legislation. Guess what would happen to firearms bills if pro-rights legislators were not in the majority? Remember this during the 2014 elections.

The committee assignment of a bill can facilitate or impede its progress. When firearms bills are not assigned to the usual committees or to multiple committees, it can be an indicator of the Leadership's desire to see the bill quietly fail.

Bills must be heard by, and pass out of, committees in order to progress. Once assigned to a committee, the committee chair determines if a bill will ever get a hearing. This is another way that a bill



can quietly be killed while allowing weak-spined legislators to publically claim their support with their fingers crossed behind their backs.

Committee hearings present an opportunity for bills to be amended. Those opposing a bill may try to add weakening amendments that distort or dilute the original intent. Proponents may offer amendments to broaden support for the bill.

Once a bill has survived the committee process, it is calendared for a "Committee of the Whole" (COW) hearing where all the legislators in the chamber can debate the merits of the bill and offer amendments.

With pro-rights firearms bills this usually means a lot of grandstanding, wailing and hand wringing by anti-rights legislators about the evils of "allowing" ordinary citizens the ability to exercise their Constitutionally guaranteed right to keep and bear arms. In short, they prefer disarmed subjects, not armed citizens.

After passing out of the COW, a bill must survive a final formal vote before it can leave the chamber. If a bill makes it this far, it's only half the battle.

Once a bill passes out of the originating chamber (e.g., House), it is sent over to the other chamber (e.g., Senate) where the entire process plays out again.

Bills surviving unchanged through both chambers are sent to the Governor. If, for example, a House bill is amended by the Senate, there is a reconciliation process followed by further votes before the bill can be sent to the Governor.

During this process there are several opportunities for YOU to make a difference via our [Legislative Action Center](#).

<http://cqcengage.com/azcdl/home>

Pressure from AzCDL members can help the Leadership "remember" to assign a bill to a committee; for a committee chair to "remember" to schedule a bill for a hearing; for committee members to realize that there is tremendous grassroots support for a bill; and for your legislator and the Governor to understand that you want them to support a bill.

AzCDL lobbyists work at the Capitol to monitor legislation, testify at hearings, promote bills we support and call attention to bills we oppose. However it is your participation, contacting committee members and legislators, that has the biggest impact on the fate of proposed legislation.

As we pointed out on the first page of this newsletter, the efforts to trample your Constitutionally guaranteed rights will be redoubled during the upcoming legislation session. But that does not mean AzCDL is only going to spend our time stopping bad bills. Our goal is to *restore*, not merely defend, your right to keep and bear arms.

AzCDL believes law-abiding citizens have a right to carry a firearm, openly or discreetly, wherever they have a right to be. That means, regardless of what our anti-rights opponents are going to propose, not only do we want to defeat their bad bills, we want to see more bills filed and become law that promote our firearms freedoms.

In order to do this, we need *activists*, not just members. This coming session we expect to hit hard and heavy using our Legislative Action Center to generate letters to committee members, legislators and the Governor. We expect to have 10,000 members by the start of the 2014 session. That can make for one very loud voice at the Capitol—but only if everyone reading this commits to getting involved.

**Make a Difference.
Be an Activist!**



Arizona CCW Permit Reciprocity



In 2010, the Nevada Sheriff's & Chief's Association (NvSCA), which has broad regulatory authority over the Nevada CCW process, chose to honor Arizona CCW permits in Nevada.

In March of 2013, NvSCA [rescinded](#) their recognition of Arizona permits claiming Arizona's permit training requirements were not meeting the stringent standards required for Nevada permits after the passage of Arizona's Constitutional Carry law, which also updated our permit requirements.

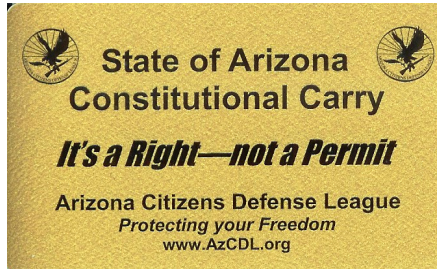
Ever since then, falsehoods have been spread that Constitutional Carry has damaged Arizona's reciprocity with other states and that Arizona needs to return to the bad old days of government defined training and State anointed instructors.

Here are the facts.....

In 2006, an AzCDL-requested law was passed that universally recognized permits issued by all other states. As a result Arizona became one of the most "recognized" of all permits.

Thirty-four states (not counting Vermont) honored Arizona's permit before Nevada was added as number thirty-five in 2010. Currently those same thirty-four states recognize Arizona's permit after Nevada changed its mind. The list is here:

[http://www.azdps.gov/Services/Concealed Weapons/Reciprocity/](http://www.azdps.gov/Services/Concealed%20Weapons/Reciprocity/)



Arizona's CCW laws, like those of several other states, mirror Florida's which has issued over 1 Million CCW permits, held by citizens in probably every state of the Union, and is the "gold standard" for CCW permit laws.

Prior to recognizing Arizona permits, Nevada recognized Florida permits. In 2009 Nevada [rescinded Florida](#) recognition, not because of their training requirements, but because Florida extended their permit expiration from 5 to 7 years.

In 2009, Nevada also rescinded recognition of Utah's permit which, from what we understand, made no significant changes to their laws.

Currently, Nevada only recognizes 15 permits. Meanwhile, Arizona recognizes all permits from all states that issue them and, with our Constitutional Carry law, recognizes the *right*, of any citizen from any state, to carry openly or discreetly regardless of whether or not they possess a government issued permission slip (i.e., permit).

The solution to Nevada's low rate of reciprocity is for them to follow Arizona's lead and recognize all permits from all states. It is not for Arizona to become more like Nevada as some have suggested.

We are appalled that there are Arizona gun owners willing to sacrifice our state's *right* to carry so that they may be granted the *privilege* to carry in states with more restrictive gun laws. How many more of your freedoms are they willing to sacrifice for a government handout?

When the AzCDL-requested Constitutional Carry law was passed in 2010, over 156,000 CCW permits had been issued in Arizona. As of the end of October, in a state where a CCW permit is optional, the number of [Arizona CCW permits](#) has climbed to almost 209,000. That tells us that Arizona's CCW permit is in high demand, probably because of its recognition by other states.

To be perfectly clear, AzCDL has no intention of supporting any legislation that returns Arizona to the bad old days of restricted rights and limited CCW permit accessibility.

AzCDL's goal is to move Arizona's gun laws *forward*, not backwards. We are committed to working for the passage of laws that recognize that law-abiding citizens have the right to carry a firearm openly or discreetly wherever they have a right to be.



Changing of the Guard



In October, Charles Heller stepped down as an AzCDL director after 8 years of service on AzCDL's Board.

What many may not realize, while being a member of AzCDL's Board of Directors, Charles was also the Executive Director of Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership (JPFO) and currently hosts three liberty themed Sunday morning Tucson based (KVOI-AM) talk radio shows



Charles may no longer be an AzCDL director, but with his vast media background and experience he still serves a vital role as AzCDL's Media Coordinator.

We are also very proud to announce the appointment of AzCDL Life Member Tom Woodrow, one of AzCDL's earliest members and hardest working volunteers, as AzCDL's newest director.

Please join us in welcoming Tom's participation as an important member of AzCDL's leadership. We look forward to working with him.





Raising AzCDL's Profile



It is no secret that most of our members shoot, or that a fair percentage of them compete in a wide variety of shooting disciplines, from trap and skeet to silhouette, to bull's-eye handgun, to IPSC, to tactical rifle, to Camp Perry, to any other organized competition out there.

It's also obvious to readers of any or all of the firearms magazines published that almost every firearm manufacturer fields a team using their guns and wearing their "colors" – the advertising generated by a champion shooter wearing a Springfield Armory T-shirt or Benelli shooting vest is a prominent feature of their advertising.

AZCDL has been around for almost a decade, but we still encounter shooters, collectors and competitors who've never heard of us, even if they're aware of our accomplishments. Sure, we're at gun shows, patriotic events, and any other event where "our kind of people" gather, recruiting and spreading the word – but how many people don't go to gun shows or events, but participate in local leagues or formal contests?



I've been approached on a few occasions by people wanting to field an AzCDL Team. While I don't believe we can formally sponsor one, for a number of reasons, there's nothing to stop you – our members – from forming a team of your friends and fellow shooters, signing up those who haven't yet become part of the preeminent civil rights organization in the country (yeah, we're that good!), and competing in the same sports. Wouldn't it be impressive to have your team photo in the local regional weekly newspaper, all wearing "Team AZCDL" T-shirts, holding the first place trophy?

AzCDL is a grassroots organization – our strength lies in "we the People" pressuring our elected representatives and educating our friends and neighbors. What better advertising for a pro-Second Amendment group than a team

of proud "gunnies" smiling out at the world from the Sunday paper, caps and T-shirts emblazoned with our logo?

What we've done, and are doing, in the legislature is no small feat, but as members who may want to spread the word but can't volunteer to man a table at an event, what could be a better fit than doing what you love, and spreading the word without giving any of it up?

You know your shooting sport. You compete with your friends and fellow members. Why not use that to push us to fifteen, twenty, twenty-five thousand members? Why take home just a trophy, when you can also take home the satisfaction of making us not just the best, but the best known pro-rights firearms state organization in the nation?

Duke Schechter
AzCDL Director



AzCDL's Political Action Committee (PAC)



2014 is an election year!

The primaries are in August. AzCDL members have an extra tool to help legislators "see the light" - our Political Action Committee ([PAC](#)).

Campaign donations speak loudly to legislators seeking reelection and new candidates seeking to challenge sitting legislators. We want to see principled, pro-rights leaders get elected.

AzCDL's PAC is a force-multiplier for your individual donation. No matter what the size of your donation, when combined with hundreds or thousands of others, it WILL make a big difference!

All donations are welcome. We are in a dangerous era, and it's time to make hard decisions. Which is more important, an extra box of plinking ammo or the election of men and women who

will fight for your right to use that ammo?

AzCDL expects to be 10,000 strong when the 2014 legislative session starts. If every member donated \$10 to the PAC, we could make a serious difference in the outcome of the coming elections. Think of what could be accomplished if everyone was able to donate even more!

AzCDL has already made a tremendous impact on Arizona's gun laws. With a strong and vibrant PAC, we have the potential to significantly alter the political landscape for legislative sessions in coming years.

In keeping with our focus on Arizona legislation, our PAC is limited to supporting or opposing candidates for the Arizona legislature or other statewide offices (e.g., governor).

Arizona laws prohibit the use of PAC monies to support or oppose candidates for Federal offices or any local (county, city, town, etc.) elections.

Your donations are the fuel that the PAC needs to be strong and successful!

Donations can be made online at <http://azcdlpac.blogspot.com/>

Checks may also be mailed to:

AzCDL PAC
16228 W. Custer Lane
Surprise, AZ 85379

Arizona law requires that the PAC request the following information when making donations: the name of your employer; your title/position; your street address.