



Arizona Citizens Defense League

Protecting Your Freedom

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AzCDL's Membership Newsletter

August 2013

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 - Online Store
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Need help accessing the web site? Contact AzCDL at
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Inside this issue:

Defending your Rights	I & 2
New laws for 2013	2
Annual Meeting Invitation	3
AzCDL Election Results	3
Rifle & Ammo Raffles	4
July 4th Rifle Match	4



Defending Your Rights



Can what happened to George Zimmerman in Florida happen in Arizona?

It already has. In 1997, Arizona's Republican controlled legislature, at the behest of law enforcement, passed a law negating "innocent until proven guilty" in self-defense situations. The new law required that anyone who defended themselves had to admit to the underlying "crime" then prove their own innocence by a "preponderance of evidence." As with all laws making it easier for law enforcement to avoid real police work, the unintended consequences were brutal.

In May 2004, Harold Fish, a retired school teacher, was forced to defend himself by shooting an unarmed attacker. As with the Zimmerman case, initial police investigations recommend that no charges be filed. However, the Coconino County prosecutor insisted on bringing criminal charges. Unlike George Zimmerman, with state law against him, Mr. Fish was convicted of second degree murder and sent to prison. In 2006, with AzCDL's support, legislation was introduced and passed into law that restored our right to be "innocent until proven guilty." Unfortunately it wasn't until 2009 that Mr. Fish was released from prison under the "new" law. Sadly, he died just 3 years later.

In addition to restoring "innocent until proven guilty," AzCDL has been instrumental in getting legislation passed that further protects your right to legitimately defend yourself. Among these are:

- Strengthening the elements of justification for the use of force.
- Adding the presumption, in certain civil actions, that a victim acted reasonably when using physical or deadly force.
- Establishment of the justification for the defensive display of a firearm.
- Clarification that a person has no duty to retreat in any place that they have a right to be (i.e., Stand your Ground).
- Strengthening Castle Doctrine.
- A Constitutional Amendment to prevent victims from being sued by their attacker.

However, none of these laws will protect you from a dedicated prosecutor bent on using your case to push an ideological agenda funded with taxpayer money. But with your help we can make it more difficult for them to railroad an honest citizen.



It's going to take everyone pulling together. If Arizona's elected officials truly supported your right to bear arms, they wouldn't ban firearms at the State Capitol and on almost all government property in the state; the Governor and Legislature would not allow Tucson to get away with violating state firearms preemption laws; and your Arizona CCW permit would not refer to the "privilege" to carry discreetly.

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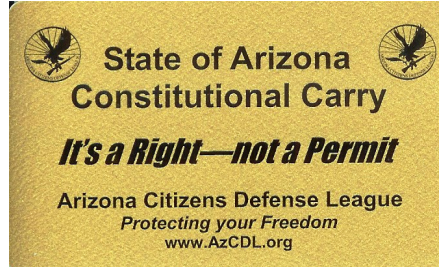
Defending Your Rights



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With few valiant exceptions, politicians prefer unarmed subjects to armed citizens and will only honor your rights when you put pressure on them.

Putting pressure on Arizona politicians starts with becoming an AzCDL member, but does not end there. Our lobbyists work full time at the State Capitol championing good legislation and stopping bad bills, but without your active participation, backing them up by contacting committee members, your legislators and the Governor, our efforts would be ignored.



When Constitutional Carry was passed in 2010, AzCDL had about 3,000 members. We expect to have over 10,000 members by the start of the 2014 legislative session. That number can carry a lot of weight, but only if everyone reading this commits to spending a little time making a difference.

What do we mean by "time?" *Scant minutes and a few key strokes.* As important bills progress, we provide prepared messages at our Legislative Action Center for contacting key officials. Whether or not a bill supporting your right to bear arms moves and gets legislative support can be measured by the volume of emails they receive.

To put it another way, if you do nothing, you're telling committee members, your legislators and the Governor that you are fine with your rights slowly eroding away.

Which side are you on?



New Laws Effective September 13th



The 2013 Legislative session started on January 14th and adjourned on June 14th. This session we had a legislature with Republican majorities in both chambers.

On the surface, it looked positive for the passage of pro-rights legislation. Unfortunately what we encountered, at the assumed direction of legislative leadership, was a concerted effort to prevent any significant pro-rights firearms legislation from reaching the Governor.

However, with the help of thousands of AzCDL's members and supporters contacting their legislators, committee members, and the Governor, we were successful in getting key bills signed into law.

The following is a summary of the pro-rights firearms bills that will become law on September 13, 2013.

Gun Owner Registration Blocked

HB 2326 amends ARS 13-3108 to prohibit state agencies and local governments from maintaining "*identifying information of a person who owns, possesses, purchases, sells or transfers a firearm,*" except in the course of a law enforcement investigation (e.g., locating a

stolen firearm).

In light of government maintained registries being used to confiscate firearms in California, New York and other states, HB 2326 is timely and important.

Firearms Destruction Stopped

Last year, AzCDL-requested legislation was passed that forbade local municipalities from destroying firearms that had been "recovered, lost or abandoned." Using Clintonesque (depends on what "is" means) rationalization, the cities of Tucson and Phoenix reasoned that current law does not prohibit the destruction of firearms "surrendered" as a result of a "buy back" program.

To counter this, **HB 2455**, which contained AzCDL-requested language, was passed and signed by the Governor that clarifies that firearms "surrendered" or "otherwise received" fall under the definition of property that must be sold and not destroyed.

Support for the 2nd Amendment

The final pro-rights bill that passed the Legislature was **SCR 1015**, a resolution

by the Legislature that they support "*the right under the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution of individual citizens to keep and bear arms and reject the consideration of new legislation that would infringe on this constitutionally protected right.*"



Despite all members of the Legislature swearing to uphold the U.S. and Arizona Constitutions, SCR 1015 passed by small majorities in the House and Senate. While SCR 1015 is a welcomed gesture, it has no legal effect.

A real show of support for the right to bear arms would have been the passage of several other firearms related pro-rights bills introduced this session that were allowed to die.

Join us for AzCDL's 2013 Annual Meeting in Tucson!

Mark your calendars!

The Arizona Citizens Defense League invites you to attend our Annual Meeting of Members:

Saturday, October 5, 2013

This year's annual meeting will be held at the **Marriott University Park, 880 E. 2nd Street, Tucson.**



As with all our Annual Meetings, the tasteful open carrying of holstered firearms is appreciated.

All luncheon attendees will be eligible for our door prize drawings.

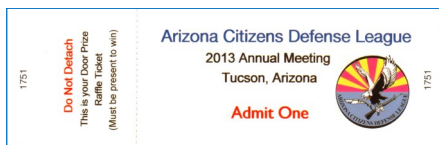
This year's keynote speaker is veteran Television Journalist and Conservative Activist Jan Morgan. Jan is a nationally recognized Second Amendment advocate. She is also an NRA certified firearms instructor and an award winning investigative journalist.



You can read more about Ms. Morgan at her website:

<http://janmorganmedia.com/>

If you plan on attending AzCDL's 2013 Annual Meeting, reservations must be received no later than Sunday, September 29, 2013. Tickets and entrée selections are available at our [online store](#).



Getting your tickets to AzCDL's annual meeting is easy!

Tickets are available with every new or renewed membership.

- With a \$30 Basic Annual membership you may request one free luncheon ticket.
- With a \$50 Sustaining Annual membership you may request up to two free luncheon tickets.
- With a Family Annual membership you may request up to 3 luncheon tickets (\$80 online purchases only).

If your membership expires after October 31, 2013, you do NOT need to renew your membership to obtain Annual Meeting luncheon tickets.

- If your Basic Annual membership expires after October 31, 2013, you may request ONE Annual Meeting luncheon ticket for \$10 using the "Annual Meeting Donation" item at our online store.
- If your Sustaining Annual membership expires after October 31, 2013, you may request up to TWO Annual Meeting luncheon tickets for \$10 each using the "Annual Meeting Donation" item.

Additional Annual Meeting tickets can be purchased for non-members by purchasing an AzCDL membership for them.

Thinking of becoming an AzCDL Life Member? Annual meeting tickets for you and your guests are included with your membership. Contact Fred at treasurer@azcdl.org for more information.

Details can be found at our website:

http://www.azcdl.org/html/annual_meeting.html

If you do not have Internet access, call (623) 242-9086 and request a reservation form.

Annual Meeting tickets and AzCDL memberships can also be purchased at any gun show or other event where we have a recruiting table.



AzCDL 2013 Election Results



To promote continuity in leadership, the terms of office for AzCDL's directors are staggered. This year, the positions held by John Wentling, AzCDL's Vice-President, and Charles Heller, AzCDL's Communication's Director, expired and both sought reelection. No other nominations were submitted.

Per AzCDL's bylaws, a balloting process is not required when any individual runs unopposed. As a result, John and

Charles have been reelected to 3 year terms. The terms of the current AzCDL directors expire in the following years:

2014—Fred Dahnke & Duke Schechter
2015—Dave Kopp
2016—John Wentling & Charles Heller

Per AzCDL's bylaws, the Board of Directors elects the Officers following the annual election of directors.

On July 1, 2013, the following officers were elected:

Dave Kopp—Chairman of the Board
Dave Kopp—President
John Wentling—Vice President
Fred Dahnke—Secretary / Treasurer



Raffle Tickets—Win an AR-15 and Ammo!



Get' em before they're gone!

AzCDL is raffling off two AR-15's and a case of 5.56 NATO ammo in three separate raffles.

The first rifle is a Colt Light Carbine, chambered for .223 Remington, with a non-lined 16" barrel and bird-cage flash hider. This rifle is optics ready with a flat top. A standard capacity 30 round magazine is included.

The second rifle is a DPMS Panther A-15, chambered for 5.56 mm NATO, with iron sights, a 16" barrel, and a 6 position stock. A standard capacity 30 round magazine is included.

500 tickets have printed for each rifle raffle with a drawing date of Sunday, September 15th. *Over half the tickets have already been sold.*



Winners must comply with all federal, state and local laws, and must pick up their firearm from a federally licensed firearms dealer.

The final raffle is a case (1,000 rounds) of British 5.56 mm ammunition, produced at their Radway Green plant in March 1998. This case is sealed in the original wooden box and has never been opened.

The drawing for the winning ticket will occur when all the tickets have been sold. *As this was being drafted there were only 130 tickets left.*

The winner of this raffle must retrieve the ammunition in Tucson, or make arrangements to have it shipped.

Tickets are only \$10 each



All raffle tickets can be purchased at AzCDL's online store:

http://www.azcdl.org/html/online_store.html

Help support AzCDL's continued success—buy raffle tickets!

AzCDL is self-funded and fiercely independent. We are not beholden to any political parties, outsiders, sugar daddies, corporate string pullers, or New York billionaires.

We don't send out begging letters, threatening your rights if you don't send us money like so many other organizations. Instead, we ask that you keep your membership current, and whenever possible we offer raffle tickets for really cool stuff.

2013 Independence Day Rifle Match

On July 4, 2013, the eighth annual AzCDL Independence Day Action Rifle Match was hosted by the Rio Salado Sportsman's Club in Mesa.



As a benefit match, net proceeds were donated to AzCDL. Ninety-six participants signed up for this year's match.

Match Sponsors

We extend our thanks to the following Contributing Sponsors for this year's match:

- 1791 Apparel
- Brownells



- Independence Training
- Patriot Ordinance Factory
- Quentin Defense
- Shooter's World
- TCB firearms & Holsters

- Trooper Gear

And, special thanks to AzCDL member Richard Bhella for setting up the match and making it a success.

Celebrate Independence Day in a way that would make the Founding Fathers proud!

