



Arizona Citizens Defense League

Protecting Your Freedom

Volume 2008, Issue 4

AZCDL NEWSLETTER

November 2008

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P.O. Box 10325
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- AzCDL Goals & Successes
 - Legislative Updates
 - Arizona Court Cases
 - Online Application
 - Newsletters
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- (and much more)

Need help accessing the web site? Contact AzCDL at (623) 594-8521



Contacting AzCDL



info@AzCDL.org



(623) 594-8521

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Election 2008—The Silver Lining



The historic outcome of the November 4, 2008 presidential election is reminiscent of 1976 when another virtual unknown was elected President and his Democratic party controlled the House and Senate with disastrous results, setting the stage for the Reagan Revolution. Rather than engage in "analysis paralysis" and doom and gloom prophecies of a Constitution trampling Obama administration, it's time to focus on where we CAN make a difference—and that's right here in Arizona.

An odd thing happened on November 4th. The Democrats, who spent tons of money in Arizona, hoping to win many seats and take control of the State House, got their butts kicked. The Republicans, not the Democrats, gained ground with one new Senator and two new Representatives, based on Election Day voting. Since the mail-in ballots are still being counted, the results of some of the tight races may change, but so far it looks like the Republicans will control 18 of the 30 Senate seats and 35 of the 60 House seats.

Fourteen of this year's legislative candidates are AzCDL members! One of those was AzCDL Director J.D. "Duke" Schechter. On his first foray into State politics, he finished a respectable 3rd in a 5-way House race in District 27 (Tucson), losing against two entrenched incumbents. The stars are starting to align for Duke. While he is building name recognition, the incumbents are "term-limited" and cannot run in the next election cycle.

There's more good news! Governor Janet Napolitano has been tapped to be part of President-elect Obama's Transition Team. There's even talk of a Cabinet position. The Governor must decide to continue to preside over a State with a budget she plunged into the red, a Legislature controlled by the opposing party, and another string of AzCDL's bills exposing her anti-rights beliefs, or she can move to the political big leagues. Our money is on Janet doing what Janet does best—looking out for Janet's career. She's probably already measuring the drapes for her new Washington, DC office. If Governor Napolitano jumps ship, that will leave Arizona's Secretary of State, Jan Brewer, a Republican, as acting Governor. 2009 may turn out to be a banner year for pro-rights legislation.

Icing on the cake! The NRA will be holding their 2009 Annual Meeting on May 14-17, 2009 in Phoenix. Whoever is Arizona's Governor will probably want to make a good showing and the NRA most likely will want to have a hand in any firearms related pro-rights legislation being pushed in Arizona. We may have a "perfect storm" in 2009 (from the anti-rights perspective).

Now it's YOUR turn. The stage is set for great gains in restoring our rights here in Arizona. AzCDL is stronger than ever and poised to exploit every opportunity to get pro-rights legislation introduced, pushed through the Legislature and signed by the Governor. But we can only be successful with YOUR help. This is not the time to whine about what "coulda, shoulda, oughta" happen in Washington, DC when we have been handed a tremendous opportunity to make a difference right here at home. Spread the word! Let the 2009 Legislature feel your presence—get involved!

WHICH WOULD YOU RATHER USE TO DEFEND YOUR RIGHTS?



PROVE IT. GET ACTIVE.



New Laws Effective September 26, 2008



The following are pro-rights bills that became law this year.

SB 1070—Makes it easier for lawful gun owners who have satisfactorily completed training to obtain a concealed weapons (CCW) permit, or renew an expired permit.

If your permit has expired you may obtain a new one without retaking the training. If you don't possess an expired permit, but can provide "adequate documentation" that you passed the required training within the last 5 years, you may obtain a new permit without retaking the training.

Per the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) website, these permit applications will be treated as new (versus renewals) applications and will require fingerprint cards.

For the proper procedures, contact DPS. Contact information is provided at the end of this article.



HB 2634—Allows permit applicants who are not currently prohibited possessors under state or federal law and whose felony convictions have been expunged, set aside, vacated, or whose rights have been restored the ability to obtain a CCW permit. It also extends reciprocity to other state who issue per-

mits under the same or similar conditions.

For inquires about the CCW permit program, here is the DPS contact information:

E-mail: ccw@azdps.gov

Supervisor: Donna J. Street

Mailing Address:
 Concealed Weapons Permit Unit
 P.O. Box 6488
 Phoenix, AZ 85005

Telephone:
 Metro Phoenix: (602) 256-6280
 All other areas: (800) 256-6280

Fax: (602) 223-2928

AzCDL Awarded at GRPC—Again!

Once again, AzCDL has been recognized for our grassroots activism at a Gun Rights Policy Conference (GRPC).

In 2006, we were awarded "Grassroots Organization of the Year" at the Charlotte, North Carolina GRPC.



September 26, 27 and 28, 2008
 Sheraton Crescent
 Phoenix, Arizona



In September of this year, at the Phoenix GRPC, Fred Dahnke, AzCDL's Treasurer, administrative staff, webmaster and all around chief cook and bottle washer was recognized as "Grassroots Activist of the Year."

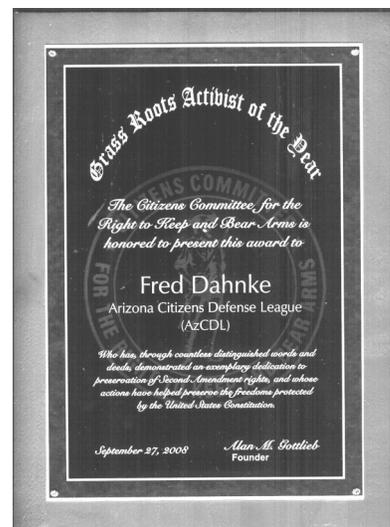
The Phoenix GRPC was also a successful recruiting event for AzCDL. Our volunteers worked non-stop throughout the conference, missing many of the seminars. That's dedication!

We were provided a table positioned right outside the front entrance of the conference room. Many conference goers thought we were running the GPRC.

Because about a dozen AzCDL volunteers helped set up the conference room in record time—in about an hour and a half they set up over 350 packets

of books and handouts—we were able to add an invitation to AzCDL's annual meeting to each packet. This resulted in a big boost to our annual meeting attendance.

By the end of the conference, over 60 new members joined AzCDL. We deeply appreciate the dedication of those who helped at the GRPC—THANK YOU!



Annual Members Meeting

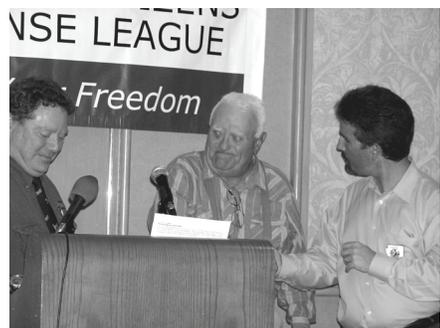


The third annual Arizona Citizens Defense League dinner was a smashing success on October 18th. More than 200 openly armed citizens gathered at the Phoenix Crowne Plaza Hotel to celebrate the legislative and activist victories of the past year. AzCDL requests that each attending member practice "tasteful open carry" at its events, in order to remind the public of our great freedom in America.

Keynote addresses included Arizona House Speaker Jim Weiers, and Phoenix attorney Michael Anthony.



Mr. Anthony spoke on post Heller litigation to incorporate the Second Amendment upon the states, and Speaker Weiers encouraged all gun owners to engage in the maximum effort they could afford in the November election.



AzCDL Secretary and master of ceremonies Charles Heller and President Dave Kopp gave Dan Dewey a lifetime achievement award for tireless service in maintaining our rights. Mr. Dewey, who is retired, never misses a hearing, public event, or recruiting opportunity to

promote the right to keep and bear arms. A leading recruiter for NRA, Dan proudly displays applications for AzCDL on his NRA table. Asked if NRA would mind, he responds, "I don't care." (He is their #3 recruiter in the nation). That's the spirit Dan!

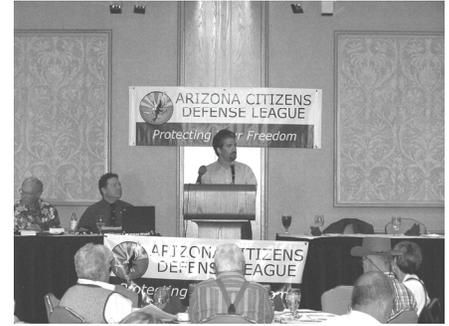
Charles Heller also reported on a success in Tucson for the Right To Keep And Bear Arms, when a local restaurateur posted a "no guns" sign. Said sign was spotted only two weeks ago for the first time, and since then a steady stream of patrons have announced that they will not eat there until the sign comes down. Last week the owner called Mr. Heller to report that the sign was down, and that he "had forgotten what state he lives in. AzCDL now heartily encourages you to have an omelet at the Hungry Fox Restaurant in Tucson, since Mr. Collins has recalled what state he's in.



The Cartridge Family Band, led by Author Alan Korwin, provided entertainment. They performed their signature songs, "She Wore A Glock 17," and "ACLU," among others, parodying various anti-freedom ideologies.

Plans were announced by Charles Heller to form a citizen lobbying corps, to take up more of the duties now performed by our 2 full time *volunteer* lobbyists, President Dave Kopp, and Vice-President John Wentling. According to Charles Heller, "we are going to send forth our agents to eat out the legislators' substance."

AzCDL presented Governor Janet Napolitano the "Golden Veto" award, for "obstruction of justice above and beyond the call of duty in vetoing bills necessary to the defense of its citizens." The award will be delivered in a private ceremony, as the governor neglected to



answer her invitation to show up. The Governor vetoed two important bills this year, one which would have clarified some issues with open carry that have been muddied by two court decisions, and one that would have authorized "defensive display" of a weapon if a person reasonably believed himself in danger, but his assailant had not yet produced a weapon. On to next year!

AzCDL Treasurer and 2008 GRPC activist of the year Fred Dahnke addressed the crowd about our membership numbers, which started with 4 people 3½ years ago, and is rapidly approaching 1,200 as this is written. 3% of the group are Life members according to Fred, and more than 35% are Sustaining members.

Thirty volunteer recruiters were acknowledged at the meeting for their tireless efforts at driving our membership well over a thousand for this year, and a goal was set to double our size in the next year.

As more than a third of the members hail from the Southern part of the state, next years event will be held in the Tucson Area.

Two Front Sight Course Certificates, one of which was donated to AzCDL by Ignatius Piazza, founder and director of the Front Sight Firearms Institute, were given away as door prizes.



(The "official" door prize drawing)



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The Arizona Citizens Defense League

AzCDL was founded by a group of local activists who recognized that a sustained, coordinated, statewide effort was critical to protecting and expanding the rights of law-abiding gun owners. AzCDL has been instrumental in the successful passage of the first major improvements to Arizona's CCW (concealed carry) laws since they were instituted in 1994, and has been at the forefront of the fight to restore justice to our self-defense laws.

AzCDL is a non-profit, all volunteer, non-partisan grassroots organization dedicated to the principles contained in Article II, Section 2 of the Arizona Constitution that:

"All political power is inherent in the people, and the governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed, and are established to protect and maintain individual rights."

AzCDL believes that the rights of self-defense and bearing arms are the

foundation for all other rights. Our freedom of speech, our freedom from unreasonable searches, our right against self-incrimination, our right to bear arms, all of our fundamental rights only exist because we stand firmly resolved to preserve them. The AzCDL exists to strengthen that resolve.

AzCDL believes that the emphasis of gun laws should be on criminal misuse and that law-abiding citizens should be able to own and carry firearms unaffected by unnecessary laws or regulations. Towards that end, we are pursuing the following legislative improvements:

- ✓ "Constitutional Carry" – The right of law-abiding citizens to carry a firearm openly or concealed.
- ✓ Continued strengthening and preservation of the right of presumed innocence in self-defense situations.
- ✓ Stronger State Preemption –

Firearms laws should be consistent throughout the State.

- ✓ Fewer restrictions on the lawful carrying of firearms on Public property (buildings, parks, etc.).
- ✓ Explicit 3rd Party Storage Requirements when entering a posted "No Guns" facility.
- ✓ Liability responsibility for property owners who ban firearms.
- ✓ Improvements to CCW laws.
- ✓ "Restaurant Carry" – The ability of law-abiding citizens to dine out while carrying a firearm.

Our volunteer lobbyists are at the capitol regularly, fighting for your rights!

Join or Renew today!

