

The Power of Arizona
Public Safety Officers

AZCOPS
Arizona Conference of Police and Sheriffs



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AZCOPS SPEAKS

February 2011

Crime, violence pushes Arizona into the spotlight

The attention of the nation turned to Arizona last month when a gunman chose a Tucson grocery store as the site of a shooting rampage.

The attempted murder of U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, AZ-D8, beloved member of Congress and a strong advocate for police labor and public safety, left Arizonans wondering how something so horrible could happen in our state, in our hometown, at our neighborhood grocery store. On that day, the nation got a little smaller as the frightening images from a grocery store parking lot, which could have been in any neighborhood in America, flashed across television screens

(See **PUBLIC SAFETY**, Page 5)

Attorneys quick to respond to shootings

AZCOPS attorneys are quick to respond to every critical incident involving a member. In each shooting described below, officers involved and their local association leaders made the first phone call to an AZCOPS attorney who responded to the scene quickly and took action to protect members.

“What makes AZCOPS different from other organizations is our willingness to go the distance for the troops,” said General Counsel Mike Storie. “We respond immediately and stay with our member throughout the investigation and any administrative proceedings. AZCOPS attorneys stay with our members from the beginning and see every case through to the end.”

Eager

In late October, Apache County deputies received a call of a suspect firing a shotgun inside a trailer in Eager.

Responding deputies arrived to find the suspect standing on the porch just outside the trailer. His rifle was at hand and was leaning against the side of the trailer.

Deputies gave numerous commands to the suspect. Instead of complying, the suspect began to shout obscenities at the officers.

Deputies were within 45 feet of the suspect when he suddenly turned, grabbed his rifle and began to charge on the deputies. He continued to ignore verbal commands and immediately presented as an imminent and serious deadly threat.

One of the deputies fired his M4, but this did not stop this suspect. The suspect continued to threaten the deputies by bringing his weapon up in an attempt to fire at the deputies. Once again, the deputy fired which ended the threats and the

(See **SHOOTINGS**, Page 3)

AZCOPS honors its leaders at 9th Annual Convention



From left are Mike Borrello of El Mirage Police Employees Assn., Brian Berg of Tucson POA, Chad Larsen of Maricopa Juvenile Corrections Assn., Joel Saucedo of San Luis POA, Keith Benjamin of Chandler Lts and Sgts Assn., AZCOPS President Larry A. Lopez, Joe Glen of Pima Juvenile Corrections Assn., Lorraine Bethka of Pinal County Deputies Assn., Monty Thomas of Police Officers of Scottsdale Assn., Ed Neidkowsky, Jr. of Arizona Capitol Police Officers Assn., and Oscar Rosas of Nogales Police Officers Assn.

AZCOPS continues fight against ADJC privatization

**By Joe Glen, Spokesman
Maricopa/Pima Juvenile Corrections Assns.**

A privatization forum was held at Pima Community College on Oct. 27. AZCOPS leaders alerted us and ensured that our juvenile corrections officers would have a strong voice in opposition to privatization.

Panel members included State Rep. Phil Lopes (LD 27), Asst. Tucson City Manager Richard Miranda, Pima County Supervisor Richard Elias (District 5), Tucson City Councilman Steve Kozachik, State Rep. Nancy Young Wright, former Assoc. Editor Mark Kimble of *The Tucson Citizen*.

Moderator Mari Herreras hosted a lively and informative session with more than 130 in attendance, a standing room only event that was filmed by various public media outlets. Of note, Corrections Corp. of America and Management and Training Corporation were invited and did not attend.

Presenters included Stephen Nathan, editor of

Privatization Report International. Nathan outlined serious security and public safety incidents that have occurred worldwide over the past 30 years in privatized prisons. Jim Sanders, a real estate appraiser, discussed the relationship of housing value depreciation when prisons are sited near residential communities. Victoria Lopez, ACLU of Arizona, who discussed deportation inmate abuses and in custody deaths at private facilities. Susan Maurer, a retired assistant corrections commissioner in New Jersey, implored Arizonans not to privatize prisons so companies could profit from the business of depriving freedoms.

In attendance were Pima Juvenile Corrections members, there to support our message of the best kept secret in state government.

ADJC members have maintained a 66 percent success rate with juveniles, despite losing 35 percent of our staff, closure of a facility in Buckeye,

(See **ADJC**, Page 4)

From the President ... On politics, communication, organizing and opportunists...

In these days of political uncertainty, it takes all of us working together to keep AZCOPS strong and influential at all levels of government.

I know that politics is never an easy thing to deal with. Most of us never dreamed of getting involved in politics when we first started our jobs. We wanted to patrol urban streets and rural neighborhoods, keep a vigilant eye on the probationer, and make sure the worst of the worst stayed locked up. However, as time went on in our careers we started to notice that things were not always what we thought they should be. We started to pay closer attention, asked more questions, and before long, we were attending union meetings and state conventions -- surrounded by people who have experienced similar challenges.

At some point, each of us realized that we were being used as political pawns to get people elected to office; used to promote or scare people into voting for, or against one thing or another; or being used as a political punching bag for special interest groups promoting various political agendas. This is our reality, and the challenge is to stay unified, educated and involved.

In October each year, AZCOPS hosts a convention for members in hopes of providing tools and information to help them be more effective political leaders for their associations back home.

2010 was the most active year politically for AZCOPS. Local election victories in several cities and legislative victories in the State Capitol raised our level of political influence across the state.

For example, the City of Maricopa Police Officers Association in May 2010 won a political campaign to get two

of three candidates elected to the City Council; and in the City of El Mirage, the El Mirage POA changed the entire political landscape by working to get four candidates on the Council along with electing a new Mayor!

And of course the year's major battle took place last spring and summer when the Governor attempted to shut down juvenile corrections. Both the Pima & Maricopa groups stood their ground and launched a successful statewide campaign against the political machine. AZCOPS assisted all these groups, but it was the POA's who put boots on the ground to get the mission accomplished.

These are just some examples of how working together and standing firm, we can accomplish just about anything.

However, our work is never done. We still have rogue chiefs, sheriffs and judges out there who love to arbitrarily violate things like departmental rules, state law, and a little thing called the U.S. Constitution.

Why has all of this been happening? Because politicians will talk a good game of public safety being their number one priority when running for office, but when the rubber hits the road, most of them have blowouts. We must hold all politicians, friend or foe, accountable for their actions when they look to negatively affect public safety in Arizona.

AZCOPS helped elect candidates for office in November who we believe will listen to us. AZCOPS is also actively involved in lobbying Congress for legislation like the national Due Process and Collective Bargaining bills. And at the state level, we are working to urge lawmakers to protect our pensions and enforce 38-1101.

At the local level, AZCOPS is working with affiliates to persuade politicians to keep the cost of healthcare down and refrain from layoffs.

AZCOPS appreciates the work of the Elections Committee, led by Luis Ebratt, our Director of Government Relations. Committee members volunteered their time to help us make sure we endorsed the candidates who will take our issues the farthest.

With our affiliate leaders engaged in city, county and state politics, we must educate our politicians and maintain a unified front as we move forward.

Communication is the key to success. Without it, we cannot achieve our objectives. This is why AZCOPS changed the way we do business two years ago with our newsletters, our website and our email bulletins. With over 8,000 members we needed a medium to get



LARRY A. LOPEZ
AZCOPS President
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as much information out as often as we can to keep our members updated on important issues.

We have achieved that, especially through our email bulletins. Our bulletins provide information related to legal victories, contacting lawmakers to support or oppose bills, and endorse candidates.

AZCOPS affiliates like Tucson POA, Prescott Valley POA, Pima County (See **PRESIDENT**, Page 5)



Charley Wilkison, director of Public Affairs for the Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas (CLEAT), was the AZCOPS Convention keynote speaker. Wilkison spoke to AZCOPS leaders about political action and campaigning.

AZCOPS SPEAKS

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AZCOPS, AZPOA support National Law Enforcement Officer Museum

By John Stair

AZCOPS Vice President

On Aug. 29, at the annual National Coalition of Public Safety Officers National Training and Leadership conference in San Diego, AZCOPS President Larry A. Lopez publicly announced AZCOPS' pledge of \$100,000 to the National Law Enforcement Memorial Fund.

This pledge will be used to help fund the building of the first National Law Enforcement Museum in Washington, D.C. AZCOPS has been a critical fundraising partner of the NLEOMF, in the western part of the United States.

In fact, AZCOPS affiliate group, the Arizona Probation Officers Association has also pledged \$25,000 over the next five years to the NLEOMF. All AZCOPS affiliates are encouraged to follow in the steps of AZPOA and make an individual pledge as well.

Those who are interested in participating in this magnificent opportunity should contact John Shanks, NLEOMF Director of Law Enforcement Relations at 202.737.8529 or send email to jshanks@nleomf.org. For more infor-

mation, visit the website www.nleomf.org.

In recognition of the strong partnership AZCOPS has with the NLEOMF, AZCOPS President Lopez and Vice President John Stair attended both the museum Groundbreaking and the Celebration Gala held Oct. 14. It was an exciting day to be part of all the festivities. Despite a heavy downpour of rain, which resulted in an abbreviated ceremony, attendees were thrilled to see the vision of the National Law Enforcement Museum begin to come true.

At the black tie celebration gala, officers, celebrities, and corporate leaders from all over the country celebrated the monumental task of raising over \$40 million of the eventual \$80 million needed to build the museum. From inspirational songs to the keynote address, one thing was clear, the life stories of the nation's brave public safety officers needs to be preserved and told to the next generation. These inspiring stories will show the next generation how to stand up against the ever-advancing criminal element, which seeks to destroy individual freedom, and the

American way of life.

In an interesting twist of irony, the U.S. Department of Justice has authorized the use of forfeiture funds for the building of the museum. So, the ill-got-

ten gains from criminal enterprises can now be used to tell the stories of bravery and courage displayed by the nation's public safety officers. Now that is truly justice and something to celebrate.



John Shanks (left) from the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Foundation attended the AZCOPS Convention in October 2010 where he spoke to members about the museum project. He presented AZCOPS President Larry A. Lopez with a gift commemorating the Association's contribution to the project.

SHOOTINGS *Continued from Page 1*

officers took charge of the scene.

Shortly after the scene was secured, an AZCOPS attorney arrived, met with the officers and stayed with them throughout the investigation.

City of Maricopa

Officers were recently called to assist the tribal police in Maricopa who had a suspect with a long rifle hiding in a large set of hay stacks in a field. As Maricopa officers arrived, they saw the tribal police trading rifle fire with the suspect.

The Maricopa officers entered the field and took cover behind their vehicles. Unfortunately, there was no other cover, the ground had been scraped bare for the 200 yards between the haystack and the officers.

Assisting Maricopa officers brought their rifles and also fired at the suspect. Once the suspect realized that backup had arrived and that he was out-manned and out-gunned, he walked out of the haystack and surrendered.

Even though the suspect was not seriously injured, an AZCOPS attorney responded to the scene to assist the officers involved. Once again, the AZCOPS attorney stayed with the officers until the investigation was complete, and they were able to go home.

Flagstaff

Neighbors called police after hearing a fight and crashing noises in the next

apartment.

Officers were dispatched to the DV. As officers arrived on scene they knocked and announced at the front door. No one answered the door, but the officers could hear sounds of what appeared to be an ongoing struggle.

One of the officers moved to a set of side windows. As he moved along the window he also knocked on the window and announced. No one responded. The officer then took a quick peek and was stunned to come face to face with the end of a shotgun. The officer jerked his head and body to cover and yelled "gun" to alert other officers to the lurking danger.

As other officers continued to bang on the front door and yell commands, the officer at the rear of the house crept to a window. In the dimly lit room, the officer was able to see a man with a shotgun standing over a kneeling victim. By all accounts any person would conclude that this shotgun-holding suspect was about to execute the victim, so the officer fired upon the suspect and the threat was removed.

An AZCOPS attorney responded quickly to the scene and assisted the officers through the criminal interviews. The attorney remained on the scene until the investigation involving these officers was complete. Eventually, with the assistance of the AZCOPS attorney,

the shooting was found to be justified.

Lake Havasu

A woman called police regarding her brother who had amassed an arsenal of weapons, was apparently deploying weapons and ammunition throughout his house and had posted a sign on his front door to the effect that the next person through the door would be killed.

Lake Havasu police mobilized SWAT and attempted to make contact with the man. For hours the man refused to communicate, refused to come out of his house and refused to allow anyone else to come near. The event dragged on for quite some time. Finally, the man simply burst from his front door armed with an assault weapon.

Officers yelled commands, which were ignored by the suspect. The suspect moved from his front door forward to the edge of his garage. As the suspect reached the end of the garage, he raised his assault weapon and pointed it toward the officers. Before the suspect could fire on the officers, he was shot by a SWAT sniper.

This incident ended with no injuries to the officers. A later search of the house revealed that the suspect had fortified each window area and had placed weapons, ammunition and other provisions at each firing station around the house.

An AZCOPS attorney responded

promptly to the scene and once again, met with the officers and prepared them for their criminal interviews. The attorney sat with the officers during their interviews and stayed with them until they were permitted to leave.

Winslow

On Oct. 20, police officers were dispatched to a home in Winslow following reports of gunfire inside the house.

Officers tried to establish contact, but the suspect refused to communicate. It became clear that the suspect was barricading himself in and would not come out. The house was surrounded and officers again tried to make contact with the suspect. Hours later, as officers moved around the house, the suspect opened fire on them. Officers returned fire and retreated to cover. Fortunately, in brief but intense firefight, no officer was injured. Just before daybreak Winslow PD made the decision to breach the house. As SWAT entered the front door, the armed suspect attempted to run out the back door. As the suspect opened the back door, officers yelled commands that were ignored by the suspect. The suspect pointed his weapon at officers and in response, the officers fired ending the threat.

An AZCOPS attorney promptly responded to the scene. He stayed with officers until their involvement in the investigation was complete.

From the Capitol ...

Public Safety pensions at risk

By Luis Ebratt, Director
AZCOPS Government Relations

These are difficult times for our membership. That's why as an organization, we need to improve our resolve when it comes to our pensions.

As officers, we did not enter the profession for the large salaries and bonuses available to corporate America. Instead, we discounted the money and pursued a profession that helped and protected our communities. As a group we understand the passion and sacrifice we put into our everyday duties; no one else really does. So together we must protect the one thing that has become a reward for enduring the long nights, indignities and risk-taking that often defines our jobs.

Pensions in this state are constitutionally guaranteed. The defined benefit is irrevocable. At least that's what we were led to believe. It appears that last year's cuts to public safety were just the beginning. Last year, government made our jobs harder. Manpower cuts increased response time, caseloads and staff to inmate ratios.

This year, the Legislature wants to impact our collective future. A few of the proposals include elimination of DROP, increasing the age of retirement, increasing the employee contribution rate, moving to a Defined Contribution system as opposed to a Defined Benefit and alarmingly, state lawmakers want to decrease the benefits of our retired members. These folks have retired and adjusted to the economy on a set income. What is lost in the discussion by our lawmakers is that Article 29 of the Arizona Constitution protects these rights.

ARTICLE 29 reads:

"Public Retirement Systems

A. Public retirement systems shall be funded with contributions and investment earnings using actuarial methods and assumptions that are consistent with generally accepted actuarial standards.

B. The assets of public retirement

systems, including investment earnings and contributions, are separate and independent trust funds and shall be invested, administered and distributed as determined by law solely in the interests of the members and beneficiaries of the public retirement systems.

C. Membership in a public retirement system is a contractual relationship that is subject to article II, section 25, and public retirement system benefits shall not be diminished or impaired.[1]" (Note: This article prohibits the enactment of a bill impairing the obligation of a contract)

Further, case law dating 40 years protects these irrevocable contracts. Also not understood is that the proposed changes to DROP, are miniscule in the grand scheme of the pension plan, while shifting the next generation of employees from a DB to a DC class jeopardizes the future health of a plan trying to recover.

On the plus side, Jim Hacking, Plan Administrator, has worked diligently over the past five years of his tenure

to restore the direction and integrity of the system and concurrently introduced legislation that has benefited the plan's investment diversity.

It is also reported that the AZ State Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) recognizes the findings of the pension actuaries and the logical and legal course for restoring the plan to a sustainable level within 20-25 years will be pursued.

Let's hope our lawmakers value contractual case law and ignore public hysteria, thereby avoiding catastrophic litigation that will ultimately harm the health of the plan.

As leaders and members, it is our responsibility to become involved. Attend meetings and hearings. Dialogue with your district lawmakers by sending emails and making phone calls. Let them know you are paying attention and that we are united in our effort to protect that which was promised to us.



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ADJC

Continued from Page 1

over 233 laid off. ADJC members have maintained a 72 percent youth GED graduation rate, higher than the 67 percent state average, despite cuts of \$9 million. Our members are doing our part without complaint, giving up thousands in pay, unpaid furlough days, increased case loads and longer hours.

The panel members were unanimous in support of ADJC employees after hearing this testimony. Pima County Supervisor Elias was adamant in his appreciation of the important public safety role our members provide each day. Rep. Lopes warned the audience that Gov. Brewer had cancelled planned hearings regarding juvenile corrections recently, this after her attempt to eliminate ADJC earlier this year.

With the continuous support of over 8,000 AZCOPS members, our juvenile corrections employees will take every opportunity to tell our story of perseverance in the face of economic and political adversity.



AZCOPS leaders recently met with James Hacking, administrator of the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System, for a presentation and discussion about public safety benefits. Front row from left are Joe Glen of Pima/Maricopa Juvenile Corrections, AZCOPS Government Relations Director Luis Ebratt, and James Hacking. Back row from left are Jason Hathcock of AZ Probation Officers Association, AZCOPS Vice President John Stair, and Mike Gurr, John Strader and Jason Winsky, all of Tucson Police Officers Association.

AZCOPS-backed candidates win General Election

The General Election was highly contested given the condition of both our national and state economy. AZCOPS was aware of this and chose a very deliberate path in selecting our political advocates, based on both historical support and responses to an AZCOPS questionnaire.

In the final analysis, these candidates were proven supporters of public safety officers and received the endorse-

ment and support of AZCOPS and our affiliates.

Congratulations to these elected officials:

U.S. Congress

U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, CD8

Arizona House of Representatives

LD2 Tom Chabin (D)
LD7 David Smith (R)
LD12 Jerry Weiers (R)

LD16 Ruben Gallego (D)
LD18 Ed Ableser (D)
LD22 Eddie Farnsworth (R)
LD23 Frank Pratt (R)
LD24 Lynne Pancrazi (D)
LD26 Vic Williams (R)
LD29 Daniel Patterson (D)
Arizona State Senate
LD15 Kyrsten Sinema (D)
LD17 David Schapira (D)
LD23 Andy Biggs (R)

Congratulations, Retirees!

Best wishes to leaders of our affiliates who have recently retired. Each made a significant contribution to the never-ending fight for officers' rights, and will be long-remembered for their willingness to go the distance for AZCOPS members.

DON CARR

Pima Juvenile Corrections Assn.

OSCAR ROSAS

Nogales Police Officers Assn.

MONTY THOMAS

Police Officers of Scottsdale Assn.

ANTHONY (TONY) VENDITTO

Sierra Vista Police Officers Assn.

AZCOPS intervenes to secure paychecks for La Paz County employees

AZCOPS Legal joined with the Arizona Attorney General's Office in early February to protest an attempt by a Yakima, Washington-based trash collection company to garnish the bank accounts of La Paz County government.

In an effort to collect on a past court settlement between the private company and the County, the company obtained Writs of Garnishment on all accounts, which meant La Paz deputies and all county employees would not receive paychecks until the debt was paid.

Don Stokes, president of the La Paz County Probation Officers Association, and Joe Escorza, president of the La Paz County Deputies Association, called AZCOPS for help. AZCOPS Legal responded by assigning a lawyer to call into the Superior Court's legal proceedings on behalf of members.

"His (Attorney James Cool) was a very welcome voice to all AZCOPS members in the room. The courtroom was packed to standing room only with others standing in the doorway and outside," said Stokes.

After hearing the arguments from the AZCOPS attorney and the Attorney General's Office, which filed a Friend of the Court Brief on behalf of the State and County, Judge Richard Weis of Mohave County cited a case from 1935 that he said prohibited Writs of Garnishment from being served on government entities.

"Employees were paid the following day," Stokes said. "It was very comforting to have AZCOPS representation, especially on such short notice, as most employees believe the County government should have taken steps to resolve this issue before it got to this point."

PRESIDENT *Continued from Page 2*

Probation Officers Association, and the Law Enforcement Officer of Sahuarita, have gone outside the box, by utilizing Facebook to help get their message to their members, the community, and politicians. Although I stress to keep a very close eye on what is being posted on the site, especially by members, Facebook has proven to be a valuable networking tool.

With all of the cuts to personnel throughout the state and the lack of hiring in many jurisdictions, organizing members for AZCOPS was quite the challenge in 2010. During this time we switched gears a little by focusing more on retention within the current ranks. This is not to say we should not actively recruit those who are not members who are within our affiliates. On the contrary we need to work diligently to educate potential members on the benefits of joining AZCOPS, but at the same time, we must remind current members of why they should stay.

During the last two years, Arizona has seen its share of huge budget shortfalls, fallen revenue, and the collapse of the housing market. In turn this has caused great concern at work and at home with all of the uncertainties. We must remind members that in their chosen field they must have the best legal policy, which AZCOPS provides without a doubt, and the confidence to know that they have the best leaders and attorneys who will fight to protect their rights. With our membership-owned war chest, AZCOPS is ready and willing to fight the good fight. This is no time to be a public safety officer and not have the best legal coverage, because as we

know all too well it takes only one incident to go south and the job is lost forever.

That being said, there are those groups out there who are taking advantage of the uncertainty and are attempting to lure those who are not sure of what AZCOPS provides or of what their own affiliate does for them. When this happens, other groups, which I like to refer to as "opportunists," peek around the corner and whisper untruths, promising things they know they cannot provide. These same opportunists don't care about the potential member -- they care only about building their numbers in the attempt to recapture the good ole days of yesteryear.

Let me remind you that we left the smoke-filled, good ole boy if we like you we'll represent you, type organizations back in the 1990's to start an organization that represents ALL of its members regardless of who they are or what agency they work for. I urge you not to let your members be fooled. It is incumbent upon us as leaders to continue to inform our members of the distinct differences between AZCOPS and those who try to be like AZCOPS.

As our Chief of Staff Tim Clark has always said, "we're not the best because we're the biggest, we're the biggest because we are the best."

I'm very proud and honored to be the President of AZCOPS and I promise you that I, and my staff, will always give you our very best day in and day out. Fellow members, the state of our union is strong and we are ready to face any challenges that come our way!

Strength in Numbers...

By Tim Clark
AZCOPS Chief of Staff

As we travel across Arizona enrolling public safety officers into AZCOPS, we are constantly amazed by the stories we hear from new members regarding their experiences as members of other organizations.

After hearing tales of misleading legal plans, questionable legal representation that resulted in unfair discipline, and a lack of political involvement when it comes to issues that impact members' jobs and public safety in our state, we are reminded that AZCOPS is on the cutting-edge of public sector labor organizations.

We are proud to work with a Board of Directors that has a vision of service. Together, we are moving the organization into a new year and a new decade from a position of strength and unity.

Our collective strength as an organization comes from a growing membership that is united in resolve and focused on our mission of protecting officer rights and improving pay, benefits and working conditions for Arizona law enforcement.

Unlike other organizations, AZCOPS puts the needs of our members first. We go the distance to win every fight. Whether the battle is in a chief's office, a court of law, city hall or the State Capitol, every fight gets our complete attention and the support of more than 8,000 members statewide.

Not only are we willing to do whatever it takes to protect our members behind the scenes, we're also willing to take the fight to the public.

In 2010, AZCOPS fought for members on a number of public fronts. We ran political campaigns to elect politi-

cians in several cities, and persuaded state lawmakers to keep juvenile corrections facilities open and officers on the job protecting our communities.



It was the first time in our organization's history that the public and its elected officials got a true glimpse at the lengths we are willing to go to protect our membership. We built a coalition with other organizations that shared common interests and we pooled our collective influence to stop a foolish political plan. And we will do it all again when the need arises.

AZCOPS welcomes the Salt River Law Enforcement Association, which is being led by Mark Lamb. Just like the other organizations that have joined us before them, they recognized that AZCOPS is different from other organizations.

Local associations reach out to us because they see what we're doing and know from our actions that we don't stand idly by and watch our membership from afar. We are partners at every step, and play an active role at every opportunity. We look for ways to help make our local affiliates more successful. At every turn, you can count on us to have your back and know that we are working to protect your future.

Contact Tim Clark by email:
tclark@azcops.org

PUBLIC SAFETY *Continued from Page 1*

across the country.

AZCOPS leaders across the state, who have spent the past year warning city councils and government bureaucrats of the public safety risks of cutting law enforcement budgets, were just as shocked by the event as the rest of the state. But the news was especially difficult for those of us in Tucson where months earlier Rep. Giffords had come to the aid of local government and secured federal funding to hire more police officers.

She listened to AZCOPS and understood that Tucson, like many other communities in Arizona, was changing and becoming more dangerous. When we told the Tucson City Council that laying off 125 police officers and reducing the police presence to 1989 staffing levels would endanger the community and

its officers, Rep. Giffords went to work in Washington to find the funds to help.

As we continue to pray for her recovery, AZCOPS keeps the roads hot from one end of the state to the other trying to educate decision-makers at all levels of government about the dangers of police layoffs, privatizing prisons and closing juvenile correctional facilities.

In the wake of other major tragedies in our nation's history, we have seen communities divided come together for good. In the aftermath of this horrific event in our state, AZCOPS stands committed to the message we have been delivering in communities from Flagstaff to Tucson -- public safety has to be the first priority of government, especially during tough economic times.

9th Annual AZCOPS Convention



**Mark your calendar for Convention 2011!
Oct. 21-22 | Aquarius Casino Resort, Laughlin, NV**

(A) Pima County Probations Officers Association. (B) Lorraine Bethka of Pinal County Deputies Association. (C) AZCOPS President Larry A. Lopez, Susan Towne and Mike Worden of Pima County Probation Officers Association. (D) AZCOPS members participated in training sessions during the Convention. (E) Top row from left, Irene and Scott Glass of Tucson Police Officers Association, Jim Parks of AZCOPS and his wife, Barbara, and Gerry Clark. (F) From left, AZCOPS President Larry A. Lopez, Rick McCann, director of Nevada Association of Public Safety Officers, and John Doran, director of the National Coalition of Public Safety Officers.

AZCOPS Member Associations

ADOT Peace Officers Association | All Peoria Police Officers Association | Apache County Deputies Association | Apache County Probation Officers Association | Arizona Capitol Police Officers Association | Arizona Probation Officers Association | Avondale Police Officers Association | Benson Police Officers Association | Bisbee Police Officers Association | Buckeye Police Officers Association | Bullhead City Police Officers Association | Camp Verde Public Safety Association | Casa Grande Police Officers Association | Casa Grande Police Supervisors Association | Chandler Lieutenants & Sergeants Association | Chandler Unified Police Department Association | Chino Valley Police Officers Association | City of Maricopa Police Officers Association | Clarkdale Police Officers Association | Cochise County Law Enforcement Association | Cochise County Probation Association | Coconino County Probation Association | Coconino Sheriffs Association | Coolidge Police Officers Association | Cottonwood Public Safety Association | Douglas Police Officers Association | Eloy Police Officers Association | El Mirage Police Employees Association | Flagstaff Police Officers Association | Florence Police Officers Association | Gila County Deputy Sheriffs Association | Gila County Probation Association | Graham County Deputy Sheriffs Association | Greenlee County Law Enforcement Association | Holbrook Police Officers Association | Kingman Police Officers Association | La Paz County Deputies Association | La Paz County Probation Officers Association | Lake Havasu Police Officers Association | Marana Police Commanders Association | Marana Police Officers Association | Maricopa Community College Police Officers Association | Maricopa County Deputies Association | Maricopa Juvenile corrections Association | Mohave County Deputies Association | Mohave County Probation Officers Association | Navajo County Deputies Association | Navajo County Probation Officers Association | Nogales Police Officers Association | Oro Valley Lieutenants Association | Oro Valley Police Officers Association | Page Police Officers Association | Paradise Valley Police Officers Association | Parker Police Officers Association | Pascua Yaqui Police Association | Payson Police Officers Association | Pima County Association of Corrections Professionals | Pima County Attorney Criminal Investigators | Pima County Deputy Sheriffs Association | Pima County Probation Officers Association | Pima County Sheriff's Commanders Association | Pima Juvenile Corrections Association | Pinal County Deputies Association | Pinal County Probation Officers Association | Pinetop-Lakeside Police Officers Association | Police Officers of Scottsdale Association | Prescott Police Department Association | Prescott Valley Commanders & Lieutenants | Prescott Valley Police Officers Association | Quartzsite Police Officers Association | Safford Police Officers Association | Sahuarita Police Officers Association | Salt River Law Enforcement Association | San Luis Police Officers Association | Santa Cruz County Deputies Association | Sedona Law Enforcement Association | Show Low Police Officers Association | Sierra Vista Police Officers Association | Somerton Police Officers Association | South Tucson Police Officers Association | St. Johns Police Officers Association | Tucson Airport Police Officers Association | Tucson Police Commanders Association | Tucson Police Officers Association | United Highway Patrol Officers Association | University of Arizona Police Officers Association | White Mt. Apache Game & Fish Rangers | Winslow Police Officers Association | Yavapai County Probation Association | Yuma County Probation Association | Yuma Deputies Association | Yuma Police Officers Association

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Prescott Valley leaders taking steps to make a difference for members

The Prescott Valley Police Officers Association is looking forward to playing a more active role in local politics and making a difference for members.

President Adam Hansen, an AZCOPS member for eight years, is a patrol officer for the Prescott Valley Police Department. Concerned by low morale among the troops, Hansen is bringing new energy and enthusiasm to the

Association in hopes of encouraging members to play a more active role.

In August, he invited AZCOPS President Larry A. Lopez and Chief of Staff Tim Clark to attend an Association meeting to have a general discussion with members about how the group can have a bigger impact.

"They made us aware of just how much control we can have if we take

the initiative to enact certain things like getting more active in local politics and starting the negotiating process with town government," Hansen said.

PVPOA has continued to increase its efforts in working through department issues and getting more involved in local politics. Hansen attended the recent negotiation seminar sponsored at the AZCOPS Annual Convention in Laughlin to prepare them for Meet and Confer negotiations with the Town of Prescott Valley. This will be the first MOU that PVPOA has attempted in quite a few years.

Since June, PVPOA's membership has grown from 40 to 54, and more are joining weekly. This is due in part to a recent change to their bylaws to allow civilian employees to join. Eligible new members include evidence technicians, community service officers, animal control, and records technicians.

In March, 2011, four seats on the Prescott Valley Town Council will be up for grabs and PVPOA is starting to meet with candidates to determine which ones to endorse. Using the candidate assessment form from AZCOPS and by speaking with candidates they will be able to determine who will best work with them in the future.

"The guidance of AZCOPS will help us as we chart this new path," Hansen said. "Members are ready for real change and they appreciate the willingness of AZCOPS leaders to stand alongside us."

"Like so many of our affiliates, Prescott Valley POA is realizing how important it is to get involved and help elect candidates who support public safety issues," Lopez said. "This group has the energy and motivation it takes to make a difference and AZCOPS will be there with them at every step."

LEGAL BRIEFS

Fired Deputy in Pima County acquitted, reinstated with full back pay

A short time ago, we reported that Deputy Michael Canizales, of the Pima County Sheriff's Department was acquitted of sexual assault charges after a jury deliberated for only 2 ½ hours. We also reported that the AZCOPS Legal team of Mike Storie and Natasha Wrae were looking forward to presenting this case in front of the Merit Council in trying to overturn his termination.

We are pleased to report that this hearing was not necessary, as Mike Canizales has been reinstated as a deputy and was given every penny of his back pay that was owed.

AZCOPS lawyers achieved this result without even having to go to a hearing. This was done through negotiations and an exchange of letters which was jointly managed by the AZCOPS lawyers and Pima County Deputy Sheriffs Association representatives. This was a tremendous result which achieved every objective after a very grim period when Deputy Canizales was both indicted and fired.

Charges overturned against Pascua Yaqui officer

On June 23, a Pascua Yaqui Police Officer received a 40-hour suspension based upon allegations that he had committed five separate rules violations. These violations were that he utilized his Taser contrary to policy, intentionally choked a suspect, he used other restraint methods that constituted excessive force, he violated general orders pertaining to radio communications, and he placed himself and other officers in danger when he chased a suspect into a house.

AZCOPS General Counsel Mike Storie presented this officer's appeal before the Police Accountability Review Board (PARB). After a full day hearing the Board voted to overturn four of the five allegations, finding for the police officer. The Board overturned all of the alleged violations other than the one pertaining to this officer running into a residence while chasing a suspect, which the officer admitted doing and that he was wrong in doing it.

This was a great result for not only this officer, but for members of the Pascua Yaqui Police Officers Association.

AZCOPS LEGAL PLAN

No Limit on Legal Expenses!

AZCOPS Legal Protection Plan covers the following:

- * Member-involved shooting
- * In-custody death or life-threatening injury
- * Accident, while in the performance of duty, resulting in life-threatening injury or death to others
- * Involuntary termination from employment
- * Demotion and other disciplinary actions
- * Criminal charges or indictments arising from member's official performance of duty
- * Suspensions to the extent that the employing agency's policy provides for a formal administrative hearing
- * Civil actions arising from member's performance of duty if representation is not provided by employer