

SMOKE-FREE ARIZONA ACT FAQ's for Veterans Clubs

1) Is it true that smoking is allowed in veterans and fraternal clubs?

Yes, however smoking is allowed *only* at times when the club is *not* open to the general public.

2) What does "open to the general public" mean?

The club is considered "open to the general public" when the proprietor permits an individual who is not a member, an employee, or a bona fide guest as defined in A.R.S. § 4-101 to be present in the club.

3) What about on bingo nights, fish fries, and other similar events?

Bingo nights are usually open to the general public. The club must comply with the Smoke-Free Arizona Act by prohibiting smoking inside enclosed areas where the public is permitted. Remove all ashtrays from the room that will be open to the general public and move outdoor ashtrays at least 20 feet away from any entrance to the room being used for Bingo night, so that the message is clear that smoking is not allowed inside or within a reasonable distance from the entrances.

4) If I bring my wife or neighbor to the post upon my invitation, do the members inside have to stop smoking?

No. Personally inviting a spouse or a neighbor to the post as a bona fide guest as defined in A.R.S. § 4-101 is acceptable and will not require the club to prohibit smoking inside the premises.

5) Is smoking allowed in private clubs and country clubs?

No. Private clubs and country clubs do not meet the definition of fraternal and veterans clubs. The Act defines "veteran[s] and fraternal clubs" by referencing the definition of "club" in A.R.S. § 4-101(7)(a), (7)(b), and (7)(c).

6) Do we have to post signs on Bingo Night or nights when the club is open to the general public?

No. You will not be required to post signs, but it will be essential to alert employees, patrons, members, and bona fide guests that the Smoke-Free Act will prohibit smoking inside and within a reasonable distance from the areas where the general public is permitted.

