

Arizona America250 Commission

Civic Engagement, Education & Community Service Subcommittee

Virtually via Zoom

Meeting Minutes of August 31, 2026

1. Call to order and roll call.

Chair Tighe called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm. He thanked the subcommittee members for their work and expressed appreciation for the progress made by the subcommittee.

Subcommittee Members Present:

Paul Tighe, Chair
Hannah Rude

KaRa Lyn Thrasher
Megan Hammond

Andy Price

Subcommittee Members Absent:

Tracey Benson
Tim Carter
Christina Spicer
Shawnte Rothschild

Shannon Roberts
Sharon Doyle
Glenn Carson
Tara Bartlett

Troy Campbell
Leah Landrum Taylor
Dawn Wallace, Vice Chair
Colleen Coons

2. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

The subcommittee considered the minutes from the April 27, 2026, and May 26, 2026, meetings. A quorum was not present; therefore, no action was taken on approval of the minutes.

3. Updates and Discussion: Projects and Initiatives

The subcommittee looked back and discussed the following initiatives Read250, the “Dear America, Love Arizona” postcard campaign, and reminded everyone about the bell rededication ceremony and volunteer recognition.

a. Ink for Independence Essay Contest

The subcommittee reviewed the Arizona Ink for Independence Essay Contest. The statewide contest invites K–12 students across all school settings to reflect on America’s 250th anniversary, what it means to be American, and the ways individuals and communities shape the nation’s future.

Selected entries will be recognized by the Arizona Secretary of State and the Arizona America250 Commission. Standout essays from each grade division will be displayed at the State Capitol as part of Arizona's America250 commemoration. The contest may support Seal of Civics Literacy requirements; students should confirm eligibility with their school or district coordinator. September 25th deadline, more info at

<https://www.azed.gov/form/arizona-ink-for-independence-ess>

b. America250 and Arizona High School Diploma

Hannah Rude will obtain information on the number of diplomas that included the logo.

c. My America Project

Arizona was reported to be leading the country with 15,893 contributed tiles. Free participation kits are available, and completed tiles must be received by October 1, 2026.

4. Executive Director's Report

The subcommittee reviewed its civics work and Arizona America250 programming conducted from 2024 through 2026. The group also discussed wrapping up the committee meetings for the year. See everyone at the October 1st Bell Rededication and Appreciation ceremony.

5. Call to the Public.

No members of the public offered comments.

6. Adjournment.

Chair Tighe adjourned the meeting at 3:15 pm.