

Arizona America250 Commission

Civic Engagement, Education & Community Service Subcommittee

Virtually via Zoom

Meeting Minutes of December 2, 2024

I. Call to order and roll call.

Chair Tighe called the meeting to order at 2:07pm.

Subcommittee Members Present:

Paul Tighe, Chair
Dawn Wallace
Tim Carter

Tracey Benson
Sharon Doyle
Jackie Norton

Neil Giuliano
Andy Price
Shannon Roberts

Subcommittee Members Absent:

Leah Landrum Taylor

Jay McCall

II. Election of Vice Chair.

MOTION Election of Dawn Wallace as the Vice Chair of the Civic Engagement, Education & Community Service subcommittee. Sharon Doyle motioned, Tim Carter seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Potential presentation from the Sandra Day O'Connor Institute.

Heather Schader from the O'Connor Institute presented information about their youth Civics Education program, the Civics Challenge, Camp O'Connor, and Civics 101. Potential to co-brand and promote events.

IV. Discussion and possible action on the Seal of Civics Literacy.

(See supplemental). Members discussed the cost of participating in eligible programs and potentially providing scholarships to students, with a particular focus on rural accessibility. Hannah Rude from the Arizona Department of Education shared that their goal is to work with school districts to provide additional structure. If the organizations or summer institutes have scholarships, those are promoted. Voter registration is available in all 15 counties and would qualify as a project for earning the Seal. Additionally, law enforcement units might be eligible through cadet programs. This group could develop its own program or promote existing programs. Programming throughout the school day is permissible but it cannot be

grade-based. Possible programs could encourage and train students to run for school board. Attending and/or speaking at school board or city council meetings is an existing part of the program. Service projects are encouraged, but at least 10 hours of the required 30 must be civics-based. Potential projects for older students to docent younger students around the traveling museum or research a particular exhibit. ADE could potentially create a special certificate or sticker for A250.

V. Discussion and possible action on Service250, Read250, Register250, Kids250, as well as additional Civic Engagement, Education, and Community Service projects.

Service250 (see supplemental): Discussion about the need for a continued authorizing organization for the President's Volunteer Service Award beyond the 2026 end date for the Commission. The Commission could get it up and running and then it would be presented before the State Board of Education to be housed in the Arizona Department of Education permanently. A potential hurdle could be collection of student data as well as bestowing it to adults and children as per the requirements of the award. Hannah will look into where it might be housed and how it could fit into adult or continuing education. The award could go onto the website for the students who are completing the Seal of Civics Literacy so they could earn both by working on the same projects.

Read250: Library development is a part of the Secretary of State's Office. A reading challenge could be tracked or promoted through the future Passport250 app. Discussed connecting with ReadOn Arizona and First Things First to highlight early literacy, possibly with a historical or United States-themed book as part of the new parent kit. Other ideas included curating a list of recommended books on Arizona people of note or creating a leveled reading list by theme. County librarians might be able to implement some of these at a site-based level. Holly Henley from Libraries and Archives will discuss during one of her regular county meetings as well as during a regular meeting with Tribal libraries. These efforts could be supported with printed posters, bookmarks, stickers, buttons, etc. to highlight reading. Could be sponsored by companies with select logo placement. The Arizona State Fair might be a partner to highlight these efforts.

Register250: The Secretary of State's Office is looking into co-branding voter registration kits with the A250 AZ logo and messaging for social media. Discussed the possibility of creating an outreach letter coupled with a list of participating organizations committed to hosting a voter registration drive between now and the end of 2026 with a goal of getting to 250.

The subcommittee also discussed reaching out to senior citizens, AARP, as well as the Department of Corrections to broaden civic engagement, education, and community service around the Semiquincentennial.

VI. Discussion and possible action on subcommittee membership and future meeting dates.

The group will meet again on January 27th at 2pm.

VII. Public Comment.

No public comments were received.

VIII. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30pm.

DRAFT