

Arizona America250 Commission

Civic Engagement, Education & Community Service Subcommittee

Virtually via Zoom

Meeting Minutes of May 27, 2025

1. Call to order and welcome.

Chair Tighe called the meeting to order at 3:01pm.

Subcommittee Members Present:

Paul Tighe, Chair

Andy Price

Leah Landrum Taylor

Tim Carter

Hannah Rude

Tracey Benson

Shannon Roberts

Megan Hammond

KaRa Lyn Thrasher

Christina Spicer

Tara Bartlett

Subcommittee Members Absent:

Jay McCall

Dawn Wallace

Sharon Doyle

Neil Giuliano

Jackie Norton

Glenn Carson

2. Discussion and possible action on meeting minutes from April 28, 2025.

MOTION Approval of draft minutes as written. Andy Price motioned, Shannon Roberts seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Report from the Executive Director.

a. Tentpole initiative updates. The ED shared a slide presentation on planning for the Traveling Museum. For cost purposes, it is hoped to find a trailer that the state already owns or receive a loaner as an in kind donation. The ED said one of the opportunities for this subcommittee will be to plan so that the largest majority of AZ students will be able to see and interact with the Traveling Museum, potentially in a virtual setting if a given school is not along the museum's

route. The Commission is open to any and all ideas for how to design the museum, the interactive elements, etc. One idea is to have Lego Liberty Bell kits, recreation of historic Arizona photos in Legos, and other STEAM-focused activities.

4. Updates, discussion and possible action on projects and initiatives related to civics engagement, education, and community service in honor of the Semiquincentennial.

a. Read250. Megan Hammond provided an update about their plan to utilize existing relationships with different libraries. Adults will be asked to read 25 books, kids 250 minutes. The Commission will supply bookmarks and stickers and provide additional incentives via a “Win an A250 AZ t-shirt” giveaway.

b. Educational toolkits. Hannah Rude reports that ADE is continuing to work on the toolkits and creating lesson plans for teachers that embed America250. For inspiration, they found materials from the Bicentennial.

c. Community outreach and connecting with community service organizations. The ED reports that there has been some great outreach made to community service organizations. Troy Campbell from the Mesa Rotary Club introduced himself and said that the Rotary Club is excited to help celebrate America250. Roger Biede from the Freemasons introduced himself and reported that the masons are also excited to help celebrate next year. The ED invited anyone on the call to reach out with additional suggestions for outreach or co-branded community service events.

d. Postsecondary outreach. The ED reported that Dawn Wallace has been working on this to develop outreach relationships with the three state universities, private institutions, and community colleges. Tara Bartlett (faculty at ASU) introduced herself. She is part of many working groups throughout ASU and is excited to make connections between them and the subcommittee.

e. Seal of Civics Literacy and the President’s Volunteer Service Award. Hannah Rude reported that ADE has closed down the program for the school year and can report 1200 students have participated. This marks a huge uptick in the program from last year, when just under 100 students participated. She will share more details once the ADE website has been updated. The ED reported that our standalone website will be set up soon (separate from the SOS website), and we will be very happy to share the info about the Seal of Civics Literacy and also engaging with students to help boost America250 Arizona’s social media.

f. Tabling and initiatives to involve Arizona’s young people. The ED commended the subcommittee for coming up with a good list of what anyone tabling should be sharing. KaRa Lyn Thrasher gave an update on planning for tabling. She shared a link for Civic Season, a way for young people to connect with celebrating American history. Paul Tighe asked the ED if we

have a plan for who will be available to do the tabling. She reported that between staff and volunteers, we should be adequately covered but invites participation from subcommittee members who would like to help.

g. Share out from subcommittee members on additional events for possible promotion and co-branding. No one had anything to offer.

5. Call to the Public. Carlos Alfaro from Arizona Talks introduced himself and spoke about the work his group does. He invited the subcommittee members to a Fourth of July mini-festival in South Phoenix on the last Saturday in June.

The next meeting is scheduled for 30 June at 3pm.

6. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:31pm.