

Arizona America250 Commission

Civic Engagement, Education & Community Service Subcommittee

Virtually via Zoom

Meeting Minutes of September 29, 2025

1. Call to order and welcome.

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

Subcommittee Voting Members Present:

Dawn Wallace, Tim Carter, Troy Campbell, Megan Hammond, Andy Price, Tara Bartlett, KaRa Lyn Thrasher, Leah Landrum Taylor

2. Discussion and possible action on meeting minutes from August 25, 2025. Skipped due to not being quorate.

3. Discussion and possible action on the A250 AZ scholarship initiative with the Dougherty Foundation. ED Terech reported they offered to do a \$5K scholarship for the Semiquincentennial. It will be broken into five scholarships, and the criteria discussed would be if they participated in the Seal of Civics Literacy program or they are going into a public service field. She has draft language available which outlines possible specifications for the award. There will be a group of five to review the applications, and the ED asked for two people who wish to sit on that review group. Tim Carter volunteered; he also brought up for discussion approaching different local civic organizations to solicit money for further scholarships.

4. Report from the Executive Director.

a. Tentpole initiative updates. The Commission has signed Agital as the PR and Marketing firm for A250 AZ. Passport250 has been launched with public submissions. There should be action soon on the Traveling Museum. It is currently out for bid through the State Procurement Office. Once that is awarded at the end of October, planning can begin on scheduling and content.

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

a. Cardinals Civics Summit. Jackie Norton reported that there are currently 4000 students signed up (the goal is 5000). Content is being developed with program partners. The goal will be eight sessions of 20 minutes each, focusing on interactivity.

b. Youth Town Hall with Kids Voting on October 21, 2025. ED Terech reported that there will be representatives from all three branches of state government, including Secretary Fontes and Rep. Wilmeth. Students can earn credit towards the Seal of Civics Literacy by participating in the virtual town hall.

c. Read250. Megan Hammond reports that planning is going well. They are finalizing the designs for badges for the students. Prizes have been discussed, and Megan reports that they are interested in being able to provide prize packs to the libraries that participate. Megan is going to be forming a group of libraries for Semiquincentennial planning.

d. Educational toolkits and other partnership initiatives with the Arizona Department of Education. No updates at this time.

e. Community outreach and connecting with community service organizations. ED Terech is pleased to report that plenty of outreach is being done. She reports that there is a group wanting to encourage communities to have a potluck on 5 July next year, and she would like to reach out to food banks, etc., for this. Colleen Coons reports that the Rotary has set a goal of 250 different service projects for next year. ED Terech reported that the new website will have a community calendar to highlight events.

f. Postsecondary outreach and the Higher Education Convening on September 9, 2025. Tara Bartlett reported that folks from all types of institutions of higher learning participated. The presentation was about A250, and there was some valuable networking that was able to be done. Co-Chair Wallace reported that a wide variety of topics were discussed and brainstormed for A250 planning.

g. Possible Arizona America250 state-level volunteer awards or volunteer recognition. No updates at this time.

h. Share out from subcommittee members on additional events for possible promotion and co-branding. Tara Bartlett reported that Civics Learning Week here in Arizona (last week) was a great success.

6. Call to the Public. Heather Schader from the O'Connor Institute reported that they are about to launch an online civics challenge, and questions will include the topic of A250.

7. Adjournment. Next meeting on 27 October at 3pm. Meeting adjourned at 3:39pm.