

ARIZONA CREDIT UNIONS

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2023 AZ GAC Q1 Meeting Report

Tuesday, February 21, 2023

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Zoom Meeting

Attendees:

- Alan Althouse, TruWest CU
- Ramona Baptista, Mohave Community FCU
- Jay Curtis, First CU
- Nicole Cypers, America First CU
- Sandra Sagehorn Elliott, Vantage West CU
- Sharon Greiger, Vantage West CU
- Amy Hysell, AZ Financial CU
- Jennifer Kimmell, TruWest CU
- Ray Lancaster, Pyramid FCU
- Brian Lee, Landings CU
- Suzanne Oliver, Mountain America CU
- Todd Pearson, Global CU
- Carol Roby, Mohave Community FCU
- Karen Roch, Credit Union West
- Rob Scott, Copper State CU
- Justin Whitesides, AZ Central CU

Welcome, Introductions, and Kickoff – GAC Co-Chair Brian Lee

- AZ GAC Co-Chair Brian Lee opened the meeting and outlined the agenda.
- AZ GAC Co-Chair Brian Lee welcomed new committee members and had committee members lay out their committee expectations & goals for 2023.

GoWest Credit Union Association Comments - Troy Stang, President/CEO

- Troy explained that Q1 is “advocacy season” and outlined all the advocacy-related events for credit unions to plug into during the 1st quarter.
- Troy stressed the importance of credit unions attending Arizona Day at the Capitol, and the need to have credit union representatives from every legislative district in Arizona.

State Advocacy Discussion – Austin DeBey, VP of Legislative Affairs

- Austin provided a 2023 legislative update for the committee, including an update on legislation that GoWest has been involved in so far during the session, including: ESG legislation, a financial records retention bill, and ensuring all money is returned to credit unions in a timely manner in the event an auto sale is rescinded.

- Austin announced that Governor Hobbs appointed Barbara Richardson to serve as the next Director of the AZ Department of Insurance of Financial Institutions. Austin and John Trull highlighted the work GoWest had done leading up to the announcement, and the next steps for the Association prior to Ms. Richardson's Senate confirmation hearing.
- Jennifer Wagner highlighted the recently released Arizona impact reports and thanked the credit unions that provided their data. She explained how the documents will be used with legislators during the upcoming CUNA GAC and Arizona Day at the Capitol.

Arizona Federal Advocacy Discussion - Ryan Fitzgerald, SVP Advocacy

- Ryan provided an update on the 118th Congress.
- Ryan outlined a federal outlook and strategies for credit union issues in 2023, including an update on working with Senator Sinema's office to have her reintroduce the Board Member Modernization Act.
- Ryan mentioned the upcoming CUNA GAC and outlined the plans for the conference.

Regulatory Affairs Update - John Trull, VP Regulatory Advocacy

- John updated the committee on a meeting we had with the AZ DIFI in December 2022.
- John provided an update from our federal regulators at NCUA, as well as the CFPB.
- John updated the group on CDFIs.

Political & Grassroots Discussion - Jordan Beyer and Chris Kemm

- Jennifer Wagner discussed the Special Advocacy Fund that was set up by the GoWest board.
- Jordan discussed the push for advocacy coordinators and the next steps in soliciting key contacts.
- Jordan highlighted upcoming grassroots training that will be offered in the coming months
- Chris provided a CULAC and AZ PAC update and expressed the importance of ongoing PAC support.

Co-Chair Lee thanked participants for their time and reminded the committee that the Q2 AZ GAC meeting will be held in-person on June 13th (location TBD). In addition, he highlighted upcoming Advocacy events such as:

- February 26 – March 2, 2023 - CUNA GAC
- March 15, 2023 - Arizona CU Day @ the Capitol