

ARIZONA CREDIT UNIONS

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2023 AZ GAC Q4 Meeting Report

Arizona Q4 GAC Meeting

November 8, 2023, 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Landings Credit Union

2800 S Mill Ave, Tempe, AZ 85282

Attendees:

- Alan Althouse - TruWest CU
- Andrew Britton - Hughes FCU
- Jay Curtis - First CU
- Sharon Grieger Vantage West CU
- Amy Hysell - Arizona Financial CU
- Jennifer Kimmell - TruWest CU
- Brian Lee – Landings CU
- Courtney Marshall - Mountain America CU
- Todd Pearson - Global CU
- Karen Roch - Credit Union West
- Elisa Ross -Hughes FCU
- Sandra Sagehorn-Elliott - Vantage West CU
- Robb Scott - Copper State CU

Welcome & Introductions

- AZ GAC Co-Chair Sandra Sagehorn Elliott kicked off the meeting and turned it over to Austin to outline the flow of the meeting.
- Austin provided information on the three state legislators who will be joining later in the meeting, they include Senator J.D. Mesnard, Senator Ken Bennett, and Representative Justin Wilmeth.

GoWest Update

- Troy Stang provided an overview of some of the current evolutions and changes in the credit union movement including the NCUA board, CUNA and NAFCU creating America's Credit Unions, and with PSCU and Co-op's merger.
- Troy discussed a recent Arizona Republic article that was critical of credit unions acquiring the naming rights of stadiums. Troy discussed the GoWest Association's communication plan surrounding the article, which included a meeting with the business reporter Russ Wiles and an op-ed response that had been submitted by Troy.

State Advocacy Discussion – Austin DeBey, VP of Legislative Affairs

- Committee members discussed public deposit options. GoWest committed to working with partners at the AZ Treasurer’s Office to have a broader conversation on the topic.
- Committee members discussed excess share insurance. GoWest committed to working with partners at ESI to coordinate a meeting between them and AZ credit unions.
- Austin provided an update on the AZ Modernization legislation that was recommended by the SIWG and approved at the Q3 GAC Meeting. Austin communicated that the Association team, and the SIWG Chair, Robb Scott had two in a half hour conversation with DIFI to explain the recommendations. Austin then presented feedback they received from the department, and next steps for legislation.

Political & Grassroots Discussion

- Chris Kemm provided a brief update on political fundraising and highlighted an upcoming fundraising push to raise money for the state PAC.

Federal & Regulatory Advocacy Discussion

- Ryan Fitzgerald provided an update on “junk fees” interchange, as well as upcoming federal priorities for the 2024 sessions. Ryan also talked about the upcoming Fall Hike the Hill.
- John Trull provided update on recent regulatory action and NCUA budget.

Working Lunch with Legislative Leaders

- Senator J.D. Mesnard, Senator Ken Bennett, and Representative Justin Wilmeth joined the GAC Committee Members for Lunch.
- Troy Stang, Jennifer Wagner and Austin DeBey provide legislators with a high-level overview of credit unions, the GoWest Association, Arizona credit union impact data and legislative opportunities.
- Each legislator spent time talking about the issues that are important to them going into 2024, as well as the importance of the upcoming election.