

JUNE 17, 2021



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Dear Members,

As the demand and interest in travel continues to increase in Arizona, we are facing a critical workforce shortage. For months, AZLTA has been coordinating with local, state and federal leaders on numerous ways to help our industry meet the growing demand.

We are pleased that the Arizona Office of Tourism recently launched a new initiative with Pipeline AZ and ARIZONA@WORK to connect job-seekers with thousands of career opportunities available right now across Arizona's tourism and hospitality industry.

The partnership will kick off with an Arizona Tourism Virtual Hiring Event on Wednesday, June 23. Job seekers can get information on hiring, benefits packages and potential hiring bonuses from participating employers.

Employers can register to be matched with eligible candidates and job seekers can register to participate in the June 23 event at [AZTourismJobs.com](https://www.AZTourismJobs.com). The site also provides a wide variety of resources all in one place such as connecting people to open jobs, skills assessments, help with resumes and interviews.

This is a great opportunity and we hope you will participate. Please do not hesitate to contact our team with questions.

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Kim Grace Sabow

Kim Grace Sabow
President & CEO

TOURISM VIRTUAL HIRING EVENT



JOIN TO PARTICIPATE IN CONNECTING JOB SEEKERS AND EMPLOYERS

Arizona Office of Tourism is hosting an [Arizona Tourism Virtual Hiring Event](#) on Wednesday, June 23, during which job seekers can connect with employers. If you are seeking employers, this virtual event is your chance to seek employees on behalf of your company. Register as an employer on the [site](#) and indicate your interest in our virtual hiring event.

ACTION ALERT: CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVE TO PROTECT FY2022 PER DIEM RATES

Bipartisan legislation has been introduced that will freeze per diem rates at pre-pandemic levels, benefiting hotels and federal travelers across the country.

Reps. Bill Posey (FL-8) and Charlie Crist (FL-13) introduced H.R. 2104, the "Restored, Equitable, Coronavirus Adjusted Lodging (RECAL) Act" which helps mitigate the devastating impact of COVID-19 on federal employees and the lodging industry by freezing the Federal reimbursement rates at those that applied to employee travel for Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20).

Simply stated, the bill freezes the per diem rates at FY20 levels, which were set before the pandemic ravaged the lodging industry rather than letting these rates decline to pandemic depressed levels. Without this legislation, artificially low per diem rates will negatively impact federal workers by reducing their lodging options and hamper industry recovery for years to come. **Absent a fix, Per Diem rates for FY22 could drop by as much as 25%-40% nationally.**

Under the current law, General Services Administration sets the Federal maximum lodging rates reimbursed to employees by location based on rate samples collected from surveys during the previous fiscal year. If market lodging rates go up, then reimbursable rates increase. And when market rates decline as they have during the pandemic, then reimbursable lodging rates decline.

Please take 60 seconds of your time and click [here](#) to send a pre-written letter to your Members of Congress urging them to co-sponsor the Restored, Equitable, Coronavirus Adjusted Lodging

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Act. This Bill will support federal employees when they travel and protect future federal per diem rates.

Thank you for your continued support. Together lets make a difference for hotels and hotel employees nationwide!

EMAIL REPRESENTATIVE

FEDERAL UPDATE



OSHA RELEASES WORKPLACE SAFETY GUIDANCE

The Occupational Safety and Health Association (OSHA) released an emergency temporary standard (ETS), [COVID-19 Healthcare ETS](#), to protect healthcare and healthcare support service workers from occupational exposure to COVID-19 in settings where people with COVID-19 are reasonably expected to be present.

OSHA chose not to issue a broader ETS but instead released updates to its general industry guidance, [Protecting Workers: Guidance on Mitigating and Preventing the Spread of COVID-19 in the Workplace](#), to align with CDC's most recent guidance for vaccinated individuals. OSHA's updated guidance states, "Unless otherwise required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, most employers no longer need to take steps to protect their fully vaccinated workers who are not otherwise at-risk from COVID-19 exposure. This guidance focuses only on protecting unvaccinated or otherwise at-risk workers in their workplaces."

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE: INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIES

U.S. TRAVEL
ASSOCIATION®

As the infrastructure debate continues in fits and starts, U.S. Travel assembled a list of its comprehensive priorities across a broad range of travel infrastructure needs including innovative technologies, electric vehicles, airports, passenger rail and National Parks. The U.S. House Transportation Committee will markup its \$547 billion surface transportation reauthorization bill, which is expected to pass and will advance a substantial piece of the infrastructure puzzle. Several of U.S. Travel's priorities are included in the base bill.

- \$4 billion in funding to establish a national electric vehicle charging network
- New consideration and eligibility for travel and tourism projects in 5 separate federal

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- Establishment of a Projects of National and Regional Significance Program to fund big and complex projects that enhance national travel mobility
 - Record investment of \$32 billion in Amtrak and targeted funding for high-speed rail projects
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DOWNLOAD THE NEW LET'S MEET THERE TOOLKIT

Despite the recent lifting of gathering limits across much of the U.S., the recovery of business travel, meetings and events is not imminent, even with a broader reopening. A patchwork approach remains, as does an outdated definition of “large gatherings” which groups professional meetings and events (PME) with other informal large gatherings, leaving the meetings, convention and trade show industry vulnerable in the event of revised guidance from the CDC should progress toward defeating the pandemic be interrupted.

A press conference kicked off the campaign earlier this week featured U.S. Travel Association President and CEO Roger Dow, Hilton President and CEO Chris Nassetta and Chief Wellness Officer and Dean of the College of Nursing at the Ohio State University (OSU) Dr. Bernadette Melnyk and drew [significant media attention](#) around the multi-year road to recovery. We also shared key findings from the [scientific review](#) conducted by OSU which examined mitigation and risk factors associated with elements of safety employed at PMEs and the [latest forecast](#) for business travel from Tourism Economics for the U.S. Travel Association.

Click on the links for more information don't forget to use #LetsMeetThere in your posts.

- [Social Media Guide](#): Key Messaging to Elected Officials and Business Leaders
 - [Fact Sheets](#)
 - [Key Messages](#)
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VACCINATION MONTH OF ACTION

Join in supporting the [Vaccination Month of Action](#) to achieve the national goal of 70% of adults having at least one vaccine dose by Independence Day. As part of this effort, HHS has released a new “We Can Do This!” [On-Site Vaccination Clinic Toolkit](#) to support the business community in partnering with local vaccine providers to continue to make vaccinations more convenient and accessible.



We encourage you to take the following steps to help us highlight efforts, including:

- Post social media updates (#HotelsCanDoThis), including photos of [Vaccination Month signage](#) displayed on property, video of vaccination efforts, and AHLA will amplify across our social media platforms
 - Provide staff with the [Vaccination Month of Action](#) information so they can support this
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ARIZONA UPDATE



LATEST ON BUDGET NEGOTIATIONS

While Governor Ducey and legislative leaders continue to negotiate the FY2022 budget, the legislature convened a special session this week to provide additional funding for wildfire relief and mitigation. The House and Senate approved a \$100 million plan for fighting wildfires, post-fire flooding and repairs, and wildfire mitigation.

Unfortunately, many anticipate 2021 will be one of the worst fire seasons in state history, with 896 blazes so far this year that have burned 289,000 acres.

BOARD MEMBER HIGHLIGHT



UPCOMING EVENTS



REGISTER TODAY FOR AN EARLY-BIRD DISCOUNT

This August join our strategic partner Arizona Office of Tourism (AOT) for the **2021 Arizona Governor's Conference (GCOT)** on Tourism, **Aug. 2-4, 2021**. AOT is offering a limited number of scholarships for this year's **#AZGCOT** and is inviting partners across the state to apply for a one-time, \$150 discount on **early-bird conference registration**, which is still open now! For more details, click [here](#).

REGISTER

AZ SAFE+CLEAN GRANT PROGRAM FOR HOTELS

INTERESTED IN BECOMING THE NEXT AZ SAFE+CLEAN CITY?

Follow the [success of the City of Page](#) and become the next AZ SAFE+CLEAN certified city.

Foster a “sense of place” with guests and make them want to continue returning by showing you are providing a safe and clean business through AzLTA's AZSAFE+CLEAN certification. Funds from our established grant, in partnership with the Arizona Office of Tourism, allows ~~members to apply for assistance in participating in the~~

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To learn more about the grant and how to apply, contact us at membership@azlta.com.
For additional information on AZSAFE+CLEAN, [visit our website](#).

MEMBER BENEFITS



hotel employee rate

RECEIVE A 20% DISCOUNT

We're excited to bring our partnership with Hotel Employee Rate to our members! Hotel Employee Rate is a global hotel employee travel platform allowing employees all over the world the ability to travel at hotel employee rates. AzLTA members receive a 20% discount from annual administrative fees. For more [information](#), please contact us at membership@azlta.com



RECEIVE A FREE ANALYSIS

Optimally is your expense reduction partner that benchmarks spending, and helps you save money. Their proprietary big data technology is their "secret sauce" of how companies can reduce operating expenses. Learn how they can help you reduce your business expenses plus receive a free analysis where they benchmark 12 months of your general ledger against their data lake. To learn more click [here](#), or please contact guy.bittner@ascentcis.com.

EDUCATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS & RESOURCES



AHLA FOUNDATION NEW APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS

AzLTA's national partner, the AHLA Foundation, is offering new online training and two new apprenticeship programs, the [Lodging Manager](#) and [NEW Hotel Cook Apprenticeship Program](#) that combine on-the-job learning with related educational instruction for in-demand occupations. For employers, it provides an opportunity to develop highly skilled workers and significantly strengthen labor retention (90% retention rate) by using a proven method to develop both current and prospective associates. To learn more about how an apprenticeship could work for your company and its programs, click [here](#).

Online courses

- Hospitality Manager: Leadership
- Understanding Unconscious Bias in the Hospitality Industry for Employees and Managers
- Sexual Harassment Prevention for Hospitality Employees and Managers



High School Hospitality Curriculum

- The new Hospitality and Tourism Management, Second Edition, is a major revision of our high school curriculum. Developed by industry experts and academic instructors at both the secondary and post-secondary level, the program engages students to develop excitement about the industry while providing thorough coverage of hospitality as a business.

Hospitality and Tourism Specialist

- Available in June 2021, this entry-level credential may be earned by hospitality students or by those already working in the industry. Exam plus work hours are required.

Guest Service Gold – Tourism

- This version follows the same pillars of excellent customer service as taught in our lodging versions, but with a broader range of instructional venues such as a Convention and Visitors Bureau, an airport, a winery, and a museum.



AHLA FOUNDATION HIRING PORTAL

The AHLA Foundation has launched a customized [hiring portal](#) in partnership with HCareers to provide employers with access to trained talent for the skills you need most and to simplify your recruitment process by providing a hub for your job posts and partnerships with community-based organizations. [Learn more](#)

MEMBER RESOURCES

AzLTA is committed to providing our members with up-to-date resources, [webinars](#), information and recommendations from our state and national partners. Updates will be shared on [our website](#) so please reference it often and share it with your network.

AZ SAFE + CLEAN CERTIFICATION

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EDUCATION & TRAININGS

COVID-19 RESOURCES CENTER

ARIZONA MEANS BUSINESS

YOUR INDUSTRY. YOUR VOICE.

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