

October 14, 2021



OCTOBER 14, 2021

Dear Members,

This week, Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N. Mayorkas [announced](#) that non-essential travelers from Mexico and Canada who have been fully vaccinated for COVID-19 will be able to enter the United States via land and ferry ports of entry beginning in November. Starting in January, this will expand to all foreign travelers entering the United States via a port of entry.

Visitors from Canada and Mexico have been [critical to Arizona's economy](#) for years. Typically, more than 20 million Mexicans cross the border into Arizona each year, spending more than \$2.5 billion shopping in malls and other retail outlets, eating in restaurants, staying in hotels, and conducting other business. Nearly a million Canadian visitors escape frigid temperatures and travel to the warmth of Arizona resulting in \$1.4 billion dollars annually.

But for the past 18 months, our land borders with Mexico and Canada have been closed to non-essential travel into the United States due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This has resulted in devastating impacts across our state, especially our border communities that rely on the revenue from daily border crossings from Mexico.

We are pleased with the decision by the U.S. government to reopen our borders with Mexico and Canada and jumpstart international travel as we approach peak travel season. We look forward to working with our local partners to welcome international visitors safely back to Arizona.

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Kim Grace Sabow

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President & CEO

## FEDERAL UPDATE



## U.S. WILL LIFT TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS WITH CANADA AND MEXICO

Earlier this week, the Biden administration [announced](#) it will lift travel restrictions at the land borders with Canada and Mexico for vaccinated individuals in November. U.S. Travel has long urged a reopening of the U.S. borders and [released a statement](#) applauding the administration's plan. This action will bring a welcome surge in travel from our two top source markets of inbound travel.

The administration has indicated the reopening timeline will align with its previous decision to lift air travel restrictions for additional vaccinated international travelers in "early November." While U.S. Travel is urging a precise date for reopening we expect that it will be within the first two weeks of November.

On Friday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a list of approved COVID-19 vaccines that will allow entry into the United States for international travelers. The list included COVID-19 vaccines authorized by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) or the World Health Organization (WHO).

The approved vaccines for international travelers include Moderna, Johnson & Johnson, Pfizer-BioNTech, Oxford-AstraZeneca/Covishield, Sinopharm and Sinovac. The Russian-produced Sputnik V vaccine is [notably excluded](#) from the list of WHO-approved vaccines.

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## NEW RESOURCE LEADS YOU TO THE HELP YOU NEED WITH SBA LOAN PROGRAMS



Did you know? The SBA District Offices are responsible for the delivery of SBA's programs and services. With several SBA loan programs and services available to small business owners who need additional help, navigating where to go for information and resources can be overwhelming. To that end, AAHOA has developed a [new resource](#) that can help you find your local Small Business Administration office, constituent services within your congressional offices, members of Congress, and more.

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## CONGRATULATIONS AzLTA BOARD MEMBER LARRY CUCULIC



### **BWH HOTEL GROUP NAMES LARRY CUCULIC AS PRESIDENT AND CEO**

During the 2021 Best Western North American Convention, BWH Hotel Group announced that Lawrence (Larry) M. Cuculic has been appointed President and CEO by the company's board of directors. Cuculic has been serving as Senior Vice President and General Counsel for the company for 12 years and will assume his new role as president and CEO on December 1, 2021.

## VISIT MESA LAUNCHES AIRA



### **NEW APP-BASED RESOURCE TO AID TRAVELERS WITH ENHANCED MOBILITY IN MESA**

As part of Visit Mesa's ongoing mission to ensure Mesa, Arizona is regarded as one of the nation's most accessible travel destination they are launching a partnership with Aira, an on-demand visual interpretation service. The launch of the service will be made available to Mesa visitors, as well as residents, on Oct. 15, National Blind Americans Equality Day.

Aira is a new accessibility technology that serves people who are blind or have low vision. Prior to arrival, visitors can download the Aira app to their smartphone and get access to a trained Aira agent who can assist with trip planning. While in Mesa's city limits, visitors can access the agent to guide them throughout public buildings, attractions, restaurants, hotels and more. Customers of Aira are referred to as Explorers and this instant access to visual information at the touch of a button will enhance everyday efficiency, engagement, and independence.

## ARIZONA UPDATE



## **PEER-TO-PEER CAR SHARING PLATFORMS REQUIRED TO PAY TRANSACTION PRIVILEGE TAX**

Due to the passage of [Senate Bill 1720](#) by the Arizona Legislature, peer-to-peer (P2P) car sharing businesses are now required to pay transaction privilege tax (TPT) on all rentals conducted through their platform. This legislation went into effect on September 29, 2021.

With “peer-to-peer car sharing,” a privately-owned vehicle is rented to another individual through a peer-to-peer business that provides a platform for others to rent vehicles for a fee. It does not include (1) car rental agents, (2) short-term car rentals as a business, or (3) vehicle rentals that include a driver.

The P2P business platform owner is responsible to pay TPT, however, private vehicle owners do not need a TPT license or to pay TPT to offer their vehicles for rent through a P2P platform.

However, to avoid additional surcharges, private vehicle owners can certify to the Department that their vehicle is an individual-owned shared vehicle and that either:

1. TPT or Arizona’s use tax was paid on the vehicle when it was purchased; or
2. an out-of-state sales or use tax was paid on the vehicle if the vehicle was purchased out-of-state and subsequently brought into Arizona..

For more detailed information, please visit: <https://azdor.gov/transaction-privilege-tax/peer-peer-car-rental>

## **DOUG YONKO MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT**





REGISTER NOW

## 2021 DOUG YONKO SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 29



The AzLTA Arizona Hotel Foundation is accepting applications from college and university students for the 2021 Doug Yonko Scholarship! The Doug Yonko Scholarship will provide a \$7,500 scholarship to one lodging or tourism-related student every year in memory of Doug's service and commitment to Arizona. Through the Doug Yonko Scholarship and our Foundation, we are investing in Arizona's youth and the future success of the industry. We hope you are able to share this scholarship opportunity with your network as we continue to seek applications. The application deadline is **October 29, 2021**.

To learn more and apply, click [here](#).

## SEASONAL CONNECT WEBINAR

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[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

# Join us for a webinar about



staffing, housing, and so much more!

October 28, 2021

1 pm PST/4 pm EST

REGISTER

## SIGN UP TO AzLTA's TOWNHALL: NEXT STOP – MESA



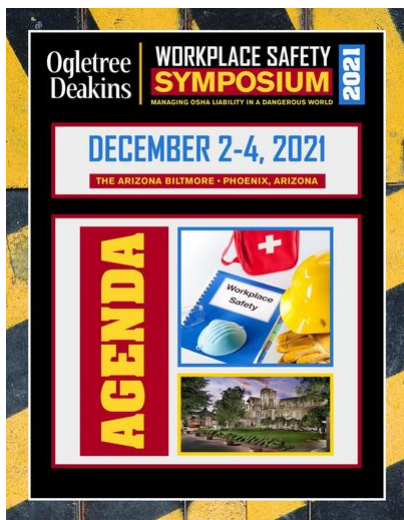
AzLTA Advocacy Townhall series continues next week in Mesa. These townhalls will provide an opportunity to connect with our hoteliers and hospitality community and get critical local and state updates on our industry.

The next event will be held with our Tourism Member [Visit Mesa](#) on October 21 at [Las Sendas Golf Club](#).

We encourage each of you to attend a tour date in your community and bring a potential member. If you are interested in attending the AzLTA Mesa Townhall, please contact [Alison Brooks](#). If your company or organization would like to host or sponsor a town hall, please contact [Karin Jimenez](#).

## UPCOMING IN-PERSON EVENTS

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## OGLETREE DEAKINS WORKPLACE SAFETY SYMPOSIUM

AZLTA Strategic partner Ogletree Deakins Workplace Safety Practice Group has finalized the agenda for the December 2-4 National Workplace Safety Symposium in Phoenix. This event features members of the Ogletree Deakins Workplace Safety and Health Practice Group, in-house counsel, and corporate safety directors from across the country. Please see the [flyer](#) for more details, and you can register for the in-person program [here](#).

## TAP INTO THE BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP



**AzLTA Strategic Partner + Allied member Source 1** makes it simple to collect cashback rebates on items you buy every day. Source1 **pays cashback** to hoteliers on 165,000 items from **over 350 manufacturing suppliers**, including HD Supply, American Hotel Register, A-1 Textiles, Cintas, Office Depot, Grainger, S&D Coffee and more!

To learn more about how you can sign up, [click here!](#)

**AzLTA Strategic Partner + Allied member United Health Group** is the health and wellness partner of the hospitality industry.

With the Hospitality Health program, your part-time and full-time team members can now access affordable personal health insurance. The Affordable Care Act/Exchange plans cover pre-existing conditions along with a list of essential health benefits. Through this program, your employees can:

- Speak directly to licensed agents and receive quotes from multiple insurance companies.
- Access any qualifying federal subsidies as part of the enrollment process.
- Immediately enroll in medical, dental, vision, life, disability, and Medicare coverage programs.

**Individual & family plans require no employer participation or contribution.** Pass this along to any team members who are not eligible for employer-sponsored group health coverage.



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## MEMBER RESOURCES

### AzLTA Job Board

Take advantage of AzLTA's [Hospitality Job Board](#) listing platform where members can post job openings for free! To access this free member service, you must have a login to our website ([www.azlta.com](http://www.azlta.com)). If you don't have a login or don't remember your password, contact Ricardo Luna at [rluna@azlta.com](mailto:rluna@azlta.com) for assistance. Click [here](#) to view the Hospitality Job Board.

### Join Now, And Don't Pay Membership Dues Until 2022!

Interested in Becoming an AzLTA Member? Take advantage of FREE membership benefits until January of 2022 and have access to breaking news alerts, weekly newsletters and much more. To learn more, contact [membership@azlta.com](mailto:membership@azlta.com). Click [here](#) to view the Membership Levels.

AZ SAFE + CLEAN CERTIFICATION

FOUNDATION

JOB BOARD

VISIT ARIZONA INITIATIVE

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## YOUR INDUSTRY. YOUR VOICE.

JOIN TODAY!



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