

September 30, 2021



SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

Dear Members,

As negotiations in Washington D.C. regarding the federal budget and the infrastructure bill continue to dominate the news cycle, the AzLTA team is working closely with our national partners on federal initiatives. From supporting business-friendly tax and regulatory policies to restoring international and business travel, we continue to advocate for a variety of solutions that will help our industry recover.

This week, I had the pleasure of joining colleagues from across the state and nation for two major events. AzLTA hosted the ***Tourism: The Cornerstone of Arizona's Recovery*** town hall in Nogales, hearing from local leaders about the current challenges facing our rural communities and the importance of restoring international travel. I also had the pleasure of speaking at AHLA's Forward @ The Lodging Conference discussing how women are advancing the hospitality industry.

We also launched the AzLTA Southern Arizona Chapter this week in Tucson, which will focus on initiatives impacting the region. Thank you to former AzLTA Board Chair Brent DeRaad of Visit Tucson for launching this new chapter. To learn more about the Southern Arizona Chapter and how you can get involved, click [here](#).

These local and national partnerships are vital to the work we do at AzLTA. We appreciate your continued support and look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming [Doug Yonko](#)

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

Sincerely,

Kim Grace Sabow

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President & CEO

ADVOCACY TOWN HALLS



Thank you Nogales-Santa Cruz County Chamber of Commerce and Tourism & Visitor Center and Holiday Inn Express for your wonderful hospitality and for hosting AZLTA's Advocacy Town hall meeting - we loved getting together with our Nogales and Santa Cruz County partners.

The AzLTA tour provides an opportunity to connect with our hospitality community and get critical local and state updates on our industry.

We encourage each of you to attend a tour date in your community and bring a potential member to attend. If your company or organization would like to host a town hall, please reach out to Karin Jimenez at kjimenez@azlta.com for more details.

DOUG YONKO MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT



2021 DOUG YONKO SCHOLARSHIP



Our [Doug Yonko Scholarship](#) is now open and accepting applications! 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](#).

STATE UPDATE



EDUCATION ADVOCATES FILE SIGNATURES TO FORCE VOTE ON TAX CUTS IN 2022

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Education advocacy groups on Tuesday filed hundreds of thousands of signatures to block the recent income tax cuts, the largest in state history, from going into effect and forcing a public vote on them.

For that to actually happen, at least 118,823 of the 215,787 signatures the Invest in Arizona coalition submitted on one of the measures must be deemed valid by elections officials. We will monitor this situation closely and keep our members apprised of any updates.

SUPERIOR COURT RULES BUDGET PROVISIONS ARE UNCONSTITUTIONAL

This week, a Maricopa County Superior Court judge ruled that a number of provisions included in the FY2022 state budget were unconstitutional since they did not pertain to budget-related matters as indicated in the title of each bill. Governor Ducey has stated he will appeal the ruling. Learn more [here](#).

FEDERAL UPDATE



TELL YOUR SENATORS TO SUPPORT RECOVERY FOR THE MEETINGS AND EVENTS SECTOR

To help accelerate the travel industry's recovery, we need your help to get Congress to take the actions necessary to help bring back business travel. Despite gains in leisure travel this summer, the delta variant continues to threaten our recovery, particularly with regard to business meetings and events.

Business travel remains significantly down from 2019 levels, leading many communities to not only miss out on the direct spending that comes from business travel but also the opportunity to convert business travelers into future leisure travelers.

Please ask your Senator to cosponsor the Hospitality and Commerce Job Recovery Act ([S.477](#)), to provide a refundable tax credit to help support the meetings and event sector. The House version ([H.R. 1346](#)) has more than 100 cosponsors, but now we need Senators to show their support.

TAKE ACTION

INFRASTRUCTURE BILL AWAITS HOUSE VOTE



The House could vote on final passage of the bipartisan infrastructure package as early as this evening, with a handful of Republicans expected to join Democrats in supporting the bill. However, some members of the House Progressive Caucus continue to push back against holding a vote on the bill before knowing whether the Senate will pass the separate Build Back Better reconciliation proposal. This disagreement could lead House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to delay the final vote to ensure enough support for final passage.

If passed, the infrastructure deal would be the largest transportation project ever approved by the U.S. government, totaling \$1.1 trillion. The legislation includes:

- \$65 billion to expand high-speed internet access
- \$110 billion for roads, bridges and other projects
- \$25 billion for airports
- The most funding for Amtrak since its founding
- Renewing and revamping existing infrastructure and transportation programs set to expire at the end of September

This investment would be financed through a series of potential options, including unused COVID relief funds, 5G spectrum auctions, and customer user fees.

Reliable and modern infrastructure is vital to the hotel industry because it facilitates travel, commerce and American competitiveness. This package would go a long way toward achieving those ends, but it comes at a steep cost. The bill would terminate the Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC) three months early. Many hotels and their employees are counting on this program — especially given lingering COVID-19 concerns and the negative economic impact they are having on hotels. While we strongly support investment in our nation's infrastructure, struggling hotel employees and small businesses should not be forced to bear that cost.

INDUSTRY DATA



The [2021 August Arizona Lodging](#) report, [Revised January-May 2021 National Park Visitation](#) report and 2021 [July](#) and [August](#) State Park Visitation are now available. For the latest and historical tourism indicator reports, visit the [Data and Trends page](#).

TAP INTO THE BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.



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.

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



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). If you don't have a login or don't remember your password, contact Ricardo Luna at 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. Click [here](#) to view the Membership Levels.

AZ SAFE + CLEAN CERTIFICATION

FOUNDATION

JOB BOARD

VISIT ARIZONA INITIATIVE

YOUR INDUSTRY. YOUR VOICE.

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