

**MINUTES**  
**LEAGUE OF ARIZONA CITIES AND TOWNS**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Friday, November 20, 2020

Zoom

**MEMBERS**

**President**

Cathy Carlat, Mayor, Peoria\*

**Vice President**

Douglas Nicholls, Mayor, Yuma

**Treasurer**

Greg Mengarelli, Mayor, Prescott

Tom Brady, Mayor, Bullhead City  
Craig McFarland, Mayor, Casa Grande  
Kevin Hartke, Mayor, Chandler  
Coral Evans, Mayor, Flagstaff  
Jerry Weiers, Mayor, Glendale  
Georgia Lord, Mayor, Goodyear  
Thomas L. Schoaf, Mayor, Litchfield Park  
Ed Honea, Mayor, Marana  
Christian Price, Mayor, Maricopa  
John Giles, Mayor, Mesa

Kate Gallego, Mayor, Phoenix  
Gail Barney, Mayor, Queen Creek  
W.J. "Jim" Lane, Mayor, Scottsdale  
Sandy Moriarty, Mayor, Sedona  
Daryl Seymore, Mayor, Show Low  
Rick Mueller, Mayor, Sierra Vista  
Bob Rivera, Mayor, Thatcher  
Anna Tovar, Mayor, Tolleson\*  
Regina Romero, Mayor, Tucson\*

\*not in attendance

Vice President Douglas Nicholls called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. He then led the Executive Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**1. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Vice President Douglas Nicholls requested a motion on the adoption of the minutes. Mayor Greg Mengarelli moved to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2020 Executive Committee Meeting; Mayor Bob Rivera seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REVIEW**

Vice President Douglas Nicholls moved item 8 up and requested a motion to move into executive session. Mayor Greg Mengarelli moved to recess into executive session; Mayor Jerry Weiers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Following the Executive Session, Vice President Douglas Nicholls welcomed everyone back into the executive committee meeting and noted the executive director review accurately reflected the opinions of those in the executive session. Vice President Nicholls thanked League Executive Director Tom Belshe for his work and the executive committee is excited to continue to work with Executive Director Belshe.

## **2. ELECTION RESULTS/ LEGISLATIVE POLICY OVERVIEW AND UPDATE**

League Vice President Douglas Nicholls welcomed League Legislative Director Nick Ponder to provide the legislative policy update.

Legislative Director Nick Ponder let the Executive Committee know that there was a nationwide voter turnout of more than 156 million people, which was a large jump in overall voter turn out. In Arizona there was an 80 percent voter turnout, which was also higher than previous years. Legislative Director Ponder directed the Executive Committee to their packets, which contained details regarding the 2020 election results; he then reviewed the results and discussed challenges the League's Legislative Team might face this session.

Mr. Ponder mentioned that both Proposition 207 and 208 had passed and indicated a model city ordinance was created for cities and towns prior to the election in preparation for Proposition 207 passing. He also let the Executive Committee know that the Municipal Policy Statement was drafted and provided a copy for review.

Mr. Ponder gave kudos to the cities and towns for all of the programs being created with the CARES Act funding and for distributing money out to their communities, where it is needed. Positive feedback has been given from the House and Senate leaders to cities and towns for how quickly the funds have been distributed.

In the 2021 session, outside of the resolutions, we will likely see the cancer presumption bill, which was being held up in the House when legislation was suspended due to COVID. An opportunity may be available to get funding to put this program into place. At the statewide level, it is important to figure out how the pandemic is going to affect everyone.

## **3. RECAP OF 2020 VIRTUAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

League Vice President Douglas Nicholls called upon League Deputy Director Matt Lore to provide a recap of the 2020 virtual annual conference.

Deputy Director Matt Lore reminded the Executive Committee the in-person annual conference was cancelled and a virtual conference was created in place of it. This virtual conference was an abbreviated version of the in-person conference, which was held over four days. Deputy Director Lore provided the Executive Committee with the survey results from conference participants. Although there was a small turn out of survey participants, it contained all positive comments. Looking forward to the 2021 conference, the League plans to hold some type of in-person conference, even if it is with a reduced attendance.

## **4. CITIES AND TOWNS WEEK 2020**

League Vice President Douglas Nicholls invited League Deputy Director Matt Lore to provide a review of cities and towns week.

Deputy Director Matt Lore let the Executive Committee know this is the 19<sup>th</sup> year of doing cities and towns week. This week was created to recognize the work that cities and towns, elected officials and municipal staff do. Deputy Director Matt Lore turned it over to Senior Communication and Education Associate Samantha Womer for a brief overview.

League Senior Communication and Education Associate Samantha Womer went over the highlights from cities and towns week 2020. The last few years, it has been focused on introducing the elected officials and staff of the cities and towns to the citizens in Arizona. In 2020 it was timely to introduce essential employees. Ms. Womer directed the Executive Committee to their packets to find the slides about cities and towns week. An online toolkit was created a few years back, which is provided to cities and towns to use to help them participate in this important week.

## **5. 2019-2020 AUDIT REPORT**

League Vice President Douglas Nicholls turned it over to League Executive Director Tom Belshe for the 2019-2020 audit report.

Executive Director Tom Belshe let the Executive Committee know that the audit report was clean this year, with no reports needing to be made to the Executive Committee. The auditors suggested combining the property corporation with the League's audit instead of having two separate ones.

Vice President Douglas Nicholls requested a motion to accept the audit. Mayor Greg Mengarelli moved to accept the 2019-2020 audit; Mayor Gail Barney seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

League Vice President Douglas Nicholls invited Legislative Director Nick Ponder back to finish his recap, due to technical issues that arose.

Legislative Director Nick Ponder mentioned that if the democrats had overtaken either chamber, it would have probably have caused more legislation regarding policing. Items expected to be seen in 2021 regarding policing are, body camera requirements, third party investigations of police officer use of force, and the potential of additional training requirements.

## **6. RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION / LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

League Vice President Douglas Nicholls mentioned that the following Executive Committee members are being named for a resolution of appreciation: Clarkdale Mayor Doug Von Gausig, Flagstaff Mayor Coral Evans, Gilbert Mayor Jenn Daniels, Scottsdale Mayor Jim Lane, Show Low Mayor Daryl Seymore, Thatcher Mayor Bob Rivera and Tolleson Mayor Ana Tovar.

Vice President Douglas Nicholls requested a motion to accept those named for a Resolution of Appreciation. Mayor Rick Mueller moved to accept the resolutions of appreciation; Mayor Kate Gallego seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

League Vice President Douglas Nicholls expressed his appreciation to those issued a Resolution of Appreciation.

Vice President Douglas Nicholls read Mayor Doug Von Gausig's resolution for Life Membership.

Vice President Douglas Nicholls requested a motion to accept the Resolution of Life Membership for Mayor Doug Von Gausig. Mayor Sandy Moriarty moved to accept the resolution; Mayor Kevin Hartke seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Vice President Douglas Nicholls read Mayor Bob Rivera's resolution for Life Membership.

Mayor Rick Mueller and Mayor Thomas Schoaf expressed their appreciation for Mayor Bob Rivera and his years of service.

Mayor Christian Price expressed his appreciation for Mayor Doug Von Gausig and Mayor Bob Rivera.

Vice President Douglas Nicholls requested a motion to accept the Resolution of Life Membership for Mayor Bob Rivera. Mayor Rick Mueller moved to accept the resolution; Mayor Thomas Schoaf seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mayor Bob Rivera gave words of appreciation for being awarded a Life Membership.

## **7. STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE**

League Vice President Douglas Nicholls invited Executive Director Tom Belshe to give an update on the strategic plan.

Executive Director Tom Belshe let the Executive Committee know that there are six sections of the strategic plan and Deputy Director Matt Lore, Deputy Director Rene Guillen, and Legislative Director Nick Ponder will go over each one, highlighting a few activities that are being accomplished. The strategic plan will also be reviewed at the February 2021 Executive Committee meeting.

Legislative Director Nick Ponder reviewed the "Lead" goal, noting that the advocacy role at the legislature is all about developing and celebrating relationships. This has been especially focused on in this last year.

Deputy Director Matt Lore went over the "Promote" goal, highlighting how the League has increased its social media presence in the past year. A huge uptick in engagement happened during COVID, showing that people are going to the League for information regarding cities and towns. The other area in this category being focused on is engagement with partnerships. Deputy Director Matt Lore also spoke about the "Educate" goal. A main staple of the League is training and educating its members and this year the League was able to transition to online learning opportunities. Although there have been difficulties with online learning, it has created positive opportunities like being able to reach those who may not come to normal trainings due to distance and being able to have speakers from around the world, that the League would not have been able to have before.

Deputy Director Rene Guillen talked about the "Empower" goal. The League has a major focus on data going forward, being able to collect and present useful data for its members. Deputy Director Rene Guillen introduced League Tax Policy Analyst Lee Grafstrom to talk more about the League's data plan.

Tax Policy Analyst Lee Grafstrom shared a tool with the Executive Committee that the League has been working on for sharing data. This project was created to allow credible data to be put online and shared with the League's partnerships and members. In the future, the tool will be able to be sorted and filtered through for ease of use.

Legislative Director Nick Ponder spoke about the goal of “Engage.” The League has entirely been focused on action at the State Legislature. Out of times of necessity, there are things learned that could be done better. One of those is developing relationships with federal delegation, which has been increased this past year. Working with different organizations also falls under engage, which has been highlighted in 2020.

Deputy Director Rene Guillen talked about the “Deliver” goal. Maximizing technology to deliver information has been taken advantage of during this past year. A next step in this category is to look at what audiovisual technology is needed to deliver high quality work.

Executive Director Tom Belshe gave his appreciation to League Staff for their hard work throughout this past year. He also thanked the Executive Committee for their work they have done locally.

## **9. OTHER BUSINESS**

League Vice President Douglas Nicholls turned it over to Executive Director Tom Belshe for other business.

Executive Director Tom Belshe informed the Executive Committee that there are vacancies for the Executive Committee and letters will be sent out to notify mayors to submit letters of interest, if they are interested in serving.

Executive Director Tom Belshe mentioned that today is League General Counsel Christina Werther’s last day. Tom Belshe shared his appreciation for Christina and recognized all of her hard work at the League. Two paths are being looked at for hiring a replacement, first is offering the position to candidates referred by Christina, then if those do not work out, a process will be carried out.

Mayor Daryl Seymore expressed his appreciation for serving on the Executive Committee.

Mayor Sandy Moriarty shared words of appreciation to those who are leaving the Executive Committee and enjoyed serving with them.

League Vice President Douglas Nicholls adjourned the Executive Committee Meeting at 12:20pm.

  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

  
PRESIDENT