

# AZBO News



Arizona Building Officials

September 2023

## Message from the Chair

Greetings AZBO Members and Friends,

I know we are all excited about the summer heat moving out and the fall season moving into the state. We continue to be challenged by record-breaking heat each year and unfortunately, this trend will most likely continue. Fortunately, 'pay-back' weather is right around the corner!

Behind the scenes at AZBO, we have been working feverishly on training new staff and identifying roles and responsibilities. The AZBO website has been reorganized and is now on track to stay updated with upcoming events, news and relevant educational offerings.

If you have not had a chance to recently visit the website ([Arizona Building Officials - AZBO](#)), I encourage you to take a few minutes and become familiar with the extensive amount of information provided.

We now have a new Executive Secretary on board, Shelly Franco-Westacott. Shelly is a ball of energy, knowledge and expertise, and I have been tasked with trying to keep up with her! Her extensive professional background is in education, project management and professional development, so she has *immediately* begun to positively impact our AZBO association! Welcome, Shelly!

Additionally, we have two new Education Committee Co-Chairs; Christopher Guzman (City of Tolleson) and Brad Mecham (City of Phoenix) have graciously taken on this leadership role.

As an education-driven association, the work and planning achieved by the AZBO Education Committee is without dispute, the most critical driving force of our organization. With the leadership of these two individuals, AZBO will continue to achieve its mission of providing high quality training opportunities to Arizona code and building communities; *leveraging* the collaborative input and expertise of many AZBO members.

To this end, the Fall Education Institute is coming to Mesa, Arizona, October 23<sup>rd</sup> through the 26<sup>th</sup>.

Classes are filling up fast, so I encourage anyone wanting to attend to get [registered](#) today.

Over the upcoming months, the AZBO Board will meet monthly to outline the 2024 budget, discuss new training venues and courses for 2024 and beyond, and focus on restoring the work of multiple AZBO committees back to pre-pandemic functioning. I encourage each of you to consider [joining a committee](#), volunteering to work events and/or teach, and to attend chapter meetings. AZBO board meetings link and agendas can be accessed via our website under, '[Events](#)'.

**It is leadership volunteers like yourselves that do the work of AZBO and we need your support and involvement. Again, please visit our AZBO website to sign up in order to bring your expertise to our collective!**

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I would like to thank some people that have made my transition to Chairman, and the development of new staff much easier for me. Who knows where we would be today if not for Pat Headington, Patti Schechter, Mike Baxley, Randal Westacott, Cheryl Mullis, Steve White, Mike Grubbs, Ray LaHaye and especially my wife Christine. Without her permission, I would not be able to come out and play with all my friends.

Best Wishes,  
Don Brown – CBO  
AZBO Executive Chairman,  
[Don.brown@phoenix.gov](mailto:Don.brown@phoenix.gov)



## Message from AZBO Executive Secretary

Greetings from AZBO and myself, **Shelly Franco-Westacott!**

I have joined the AZBO association as the Executive Secretary, and I am working diligently to fully embrace (\*learn) this new role and all that comes with it! (*AZBO website, Constant Contact, social media, ABM & institutes, EventSquid, etc.!*)

I would like to encourage you to visit our [AZBO website](#) and [Facebook page](#) often as one goal is to keep these **updated** and **relevant!**

Please reach out ([azboshelly@gmail.com](mailto:azboshelly@gmail.com)) with any education opportunities or pertinent news that may be shared? (*\*Pending AZBO BOD approval of course!*)

Additionally, please visit our [AZBO Fall Institute 2023](#) webpage to read all about this upcoming event!

AZBO Education Committee co-chairs, Brad Mecham and Chris Guzman are working ardently with Chair, Don Brown, committee members and myself to ensure for a high quality, seamless event!

**Please register NOW if you haven't already, and share with colleagues in our industry?**

Finally, a sincere thank you to all those who have so kindly welcomed and supported me as I have joined the AZBO team/family! Your encouragement has been appreciated!

It is my honor to be able to serve in this capacity.

**AZBO: "Helping Build a Safer Arizona" - *Let's do this!***

*Shelly*



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## AZBO ABM, Prescott AZ, July 2023

### Golf Tournament & Golf Awards Lunch



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## B&A Hospitality Night



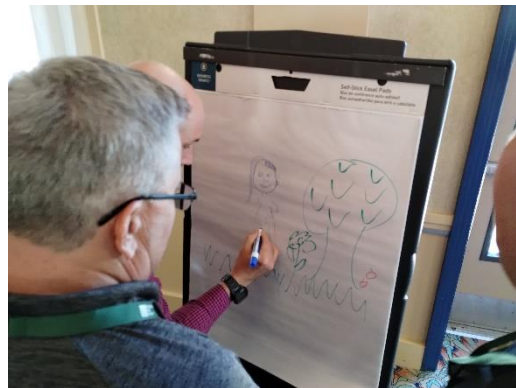
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## Education – Dr. Melendez, Unconscious Bias



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## Banquet and Awards Ceremony



Member of the Year  
Randy Westacott



Award of Excellence  
Cheryl Mullis



Building Official of the Year  
Larry Taylor



Building Inspector of the Year  
Anthony Vargas



Plan Reviewer of the Year  
Michael McMillan



Permit Technician of the Year  
Lynn Flaaen-Hanna



Achievement in Education  
Pat Headington



Leadership Award  
Mike Baxley



Award of Meritorious Service  
Don Brown



Special Services Award  
Ray Lahaye



Community Service Award  
Don Councilor



Chairman's Awards  
Pat Headington  
Dr. Paul Melendez  
Sharon Bonesteel



# AZBO News



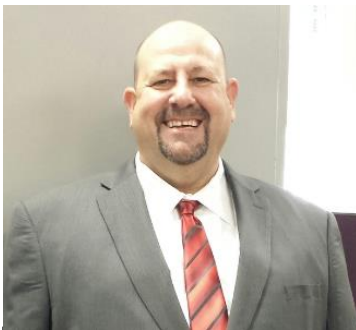
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## Annual Business Meeting



Outgoing Chair  
Steve White



Incoming Chair  
Don Brown



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## Arizona Permit Tech Committee

AZPT are pleased to announce that we have filled our Secretary Position. Please join us in welcoming Adrianna Munoz of City of Phoenix. Adrianna is a Customer Service Clerk in the Planning and Development Department. She has been with the City for over a year. She has 2 Beautiful daughters, and is currently in school to obtain her Anthropology Degree. When Adrianna is not in school or away from her girls, she loves to read, hike and travel.

Our committee is officially complete! Please be on the lookout for upcoming training events. We are in the works of planning! See you all at the AZBO Fall Institute in Mesa in October. Stop by and say Hello at the Permit Tech Booth! 😊

Thank you everyone for your continued support!

Tabby Villaverde – AZPT Chairperson



## Upcoming Events

**NFPA Fire Prevention Week, October 8 thru 14, 2023**

“Cooking Safety Starts with YOU. <https://www.nfpa.org/fpw>



**October 23 thru 26, 2023, AZBO Fall Education Institute**

Registration is OPEN. <https://www.azbo.us/events.html>



**November 1 and 2, 2023, Arizona Construction Career Days Event**

Watch for an email from the Central AZ Chapter if you are interested in volunteering at this event.



**April 29 thru May 2, 2024 – AZBO Spring Education Institute**

Prescott Resort and Conference Center.

Registration information will be posted on AZBO’s website when available.



**May 18, 2024 – AZBO Legacy Run - \*\*OR\*\* - Alternate Fun Day Event - TBD**

**ANYTIME BEFORE JUNE 13, 2024**

Nominate your peers who you believe have gone above and beyond in one of 13 categories. Awards flyer is at the end of this Newsletter and on AZBO’s website. Send completed nomination forms to [info@azbo.us](mailto:info@azbo.us)





# AZBO News



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## In Other News

From **Shicheng Tao**, Chief Building Official, City of Chandler

We are pleased to share Chandler has received a one-level ISO upgrade from the ISO for both commercial and residential property types.



The Insurance Services Office, called ISO, a leading source for property and casualty insurance risk assessment provides the evaluation services to rank each jurisdiction based upon its performance in terms of new construction code adoption, public awareness, and especially employee ISO training in a 5-year cycle. Using their Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule, they assign classifications to jurisdictions for both residential and commercial property types.

One of the supporting documents required by the ISO is to show the employees' training record during the evaluation period. To better track employees' training along with their earned credit hours, a quarterly progress report monitoring its progress was initiated and generated. So, each employee is aware of how many credit hours being earned and how far being left behind to meet the minimum annual ISO training requirement. The ISO representative was very impressed by the well-prepared supporting documentations, especially the ISO quarterly progress report, which showed that EVERYONE at the Building Safety Division in the Chandler Development Services Department met the ISO minimum 12Admin / 12Legal / 12Mentor / 60Technical annual training credit hours during the reporting period.

Generally, better ISO scores within a community result in lower insurance premiums paid by property owners. The improved ISO rankings also help make Chandler more competitive for capital-intensive economic development projects. In addition to cost savings for the project, they demonstrate the City of Chandler's ability to professionally respond to fire and life safety instances.

From City of Eloy

**Jon Vlaming** has resigned as Community Development Director. City Manager, David Malewitz, will service as Interim CDD.



The City will be conducting a national search to fill the position soon. Reach out to the City if you are looking for a rewarding, challenging position.

Jon will be retained by the City as an independent part time contractor in the capacity of a Strategic Policy Advisor.

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From **Belinda Gomez**, City of El Mirage

El Mirage has adopted the 2018 Building Code effective July 1, 2023.

We are currently working hard on testing our new permit software system - SmartGov!

Coming in early 2024!

The SmartGov system will be the new way for customers to:

- Submit Applications
- Make online payments
- Schedule Inspections
- Find statuses faster and easier

Check back for more information as we get closer to the launch date.



From **Carl Montgomery**, City of Surprise

We are thrilled to announce the newest addition to our department as Plans Examiner II – Emily Diver! With a

Bachelor’s Degree in Architecture and wealth of experience in building inspection and plan review, Emily is set to enhance our commitment to excellence and building safety.

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to Emily. We're confident that her presence will elevate our capabilities and contribute to our ongoing success.

Here's to a brighter, safer, and more successful future with Emily on board.



From **Gloria Bean**, Pinal County



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## AZBO 2023 Annual Sponsors

VISIT AZBO'S WEBSITE FOR RECOGNITION  
OF CURRENT ANNUAL SPONSORS

<https://www.azbo.us/>



**AZBO**  
**ARIZONA BUILDING OFFICIALS**  
**28<sup>th</sup> Annual Business Meeting**  
**Date July 23 thru July 25, 2024**  
**Payson AZ**



Nominate your peers who you believe have gone above and beyond for AZBO in 2023-2024

**Deadline: June 13, 2024**

<p>Check <b>one box only</b> for award nominations: See Page 2 for descriptions of awards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Member of the Year</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Award of Excellence</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Building Official of the Year</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Building Inspector of the Year</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Plan Reviewer of the Year</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Permit Technician of the Year</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Achievement in Education</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Achievement in Code Development</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Leadership Award</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Award of Meritorious Service</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Special Services Award</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Community Service Award</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Companion of the Year</li> </ul>	<p>I Nominate: Name of Individual</p> <p>Works for: Jurisdiction/Company Name (or Retired)</p> <p>Member of Chapter:   X Grand Canyon                                   X Central                                   X Southern</p> <p>Nominated By (name and jurisdiction/company): Name</p> <p>Jurisdiction/Company Name</p>
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**\*NOTE: Awards are for fiscal year 2023-2024\***

**\*Please limit reason(s) for nomination to current fiscal year recognition\***

**\*\*NOTE: Recipients must be a member of AZBO\*\* If unsure, check your local Chapter**

Reason for Nomination -include a short paragraph supporting your decision to nominate this person and include any Contributions to AZBO on a Chapter or Committee Level or other reasons for nomination:  
**PLEASE LIMIT VERBIAGE TO FIT ON THIS PAGE**

**Submit nominations to: [info@azbo.us](mailto:info@azbo.us)**

<b>Member of the Year</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outstanding personal contributions to the work of AZBO.</li> <li>• Active participation at AZBO and/or local Chapter level.</li> </ul>
<b>Award of Excellence</b> “In honor of Alan Olson”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contributions/participations to AZBO.</li> <li>• Helpfulness to fellow members of our industry.</li> <li>• Personal Professional Development.</li> <li>• Participation in ICC code development process.</li> <li>• Promotion of Building Code Enforcement as a desirable and important career.</li> </ul>
<b>Building Official of the Year</b> “In honor and memory of Pat Trueblood”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contributions/participation to AZBO.</li> <li>• Helpful to fellow members on our industry.</li> <li>• Personal Professional Development.</li> <li>• Promotion of Building Code Enforcement as a desirable and important career.</li> </ul>
<b>Building Inspector of the Year</b> “In honor and memory of Robert Graffius”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contributions/participation to AZBO.</li> <li>• Outstanding achievement in the field of Building Inspection.</li> <li>• Helpfulness to fellow Inspectors.</li> <li>• Personal Professional Development.</li> </ul>
<b>Plan Reviewer of the Year</b> “In Honor of Don Cunningham”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contributions/participation to AZBO.</li> <li>• Outstanding achievement in the field of Building Plan Review.</li> <li>• Helpfulness to the public and fellow inspectors.</li> <li>• Personal Professional Development.</li> </ul>
<b>Permit Technician of the Year</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contributions/participation involving AZBO</li> <li>• Outstanding achievement in the profession of Permit Technician.</li> <li>• Helpfulness to customers, fellow Permit Technicians, and Code Official.</li> <li>• Participation, leadership and involvement in career related committees or functions.</li> <li>• Personal Professional Development.</li> </ul>
<b>Achievement in Education</b> “In honor and memory of Brent Snyder”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contributions/participation involving AZBO</li> <li>• For the promotion of education of Building Safety professionals with in-house training and/or Chapter member programs.</li> <li>• Personal Professional Development.</li> </ul>
<b>Achievement in Code Development</b> “In honor and memory of Forrest Fielder”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For outstanding contributions in the Code Development process.</li> <li>• Outstanding personal contributions to the work of AZBO.</li> </ul>
<b>Leadership Award</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contributions/participation involving AZBO</li> <li>• Leadership in mentoring individuals to further their Building Safety careers.</li> <li>• Encouraging growth and development to members of the Building Safety Community.</li> </ul>
<b>Award of Meritorious Service</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For meritorious service to the Building Safety Community.</li> <li>• Outstanding personal contributions to the work of AZBO.</li> </ul>
<b>Special Service Award</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting AZBO above and beyond job description responsibilities.</li> <li>• For influencing participation of others for the good of the cause.</li> </ul>
<b>Community Service Award</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contributions/participation involving AZBO</li> <li>• For organizing and/or participating in events for career development or charities.</li> </ul>
<b>Companion of the Year</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outstanding support to their significant other who is an active member of AZBO.</li> <li>• Outstanding personal contributions to the work of AZBO.</li> </ul>
<b>Chairman’s Award</b> <b>(as allocated by the AZBO Chair, limit 5)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outstanding continuing contributions to the work of AZBO and support of the AZBO Chair.</li> <li>• Outstanding single contribution to the work of AZBO.</li> </ul>