



COUNTY SUPERVISORS ASSOCIATION OF ARIZONA

CSA Weekly Update

May 26, 2017



*A research and advocacy association, supporting
efficient, responsive county government in Arizona.*

In the May 26, 2017 CSA Weekly Update:

- [Happy Memorial Day from CSA!](#)
- [New Supervisors Spotlight: Supervisor Darren Simmons, Yuma County](#)
- [2017 WIR Conference: Supervisor Martin Elected WIR First VP](#)
- [Governor Ducey Puts Final Stamp on 2017 Legislative Session](#)
- [Arizona - Mexico Congressional Border Briefing](#)
- [JLBC Monthly Fiscal Highlights](#)
- [Arizona Senators Introduce SCAAP Reform Bill](#)
- [Feature: The Arizona Memory Project – Aviation in Arizona](#)
- [NACo 2017 Aspire Awards Opportunity](#)

Happy Memorial Day from CSA!



To those who courageously gave their lives, and to those that fight bravely today, we thank you for your service to our country!

On behalf of all the staff at CSA, have a great Memorial Day weekend and be safe!

[Top](#)

New Supervisors Spotlight: Supervisor Darren Simmons, Yuma County

With the county elections that occurred across Arizona in 2016, 18 new supervisors were elected to office. With the large number of new faces added to the roster of county supervisors, we would like to take the opportunity each week to introduce one of them, in alphabetical order by county, then district number.

Name: Supervisor Darren Simmons

County: Yuma County

District: 3

Birthdate: June 10

Family: Supervisor Simmons is married with two grown children, a granddaughter and two grandsons, all of who reside in District 3.

Length of time in Arizona: Though Supervisor Simmons grew up around Dallas, Texas he has lived and worked in Yuma County for more than 30 years now. In 1983 he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and was



eventually assigned to the Yuma Marine Corps Air Station. In 1988, while still enlisted, he became a volunteer deputy with the Yuma County Sheriff's Office until 1990 when, at the end of his enlistment, he was hired full-time as a deputy. There he served his first 14 years as a deputy sheriff stationed in the Wellton area, and later tested and promoted through the ranks of senior deputy, sergeant, and watch commander.

Civic organization involvement: Like most county supervisors, he has been involved with a number of community organizations over the years. These include serving as president of the Wellton-Mohawk Kiwanis, he is a member of the board of directors of the local volunteer fire department (where he also serves as a volunteer), he is on the Tri-Valley Ambulance board, and is also involved in the booster club of a local high school.

Best piece of advice received: Although there wasn't any particular piece of memorable political advice he has received, Supervisor Simmons explained that he always tries to live by the creed that honesty is the best policy. Especially as a public servant, county supervisors are tasked with trying to help a large number of people with a large number of unique problems and difficulties, and he recognizes the importance of being honest with constituents. Supervisor Simmons said that if you can't fix something, tell people that you can't. Be forthcoming and don't try to hide things, especially from the citizens you work for because it only creates problems and will cause people to lose faith and trust in you as a public servant.

Inspiration to run for county supervisor: For Supervisor Simmons, the late Sheriff Ralph Ogden of Yuma County had been a mentor to him throughout his career and helped to instill in him the belief that if you want to help your community and the people who live there, you have to go out and get involved. As a lieutenant with the Yuma County Sheriff's Office, Supervisor Simmons always enjoyed being out among the citizens of the community, meeting people, serving, and protecting. His familiarity with the county and the people of District 3 (and in turn, their familiarity with him), was a large motivator in wanting to serve in a different capacity as county supervisor. Supervisor Simmons also joked that his wife is also happy about his decision to retire from the force.

Favorite place in Yuma County: Though Supervisor Simmons doesn't consider himself an "outdoorsy" kind of guy, he does have affection for the open desert landscape of Yuma County. He particularly enjoys taking trips to the various wildlife refuges, camping, four-wheeling, and more. He explained that although there is a lot of desert area in the county, there is also plenty of nature to be appreciated, the weather is great during most of the year, and is centrally located enough that it is easy to take quick trips to places like San Diego, Phoenix, and more.

Most admired political figure: Supervisor Simmons stated that one of his most admired political figures was President Ronald Reagan. He explained that with President Reagan, what you saw was what you got, he didn't take any flak, and he inspired many people across the country to be proud of being American again. Supervisor Simmons also named former Arizona Governor Jan Brewer as another figure he admired because of her boldness and her courage to stand up and fight for what she thought was right for the state and the government.

[Top](#)

2017 WIR Conference; Supervisor Martin Elected WIR First VP



Seven county supervisors from Arizona, including CSA President and Western Interstate Region (WIR) Representative, Supervisor Tommie Cline Martin, and CSA's Representative to the National Association of Counties (NACo) Board of Directors, Supervisor Manny Ruiz, joined hundreds of county leaders from across the western United States this week for the 2017 NACo WIR Conference in Deschutes County, Oregon. This annual event convenes state, federal, and local leaders to discuss policy issues confronting the 15 western states.

During the conference, county leaders discussed strategic engagement of the U.S. Congress on issues critical to the west. Also, officials participated in workshops to

learn about issues brewing with the National Flood Insurance Program, best practices in criminal justice reform, effective models for regional service delivery, and efforts to promote economic development in rural counties. A large crowd turned out for a seminar on public lands planning efforts. On the heels of the repeal of the problematic Planning 2.0 effort, county leaders had an opportunity to engage representatives from the BLM and USFS to discuss the need for robust local government involvement to ensure the local perspective is reflected in resource and forest management plans.

Supervisor Tommie Cline Martin was elected by her peers as the WIR First Vice President. After her election she stated, "I am deeply grateful and humbled by the support of my colleagues in the western states to serve in WIR's leadership. WIR is a powerful coalition and absolutely critical to our efforts to



work on behalf of our constituents. I am looking forward to fighting for the enhanced use of our public lands, continued funding of Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT), and ensuring the economic stability of our western region."

For more information on the WIR conference, please [click here](#).

[Top](#)

Governor Ducey Puts Final Stamp on 2017 Legislative Session



On Monday afternoon Governor Ducey signed and vetoed the remaining bills from the 2017 Legislative Session, officially closing the book on the 53rd Arizona State Legislature, First Regular Session.

The legislature passed, and Governor Ducey signed, a \$9.8 billion dollar budget package the week before session ended. The University Bonding proposal, a major priority of Governor Ducey's, also passed as a standalone bill with bipartisan support. The final bonding plan does not impact counties or divert TPT collections, as originally proposed. Instead,

the universities will receive \$27 million in general funds beginning in FY19 and going forward. Additionally, state universities will be able to issue bonds of up to \$1 billion to be paid over the next 25 years.

When all was said and done after 122 days, 1,079 bills were introduced and of that 355 bills were sent to the governor, of which he signed 344 and vetoed 11. We had 14 percent fewer bills this year than last year. Unless a bill states otherwise, the general effective date for legislation is August 9, 2017.

[Top](#)

Arizona - Mexico Congressional Border Briefing

Last week the Arizona-Mexico Commission (AMC) and the Greater Nogales Santa Cruz County Port Authority held a Border Congressional Briefing. Santa Cruz County Supervisor Bruce Bracker, Santa Cruz County Manager Jennifer St. John, and CSA Executive Director Craig Sullivan joined members from across southern Arizona and northern Mexico to brief the Arizona Congressional Delegation. Topics included the following:

- Discussion and update on the Arizona-Mexico Corridor Study, binational coordination with Sonora on POE projects, and the branding/marketing of Arizona-Mexico
- Briefing on ADOT safety enforcement initiatives, including results of San Luis pilot on safety enforcement initiatives, and establishment of the Border Liaison Unit.
- Updates on Border Infrastructure Projects, including the modernization of Raul H. Castro Port of Entry, the modernization of DeConcini Port of Entry, and a feasibility study of the cars at San Luis II and Pedestrian Annex.



AMC works to improve the economic prosperity and quality of life for all Arizonans through strong, public/private collaborations in advocacy, trade, networking, and information. The AMC has 14 binational committees that act as industry and community advocates in partnership with the Commission Sonora-Arizona (its Sonoran counterpart) to facilitate cross-border trade, networking and binational information sharing.

For additional information and presentations from the briefing, please [click here](#).

[Top](#)

JLBC Monthly Fiscal Highlights

The Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) released their Monthly Fiscal Highlights report ending April 2017 with monthly general fund revenues of \$1.03 billion, an decrease of (9.7)% over the prior year. JLBC explained that poor Individual Income Tax (IIT) collections were primarily to blame as withholding was flat over last year – \$(13.1) million below forecasted withholding, IIT payments declined (4.1)% - \$(42.1) million below forecast, and refunds increased significantly causing a forecasted loss of \$(46.0) million. General fund revenues are now down \$(86.1) million below forecast year-to-date (YTD), a (1.1)% shortfall. Total YTD general fund revenue collections are now \$7.47 billion.

Highway User Revenue Fund (HURF) collections were \$128.4 million for the month, a 5.3% increase compared to April 2016. YTD collections are up 3.3% over prior year.

April general fund spending totaled \$634.2 million with YTD spending of \$8.22 billion. This represents a \$62.4 million increase compared with April 2016 and a \$155.6 million YTD increase from FY2016.

[Top](#)

Arizona Senators Introduce SCAAP Reform Bill

U.S. Senators John McCain and Jeff Flake have introduced [legislation](#) to reauthorize the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP). The SCAAP program provides reimbursements for state, local, and tribal governments to offset the costs of incarceration for certain undocumented criminal aliens.

The bill would amend the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) to reauthorize SCAAP through FY2021. It would also clarify the definition of “criminal alien” under federal law.

Finally, this legislation would correct the reimbursement payment loophole by directing the Department of Justice (DOJ) to reimburse state, local, and tribal law enforcement for the incarceration costs of criminal aliens whose immigration status cannot be verified by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

[Top](#)

Feature: Arizona Memory Project – Aviation in Arizona

The history of aviation and aerospace in Arizona is extensive, and is evident all across the state. Arizona's first airfields began to appear in the early 1910's with the dedication of the nation's first municipally-owned airport, the Davis-Monthan airfield in Pima County, which now houses the largest airplane “boneyard” in the world. Since that time, the aviation industry has been positively connected to the growth and economy of our great state, so our final feature of the Arizona Memory Project is the Ruth Reinhold Collection.

Ruth Reinhold, a pioneer female aviator, made history by becoming the first female pilot in Arizona after earning her license in 1933. During World War II, Ruth taught pilots how to fly four-engine bombers, she flew countless courier missions for the Civil Air Patrol, and later served for 20 years as Senator Barry Goldwater's professional pilot. In 1968, Ruth became the first woman appointed to the Arizona Department of Aeronautics, and in 1969 was honored with the OX-5 Club Amelia Earhart Pioneering Achievement Award.

The digital collection features images selected from the over 1200 photographs that were researched and collected for Ruth Reinhold's book, *Sky Pioneering*, which was published in 1982. The collection highlights the early days of aviation in Arizona including photographs of the state's first airfields, flying schools, aviation events, and more.

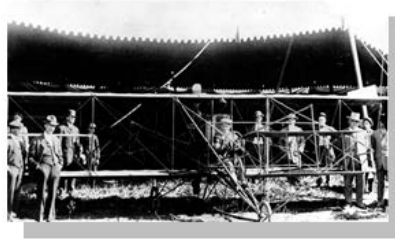
You can check out this great collection [here](#). You can also click [here](#) to learn more about the history of aviation in Arizona and find a museum or exhibit near you.



(Ruth Reinhold and Loyal Penn)



*(Amelia Earhart at Phoenix
South Central Airport)*



(Curtiss biplane at first Phoenix Air Meet)

Sources: [Arizona Aviation History](#); [Arizona Women's Hall of Fame](#); [Airplane Exhibits](#)

[Top](#)

NACo 2017 Aspire Awards Opportunity

The National Association of Counties (NACo) has launched its [2017 Aspire Awards: Creating Opportunities for County Employee Retirement Readiness](#). It honors and recognizes counties for innovative solutions and for promoting employee retirement savings.



To submit an application, please [click here](#). Submissions are due today, May 26, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. EST.

For additional information, please [click here](#).

Winners will be notified around the week of June 12, 2017, and the awards will be presented during the NACo Annual Conference in July.

[Top](#)



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