



NEWSLETTER



MARCH 2026

www.azsae.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



Tonya Deskins, CAE
2026 AzSAE President

Dear AzSAE Members,

Strong associations do not thrive by accident—they thrive by design. One of the most important responsibilities of leadership is not simply to lead well today, but to ensure the organization is even stronger tomorrow. That only happens when we are intentional about growing new leaders and encouraging others to step forward. A healthy association depends on a continuous cycle of leadership—one where experienced leaders mentor emerging leaders, institutional knowledge is passed forward, and fresh perspectives are welcomed. When we recruit and develop leaders to replace us, we protect the stability of our organization, this cycle ensures that our association remains relevant, resilient, and responsive to the needs of our members.

One of the most impactful ways to grow as a leader is through service beyond our own association. Opportunities such as volunteering with the Arizona Society of Association Executives (AzSAE) allow members to expand their leadership skills, collaborate with peers across industries, and gain broader perspective on association governance and management. Serving through AzSAE strengthens not only the individual leader, but the associations they represent by bringing back new ideas, best practices, and a deeper understanding of our profession as a whole.

Our leadership development efforts—within our association and through partner organizations like AzSAE—exist for this very reason: to identify potential, nurture confidence, and equip members with the skills and support they need to lead effectively. Whether through committee service, leadership programs, professional networks, or simply saying “yes” when asked to get involved, every step taken toward leadership strengthens our collective future.



AzSAE is a Community for All Association Professionals
and those who serve the association industry.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED....

On a personal note, I can say without hesitation that I have gained so much by being a part of this association. Through professional development opportunities, mentorship from those who led before me, and friendships that extend well beyond meeting rooms and committee work, my experience has shaped me both professionally and personally. These relationships and learning moments are the true value of association involvement and are what inspire me to encourage others to step into leadership.

As President, I encourage each member to consider how you can contribute to this cycle —by mentoring someone new, inviting a colleague to serve, exploring volunteer opportunities through AzSAE, or stepping into a leadership role yourself. When we grow leaders with intention, we don't just sustain our association—we elevate it. Let's continue building an organization that values service, invests in people, and plans thoughtfully for the leaders who will follow us.

Tonya Deskins, CAE
2026 AzSAE President

Remote and Hybrid Employees: Navigating the Legal Challenges for Nonprofits

Holly Peterson, Esq., Counsel
Tenenbaum Law Group PLLC
March 23, 2026

It's been six years since a global pandemic transformed the employment landscape for nonprofit organizations by cementing remote and hybrid work arrangements as an industry norm. While remote work presents many benefits relative to reduced real estate footprints, more manageable overhead costs, recruitment and retention advantages, and the promise of a better work-life balance, it also grafts expansive compliance obligations onto employers, which must comply with dozens (even hundreds) of employment laws

[READ MORE>>](#)



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Get Involved!

<https://www.azsae.org/getinvolved>

UPCOMING EVENTS



TUESDAY, April
9:00 AM

REGISTER

Webinar

April 14, 2026

Strategic Event Safety: Tools, Tactics, and Real-Time Readiness

Speaker: Mark Coxen, Blue Steel Security Services

Members: No Fee | Nonmembers: \$50



Virtual Event

azsae.org | 480-946-0119

Approved for 1.0 hour CAE credit.



REGISTRATION OPEN

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2026

2-4 PM EASTERN TIME

Sign up

Communicating with Confidence in Divisive Times

Speaker: Jen Hellman, communications expert, CEO of Goff Public

2.0 hour CAE Credit approved



Virtual Event

azsae.org | 480-946-0119



May Education & Network Event

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

3 pm - 6 pm

Mesa Convention Center
263 N. Center Street
Mesa Az

The Human Advantage: Leading with Empathy, Connection, and Trust
Speaker: Clara Capano

Cost: Member - \$45 | Nonmember - \$75



Pending Approval CAE credit.

azsae.org | 480-946-0119



Scan to view more upcoming events



UPCOMING EVENTS



Thursday, May 21
9:00 AM

REGISTER

Webinar

May 21, 2026

Stop Overpaying for AI: How Association Teams Can Build Affordable Custom AI Solutions and Drive Adoption

Speaker: Dr. Gleb Tsipursky

Members: No Fee | Nonmembers: \$50



Virtual Event

azsae.org | 480-946-0119



Approved for 1.0 hour CAE credit.



June Webinar

Thursday, June 18, 2026

9 am - 10 am

The Neglected Superpower: How to Foster Connection, Collaboration, and Commitment in Your Association

Speaker: Rob Volpe, CEO & Founder, Empathy Activist, LLC



www.azsae.org

Members: \$0 | Nonmembers: \$50



Approved for 1.0 hour CAE credit.



SAVE THE DATE

2026 Annual Getaway

August 2-4, 2026

Prescott, AZ

Would you like to donate a raffle prize for the Getaway?

[Submit a Donation](#)

Sponsored by: Hassayampa Inn and Prescott Resort & Conference Center



★ asae

DRIVEN BY PURPOSE

annual meeting & exposition

Early Bird Rates End April 3

AUGUST 15-18, 2026 • INDIANAPOLIS, IN

REGISTER NOW

The Road to Impact Starts Here

WHAT'S NEW?

AzSAE.Org member users can now view and obtain all of the transaction history.

1. Login to your account. Look for this image:



2. Click on My Account History to view all account transactions.

Need a receipt? You can obtain the original receipt that was sent when an online order was placed.

<https://www.azsae.org/get-my-receipt/>

Note: Invoiced orders paid later will not reflect payment on the receipt. Please reach out to our office for an updated statement.

Thank you

for hosting our
2026 February
Education & Mixer

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[Scholarships Information page on website](https://www.azsae.org/Scholarships)
<https://www.azsae.org/Scholarships>

Membership News



2026 Association Compensation & Benefits Survey

To stay competitive in today's talent market, associations need precise, defensible compensation and benefits data. The Association Societies Alliance (ASA) and AzSAE have partnered with Gallagher to produce the 2026 Association Compensation & Benefits Survey—an essential resource for building effective total rewards strategies.

YOU ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS VALUABLE RESOURCE!

By participating, your organization receives complimentary access to a robust benchmarking tool featuring state and national data, empowering you to make informed decisions that strengthen your ability to attract and retain top talent.

The survey has two distinct sections:

1. Compensation Questionnaire:

- [Click here](#) to download.
- Save the Excel spreadsheet to your computer, complete the required fields, and submit using the secure upload link on the first tab.

2. Policy & Benefits Questionnaire:

- [Click here](#) to access the questionnaire.
- You can complete this form over multiple sessions, provided you use the same computer and have cookies enabled on your browser.

Submission deadline: **Friday, April 10, 2026.**

Submitted data will be kept strictly confidential and only aggregated results will be reported. Final results will be distributed in May.

We appreciate your investment of time and effort in this important project. If you have any questions or need help completing the survey, please contact Thomas Cummins (Thomas.Cummins@ajg.com) at Gallagher Surveys with any questions. Thank you for your participation!

AzSAE Social Media Marketing Intern (Unpaid Internship)

Location: Flexible / Hybrid / Remote

Hours: 10–15 hours per week (flexible schedule) for a 1 year commitment

Duration: Semester-based or 3–4 months (with possibility of extension)

[View Internship Details](#)

[Visit our Career Center Guide](#)

New Membership Type in 2026
Organization Membership
(Must be a non-profit to qualify)
Applications are now open | Apply Today >>

2026
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Scholarship Opportunity

EXCLUSIVE SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY FOR AZSAE MEMBERS!



Thunderbird scholarship opportunity for

Arizona Society of Association Executives Members (AzSAE)

Thunderbird School of Global Management and AZSAE are excited to offer scholarships for the 2026 application cycle. Eligible members and their dependents can receive an application fee waiver and scholarship towards tuition for Thunderbird's Graduate Degrees.

[Learn More](#)

New & Renewed Members

Savanah Derrick, CNP

Arizona Veterinary Medical Association

Ashleigh Kolowski

Arizona Veterinary Medical Association

Scott Drucker

Arizona REALTORS

Mittie Williams

Arizona Veterinary Medical Association

Sarah Barberena
Embassy Suites Scottsdale by
Hilton

Natalie Bowers
Sunwest Bank

Barbara Bruce
Grace Hospitality

Patricia Chesebrough, CAE
National Association of
Insurance & Financial Advisors
- Arizona

Jill Gubin
Hilton Scottsdale Resort &
Villas

Elizabeth Lipke
Arizona Education Association

Roger Rickard
Voices in Advocacy

Jerry Topete
Arizona's DJ Entertainment

Lawrence Vigil
Mesa Convention Center & The
Post

Angie Whitaker, CAE
National Association of State
Contractors Licensing Agencies

Professional Development



CAE CERTIFIED ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE PREP COURSES

- Fall Course Registration Coming Soon!

Whether you're ready to take your career to the next level or just looking to check earning the CAE off of your list, you have what it takes to become a Certified Association Executive! The CAE credential is the marker of a committed association professional who has demonstrated the wide range of knowledge essential to manage an association in today's challenging environment.

With the highest success rate in the nation, MSAE has helped more association professionals become CAEs than any other entity

Use promo code AzSAE-CAE to save 20%
[MORE ABOUT OUR COURSES>>](#)



AzSAE's Commitment to Educational Growth

AzSAE collaborates with various SAE associations and industry experts to offer a rich array of educational opportunities for our members. This partnership ensures optimal growth and timely application in our constantly evolving landscape.

Visit our website for more information
[Professional Development](#)

ELearning through SeminarWeb

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Master the Fundamentals for Career Advancement in Association Management with QAS 2.0

QAS 2.0 - the Qualified Association Specialist (QAS) 2.0 Certificate Program provides anyone in the association industry, including CEOs, a broad base view of the key elements in running an association. QAS 2.0 is a refreshed and modernized version of the original program. With updated content, new speakers, timely topics, and an all-new design, QAS 2.0 reflects the current realities of association management and prepares professionals for what's next. **View Full Program**

AzSAE Coupon Code: AZQAS-SAE

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