



ARIZONA FALLEN FIRE FIGHTERS MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

Arizona Fallen Firefighter Memorial Committee

Public Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 10, 2025 | 1:30 PM

Location: Professional Fire Fighters of Arizona Office

61 E. Columbus Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85012

Via Zoom | Meeting ID: 859 1899 1334 | Passcode: 628927

1. Call to Order

Chair Dan Freiberg called the meeting to order at 1:34 PM.

This meeting was properly noticed in accordance with Arizona's Open Meeting Law. The agenda and public notice were posted on June 3, 2025, at 11:00 AM, satisfying the 48-hour requirement. And Amended on 6-6-25.

2. Welcome Remarks

Chair Freiberg welcomed the committee members and guests and expressed appreciation for their participation. He noted the statutory requirement to meet in January and May and acknowledged that future meetings would be scheduled accordingly.

3. Roll Call and Introductions

Present:

- Dan Freiberg, Chair, President of the Professional Fire Fighters of Arizona
- Daniel Valenzuela, Deputy Director, Arizona Dept. of Forestry and Fire Management
- Dr. David Breeckner, Director, Arizona Historical Advisory Commission
- Gordon Cunningham, Commander, PFFA Honor Guard
- Mike Colletto, Public Member

Absent:

- Elizabeth Alvarado-Thorson, Director, Arizona Department of Administration
- Chief Jake Rhoades, President, Arizona Fire Chiefs Association

Legal Counsel Present:

- Ben Norris, Assistant Attorney General
- Nathan Wellahan, Assistant Attorney General

Committee Staff:

- Crystal McCracken, Administrative Assistant, Professional Firefighters of Arizona

A quorum was present.

4. Consideration of Appointment – Civilian Committee Position

Chair Freiberg exercised his authority under A.R.S. § 41-1861(A)(2) to appoint Mr. Mike Colletto to the civilian seat on the committee. No vote was required. The appointment was acknowledged and will be recorded in the official minutes.



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5. Statutory Overview and Committee Authority

Assistant Attorney General Ben Norris provided an overview of the committee's statutory responsibilities:

- A.R.S. § 41-1861 – Committee Establishment and Membership
- A.R.S. § 41-1862 – Memorial Responsibilities and Meeting Requirements
- A.R.S. § 41-1863 – Fallen Firefighter Memorial Fund
- A.R.S. § 15-1808 – Tuition Waiver Eligibility for Survivors

Discussion included clarification that only seven of the nine potential committee seats are filled. The two governor-appointed public seats have never been appointed. Members discussed the pros and cons of pursuing those appointments. No action was taken.

There was also discussion on the status of the Fallen Firefighter Memorial Fund established under A.R.S. § 41-1863. Committee members clarified that although the statute outlines a state-managed fund, there is currently no known funding at the state level. Instead, a separate memorial maintenance fund is administered by Cody Brooks through the UPFFA. This fund is used for tasks such as etching names and upkeep of the memorial. It was noted that the balance of that fund is believed to be under \$500. Crystal McCracken was tasked with contacting Cody Brooks to obtain a current accounting and report back to the committee.

6. Tuition Waiver Scholarship Review and Determination

The committee reviewed an application for a tuition waiver scholarship submitted by:

- Applicant: Juliann Ashcraft
- Fallen Firefighter: Andrew Ashcraft (Granite Mountain Hotshots, EOW: June 30, 2013)
- Institution: Arizona State University, Fall 2025

It was clarified that Ms. Ashcraft is the widow of Andrew Ashcraft.

Mr. Norris confirmed that the application met the eligibility criteria under A.R.S. § 15-1808.

Motion: To approve the tuition waiver scholarship for Juliann Ashcraft.

Motion by: Daniel Valenzuela

Seconded by: Gordon Cunningham

Vote: Motion carried unanimously

Crystal McCracken will report the approval to the Arizona Board of Regents.

7. Discussion – Future Meeting Dates

Chair Freiberg proposed scheduling committee meetings in January and May, in compliance with statute. Gordon Cunningham confirmed that May meetings would not conflict with memorial preparations.



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Mike Colletto also requested that future meetings be held on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday, due to his dialysis schedule. The committee agreed to accommodate this request.

8. Call to the Public

There were no members of the public present. No comments were received.

9. Adjournment

With no further business, Chair Freiberg adjourned the meeting at 2:04 pm.

Submitted by:

Crystal McCracken

Administrative Assistant

PFFA

Approved; November 14, 2025