



October 19, 2007

Members and Friends:

It has been just over three months since the gavel was passed to me and I wanted to bring you up to speed on all the exciting things happening here at AzTA.

In late June, your board of directors met for the annual board retreat to spend a couple of days setting the priorities for the upcoming year. With a commitment to putting wheels under the strategic plan developed under Rick Simonetta's leadership, we heard reports and proposals from each of your committees for an action plan for '07 – '08. I am pleased to report that these committees are meeting on a regular schedule and making real progress.

The Funding/Legislative Committee is chaired by Ron Barnes (ron.barnes@veolitransportation.com). Ron is doing a great job working with our legislative liaison, Stuart Goodman, tracking relevant issues affecting our industry and preparing for the upcoming legislative session.

The Education/Training Committee is chaired by Nick Promponas, (nick.promponas@ft.firstgroupamerica.com). Shortly, you will see a survey seeking your input concerning training needs that will shape the resources and priorities AzTA will actively pursue as part of our strategic plan.

The Advocacy/Communications Committee is chaired by Terry Gruver (gruver@infraconsultllc.com). This committee refreshed the AzTA logo and other printed materials. Additionally, a number of revisions and improvements have been made to the AzTA website to improve a visitor's experience and ease of use. AzTA has updated its graphic and communications capabilities with new equipment. This equipment is available for member's use at conferences and meetings.

The Organizational Infrastructure Committee is chaired by Nate Peterson (npeterson@mvtransit.com). This committee meets frequently to review/update policies, procedures, by-laws and is responsible for all event planning and administration of AzTA conferences and meetings.

You are welcome to attend any of these meetings in person or via teleconference. Your contribution would be greatly appreciated. Contact the chair listed above or Becky (aztaadmin@cox.net) at the AzTA office for more information.

On September 28th, AzTA hosted its Second Annual Rail Symposium. Outstanding, informative presentations by commuter rail professionals from New Mexico, Utah, California and Wisconsin provided information regarding their experiences with implementation of commuter/intercity rail in their state. Copies of those presentations are available at the AzTA website (<http://www.azta.org/about/event-detail/azta-2nd-annual-rail-symposium/>). The afternoon session was moderated by Jim Dickey from ADOT and included a panel discussion that featured Tempe Mayor Hugh Hallman, Senator Thayer Verschoor from District 22, Representative Steve Farley from District 28 and Supervisor Sandi Smith from the Pinal County Board of Supervisors.

On October 24th AzTA will be holding its Ninth Annual Fall Golf Classic at the Karsten Golf Course in Tempe.

Finally, I will be sending you quarterly updates on the activities of your Association. Please feel free to contact any of us if there is anything we can do for you, your agency or your community!

Paul Miller, President
Arizona Transit Association