



# pinal county

## *town hall*

*"Through leadership, Pinal County Town Hall aspires to engage and educate Delegates to build consensus and achieve positive change."*

December 12, 2016

Dear Town Hall Delegate:

On behalf of the Pinal County Town Hall Advisory Committee, it is my pleasure to provide you with the report and delegate directory from the 29th Annual Pinal County Town Hall. We commend you as delegates, for your attendance and serious consideration of the subject "Linking Transportation: Paving the Way to Economic Growth!" It was certainly apparent throughout the Town Hall that you are ready to go forward into your community armed with the information presented.

The Report that follows includes a summary overview of the one-day Town Hall including a directory segment of delegates attending Town Hall.

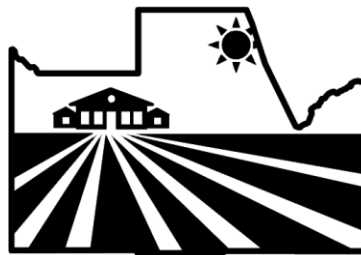
I want to once again acknowledge and thank our Partners in Economic Progress, listed in this report, who provide both time and financial resources to help make the Pinal County Town Hall a continuing reality. Special appreciation is also extended to the Pinal County Board of Supervisors and their staff who have provided continuing support for the entire 29 years Town Hall has been in existence, seeing the benefits of delegates coming together from throughout Pinal County to investigate and discuss a vast number of issues. We also extend our thanks to the individuals and businesses that provided door prizes for this, our 29th Annual Pinal County Town Hall.

Should you have questions concerning the report or follow-up activities, please contact members of the Town Hall Advisory Committee or our Town Hall Director Maxine Brown at 480-322-1626 or email at [m.leather@mchsi.com](mailto:m.leather@mchsi.com). We look forward to seeing many of you at next year's 30th Pinal County Town Hall which is already being planned for the fall of 2017. Your support and interest in the Pinal County Town Hall is greatly appreciated as we continue to work together for the well-being of Pinal County. Best regards for a great 2017.

Sincerely,

Sandie Smith, Chair

**29<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
PINAL COUNTY TOWN HALL**



**“LINKING TRANSPORTATION: PAVING THE  
WAY TO ECONOMIC GROWTH!”**

**OFFICIAL  
REPORT  
2016**

## DEDICATION

Our 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Pinal County Town Hall Report is dedicated to Wayne G. and Pat Gerken. Wayne served as the inspiration and guide for the Town Hall from its beginning in 1988 through 2005. It was Wayne's idea and dream that if the people of Pinal County came together to discuss issues, much could be accomplished. Many lasting friendships have been developed through Wayne's dream of bringing people from across the county together as well as forming a better Pinal County by discussing problems openly in the Town Hall forum.

Wayne's right hand in developing each Town Hall was his wife Pat, who performed a host of planning and clerical duties including registrations, support materials, awards procurement, bookkeeping and much more.

Wayne and Pat forged the Town Hall through many years and taught those following in their footsteps how "it should and must be done."

*"True leaders are not those who strive to be first but those who are first to strive and who give their all for the success of the team. True leaders are first to see the need, envision the plan, and empower the team for action.*

**By the strength of the leader's commitment,**  
*the power of the team is unleashed."*

**29TH ANNUAL PINAL COUNTY TOWN HALL**

**OCTOBER 6, 2016**

**“LINKING TRANSPORTATION: PAVING THE WAY TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT!”**

One hundred sixty-seven delegates, including 9 students, attended the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Pinal County Town Hall meeting at Robson Ranch in Eloy for a one-day meeting on October 6, 2016 to learn more about transportation issues facing Pinal County, the State of Arizona and the U.S. Funding for projects, the future of transportation, a look at automated-driverless cars, and possible revenue sources for funding transportation in Pinal County were just a few of the topics touched on by Town Hall presenters. The importance of transportation routes to move products and people is critical to economic growth in the county, state, and country.

**THE DAY’S EVENTS AND SPEAKERS**

**WELCOME**

Pinal County Town Hall Advisory Committee Chair Sandie Smith called the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Pinal County Town Hall to order and introduced Mayor Joel Belloc, City of Eloy.

The Town Hall was honored to have Mayor Joel Belloc welcome Town Hall delegates, guests and students to his City. Mayor Belloc led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**TRANSPORTATION OVERVIEW**

**Transportation Lessons Learned**

Town Hall’s special guest and a **keynote speaker was Mary Peters**, who served as U.S. Secretary of Transportation from 2006 to 2009. In that role, she led efforts to

substantially improve transportation safety, to improve the performance of the nation's transportation system and develop new policy and funding sources to support America's transportation system into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Prior to serving as U.S. Secretary of Transportation, Ms. Peters was a Sr. Vice President and National Director of Transportation Policy and Consulting for HDR, Inc. From 2001 through 2005 Ms. Peters served as the Federal Highway Administrator for the U.S. Department of Transportation. Ms. Peters was the Arizona Department of Transportation Director prior to becoming Federal Highway Administrator. Currently Ms. Peters is the Principal of Mary Peters Consulting Group, LLC an organization dedicated to finding new and better ways to address America's infrastructure requirements.

With Ms. Peters' vast experience and knowledge of transportation issues in Arizona and the country, she was a natural selection to offer the opening presentation for the Town Hall.

Ms. Peters related that the U.S. was once number 1 in the world for infrastructure but had fallen to 16<sup>th</sup> place. Most bridges in the U.S. were built prior to 1970. The last major international airport was built in this country in 1995, 21 years ago. The U.S. now has an aging and obsolete system and we are not keeping pace with the world.

Studies show U.S. commuters spend an average of 80 hours per year stuck in traffic. For a transportation project in the U.S. to receive approval, it takes 15 years, if there are no delays. Building projects get more expensive with each year. To keep pace with the Global Economy the U.S. must invest more in all the country's infrastructure. This will not only keep the public safe but will also create jobs that will better the country's economy. The US must focus on best practices. The overall funding for transportation must be reviewed at the federal, state and local levels. The Highway Trust Fund, funded by fuel tax, was last increased in 1993. With inflation at 63.9%, the Trust Fund has fallen significantly behind in keeping up with the country's needs. "The gas tax is running out of gas."

The U.S. cannot compete in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century without improving the country's infrastructure. Gas tax revenues need to be increased from \$88 to \$100 billion to

bring the infrastructure to a point where the U.S. can operate successfully in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. We cannot compete from the 16<sup>th</sup> place.

We need to look at new solutions and innovative approaches to solve the country's problem. One avenue is PPP or Public/Private Partnerships that can be developed to fund projects.

It is difficult to look at new transportation funding when projects such as the "Bridge to Nowhere" are out there. Government officials need to focus on transparency and gain the public trust to find innovative ways to fund the much need infrastructure in the country. It is evident that local area elected officials are trusted much more than state and federal officials thus making raising taxes and finding funding solutions to problems on a national level very difficult. Local taxes seem to be raised easier than federal taxes. The country needs strong political leadership with innovative approaches.

Longevity of infrastructure must be considered to enable it to last through earthquakes, storms and other disasters. The country cannot afford to build and rebuild.

Many lessons have been learned regarding transportation in this country. We need to look to best practices and what works well in other regions, and duplicate those practices that will work well in this country and each local area.

#### **Quote from Margaret Mead**

**"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."**

#### **Planning for Priority Corridors**

**John Halikowski, Director of the Arizona Department of Transportation** also spoke on the need for public trust to keep the citizens interested in transportation and public infrastructure issues. Arizona is in a very advantageous location for transportation corridors serving the entire nation. Shipping measures time in minutes to deliver products. Congestion costs money and profits. Good

transportation equals quality of life. There must be public reliability in the transportation systems. No one likes to be stuck in traffic.

Currently there is no will in Congress to raise the gas tax, so alternatives must be reviewed and found soon. The entire US transportation system is falling behind in repairs. Arizona has a great deal going on in transportation, but not enough to keep the state competitive. It will be up to the high school students of today, working tomorrow, to solve the problem of deteriorating infrastructure. Something must change and the public must begin to trust government at every level to solve the problems and allow us to go forward.

**Wesley Mehl, Deputy Commissioner of the Arizona State Land Department,** gave the perspective from his office. Deputy Commissioner Mehl explained the State Land Department manages over 9.2 million acres of land held in public trust, created at the time of statehood. This land is distributed throughout the state, and is approximately 13% of the state. There are 1,203,134 acres of State Trust Land located in Pinal County. The State Land Department works with the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT); however, State Land cannot give ADOT right-of-way. All land must be sold in structured land sales to benefit Arizona. State Land understands that the most valuable land is located along freeways and transportation corridors, but the State Constitution will not allow right-of-way to be given. Both departments work together, but are bound by the State Constitution, statutes and regulations.

**Dennis Smith, Executive Director of the Maricopa Association of Governments** explained that transportation planning must think ahead to future generations. Planning and constructing a transportation system takes 30 to 40 years to complete. Congestion exists within the Arizona systems now and it will get worse. The I-10 corridor has massive congestion now and a solution must be found. We must plan, seeing beyond what we see! The public does not recognize political boundaries such as county lines. Pinal will be building a huge city for the future. Currently there are 314,000 vehicles a day crossing the Maricopa/Pinal border. This is on an average weekday! We all need to focus on creating jobs in Pinal County to enable residents to work close to home. Mesa Gateway Airport offers great opportunity in creating these jobs. Superstition Vistas, when developed, will have many needs and we must all be looking toward that future, forgetting

the political boundaries that separate us. We must be leaders with a vision and visualize where we are going and what it will look like. Hope is not a strategy.

A great deal of traffic crosses the Pinal/Maricopa county lines every weekday for work. We must all work together to create more jobs in Pinal County. This will greatly reduce the weekday traffic on I-10 and US 60. We must think creatively to solve problems.

Director Smith told of seeing his new granddaughter at the hospital that week and thinking: “This is who we are planning for, the generation that is coming into the world now.”

### **Quote from U.S. Rep. Earl Blumenauer**

**“Let’s have a moment of silence for all those Americans who are stuck in traffic on their way to the gym to ride a stationary bicycle.”**

### **Connecting Transportation with Economic Development Plans**

**Deane Foote, President and CEO, Foote Consulting Group**, explained the critical role site-selection plays in job creation and economic development. Major businesses, distribution centers, big-box-stores all look for a location where transportation routes are easily accessible and workers are readily available. For a site to be ready to go and certified, the site must: have access to markets; reasonable freight costs; a skilled workforce; reasonable wages and salaries; a developed site, possibly with buildings or be shovel ready; have utilities and infrastructure in place; a good quality of life for employees including education facilities, recreation, culture diversity; incentives to locate, such as training and tax credits; along with site related incentives. Locating and expanding companies compare regions on these issues. Incentives are important if two or three sites are comparable with the same benefits.

The state keeps a listing of certified sites and buildings. Most important to companies wanting to locate or expand operations are: freight; salaries; and power (electric) costs. The statement “55 MPH in 5 minutes” equates to: on the highway in 5 minutes and on their way to deliver goods. This makes



transportation corridors a critical issue to all businesses delivering goods as well as customers reaching their location easily. Easy access to the location is also an incentive in hiring employees and staff.

**Ed Hadley, President of Southwest, Walton Development and Management,** explained that the company was privately held and started in Canada. They had expanded to over 100,000 acres in the “Southern Smile” regions. This is the I-10 corridor area reaching from Prescott to Nogales with 12,000 acres located in Pinal County. Walton Development is looking at the area growing. The economic recovery is good, but has not been as robust as hoped. Currently there is a lack of affordability and a lack of a skilled workforce to build. Population growth will bring employment growth to the area.

Pinal County is experiencing growth in the Red Rock Industrial Park area. This is a strategically located area that will develop an inland port with railroad access and 2 interstates already in place. Pinal Air Park is also looking at development into a major air hub.

Congestion will keep businesses from locating in an area. Connectivity is extremely important for economic development of a region along with water, sewer, and power. Economic development needs to be a partnership between government, developers, land owners, and private sector businesses to achieve a project to completion.

Pinal County has tremendous potential for development. This is a vision of the entire region with all entities working together. Having good jobs and keeping Pinal County youth in the area is important to families living here.

**Matthew McCormick, with Saint Holdings,** discussed the company owning a section of land in Pinal County for an industrial/business park. Locating businesses is job creation for the area. Time is critical to business in getting a product out to its destination. Thirty million people can be reached in only 1 day’s transportation from Pinal County. This is huge for business.

Saint Holdings newest project is a large investment in Pinal County on 11,400 acres known as the Heritage Project. It is a master planned community with an industrial/business park, schools, and housing. There will soon be an inland port in the region. Union Pacific is within 2 miles and expanding with double rail

tracks. This area will boom with economic development projects due to transportation routes for sending freight throughout the country. Pinal County's location is great for attracting large scale industry.

**Patrick Johnson, Attesa Project Manager with Danrick Builders,** explained the 2,300-acre motor-tech park being developed off I-8 and I-10 corridors near Casa Grande and Eloy. To develop an attraction of this nature, his organization looked at population, labor force, and transportation. It is estimated the development of the motor-tech park will attract 20,000 to 30,000 people for a single day event. Transportation is their number one issue and critical in getting people, both customers and workers, in and out of the event quickly. The site selected has easy access to both I-10 and I-8. Most large race tracks across country have one road in and one road out, creating traffic congestion before and after events. Attesa is being developed, keeping in mind the critical need to move people rapidly in and out. Attesa has an excellent plan for vehicle circulation. The track will also be close to I-11 when completed and possible passenger rail service in the area.

Construction of the facility and surrounding area will create 9,565 construction jobs. Operation of the facility will mean additional jobs created.

**Marshall Stahl, is COO and CEO of both AZ Sourcing and Central Arizona Regional Center.** Mr. Stahl reported that Phoenix Mart has made incredible progress in the last few months. It will be the largest market place in the world with 1,850 showrooms where buyers can come in and buy all products for their businesses.

There is currently a Mart in China, with a 3 million square foot facility that has 210,000 people per day visit the facility. Phoenix Mart will have a 4 million square foot facility that is well-positioned near major airports, I-10 and I-8, Union Pacific Railroad, and the future I-11 Corridor. It is estimated the facility will create 9,669 new jobs with an opening planned in 1 to 1 ½ years.

**Quote from Robert Orben**

**“There’s so much pollution in the air now that if it weren’t for our lungs there’d be no place to put it all.”**

### **A Transportation View from the State Capitol**

Lunch time speakers **Arizona Senator Steve Farley and Arizona Senator Bob Worsley (Chair of the Transportation Committee)** provided a luncheon presentation: "A Transportation View from the State Capitol." Plans for transportation being currently developed will upend the traditional auto industry. By 2050 it is estimated that there will be 50 million computer driven vehicles in the US. Transportation will be changed forever. The transition to computer driven vehicles will be similar-to the transition in the early 1900s when the world made the change from horse drawn vehicles to motorized transportation. Imagine 5 feet between bumpers at speeds up to 120 miles per hour!

It is also estimated that in a mere 15 years, all cars will be electric, greatly reducing greenhouse gases and pollution.

Days of car ownership will perhaps be over. Developers are already providing electric cars with the purchase of condos that are owned by the condo, but can be used as residents wish.

Software will make decisions in the driverless cars. The next era of driving is here. Autonomous driving means reduced accidents as well as broadening access to cars to everyone, making everyone mobile, reducing traffic, and making transportation more efficient. Some reports are that cars have been driving people since 2015. Experts are now mapping out the autonomous driving vision. Along with developing the driverless vehicle, experts are meeting and reviewing moral and regulatory issues. Working out all the issues surrounding the transition from cars to autonomous driving will be an interesting and perhaps difficult time.

#### **Quote from Marshall McLuhan, Understanding Media, 1964**

**"The car has become...an article of dress without which we feel uncertain, unclad, and incomplete."**

### **Building a Transportation Plan for Present and Future**

**Tim Wolfe, Transportation Practice Leader for Dibble Engineering** provided a presentation on the draft Pinal Regional Transportation Plan. A Pinal County study in 2015 determined an unmet need to \$1.2 billion in transportation funding. Thus, a plan was developed to attempt to bring in funding to meet a portion of those needs. Mr. Wolfe explained the process in creating the plan, and then described the milestones accomplished from August 5, 2015 through May 11, 2016. The need for a plan was established with the Pinal County Board of Supervisors, approving an agreement between the Board of Supervisors and the Rural Transportation Authority Board, to presenting the draft plan for approval to the Board of Supervisors. Once the draft was approved, outreach began through press releases, presentations, special meetings, meetings with all Pinal County cities and towns, and website creation.

The next step is to take the plan to the voters. To accomplish this the Board of Supervisors will call for an election, more public outreach and education will take place, and ballot language will be prepared. It is estimated a vote will take place in November 2017, if all issues are resolved by then.

### **Quote from Greg LeMond**

**“It never gets easier, you just go faster.”**

### **Leaders Collaborating for a Connected Region**

**Mayor Bob Jackson, City of Casa Grande, moderated the topic with panelists: Tom Rankin, Mayor of Florence and Pinal Regional Transportation Authority (PRTA) Board of Directors Chairman; Chairman Todd House, Pinal County Board of Supervisors; Christian Price, Mayor of Maricopa and PRTA Board of Directors; and Sam Hosler, Mayor of Kearny and PRTA Board of Directors.**

The panel explained that when surveyed, 75% of the voters said they would vote yes on a measure to increase transportation funding. Chairman House said that

transportation needs would increase in Pinal County along with population and job growth. Better transportation would also increase tourism.

All panelists agreed that everyone must work together to solve the transportation problems in the county. What is good for one part of the county is good for all of Pinal County. The closing agreement of the panelists was: "If you build it, they will come."

**Quote from Lt. Governor Timothy Murray, Boston MA, 2012**

**"This is important...We've got to get more people to experience this, even just for one day, because we know if they do, more days will follow...We ask you to send it out to your network-email, twitter, let your friends know!"**

**Spurring Economic Growth**

**Jim Rounds, President of Rounds Consulting Company** asked where do we go from 2016 in Pinal County? What does Pinal County want to be? The county is at a crossroads and still has time to plan.

Business needs: a quality workforce; quality roads to move goods and people; competitive costs; and consistent government. People need: jobs; amenities; affordable housing; available financing; and better balance sheets.

How to get to the best balance involves: taxes; economic development programs; a qualified workforce; and good infrastructure. Further infrastructure maintenance and development is critically needed in Pinal County. The Pinal Rural Transportation Authority and Plan opens possibilities for Pinal County and its residents.

**Quote from Will Rogers**

**"Even if you are on the right track, you will get run over if you just sit there."**

**Keynote Address: Growing Economic Opportunities with Transportation**

**Victor Mendez, Deputy Secretary, United States Department of Transportation**

provided an update on Washington DC and transportation funding. With the election process in full swing, it is difficult to judge how transportation will be affected. Much is needed across the entire nation for maintenance and new construction in our transportation infrastructure. Business and manufacturing demand goods move quickly to their destination. Ports bringing goods into the country are over-crowded and demands are high for additional ports and transportation corridors to carry the goods to their destinations. This all takes funding that currently is not available. Pinal County is wise to look to the future and find ways to secure funding to meet transportation needs.

Autonomous vehicles will change the way we think of transportation. The world is changing and the future may well look like the “Jetsons!” As driverless cars are developed, there will be 7 stages of development perfecting the technology. Eventually driverless vehicles will be safe, convenient, efficient, good for the ecology, and many cost savings will be seen in how transportation infrastructure is developed. We are in for very exciting, changing times.

**Quote from Malcolm Forbes**

**“Education’s purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one.”**

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

**AWARDING OF THE WAYNE G. GERKEN SCOLARSHIPS**

The 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Pinal County Town Hall had 9 youth from participating high schools – Casa Grande Youth Commission; San Manuel High School, Superior Unified High School and Vista Grande High School. All 9 students participated in vying for the Wayne G. Gerken Memorial Scholarship this year. Because Town Hall was only a one-day event, it was necessary for the Scholarship Committee to continue the criteria away from a written essay to a round table format. Students were required to actively participate in Town Hall and be present for the round table discussion that was moderated by Town Hall Vice Chair Donna McBride.

## 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Pinal County Town Hall 2016

Students engaged in conversation based on three main questions: When you first heard about the Town Hall topic, how did you think it would have an impact on the things you do as a young person? Now that you have spent the morning hearing some of our speakers and reading through the material, how do you think transportation will play a part in YOUR life? What are 2 ways the transportation issue affects you personally? The discussion was observed by members of the Scholarship Committee who scored participants on criteria specified by the Town Hall Advisory Committee.

Competition was remarkable and for the first time in many years Town Hall awarded three scholarships.

**Congratulations go to: Alexandra Chaparro, Casa Grande Youth Commission, Vista Grande High School Junior (\$1,000 Scholarship); Broc Traweek, San Manuel High School Senior (\$750 Scholarship); Elonna Okuagn, Vista Grande High School Senior (\$500 Scholarship).**

## 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Pinal County Town Hall 2016



Scholarship winners and Pinal County Town Hall Youth Committee members: Elonna Okuagn, Vista Grande High School Senior; Broc Traweek, San Manuel High School Senior; Alexandra Chaparro, Casa Grande Youth Commission, Vista Grande High School Junior; Patty Robinson and Jean Slater, Youth Committee Members; and Youth Committee Chair Donna McBride.



## **Partners in Economic Progress**

**“Excellence is the result of caring more than others think is wise, risking more than others think is safe, dreaming more than others think is practical, and expecting more than others think is possible.”**

**Quote from Alice Walker**

**“Thank you expresses extreme gratitude, humility, understanding”**

**The Pinal County Town Hall Advisory Committee**

**Thanks**

**Our Esteemed Sponsors.**

## **Partners in Economic Progress**

It is through the collective efforts of both the public sector and the private sector that the Pinal County Town Hall has been made possible. The Town Hall Advisory Committee expresses appreciation to the following organizations for their financial support of the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Pinal County Town Hall as well as their participation and interest in this county wide endeavor.

### **Pinal County Board of Supervisors**

Special appreciation is extended to the **Pinal County Board of Supervisors** for its continuing commitment to the financial support for the Pinal County Town Hall.

Chairman Todd House, Supervisor, District 5

Vice Chairman Pete Rios, Supervisor, District 1

Cheryl Chase, Supervisor, District 2

Supervisor Steve Miller, District 3

Supervisor Anthony Smith, District 4

### **Pinal Partnership**

Special thanks is also extended to the Pinal Partnership for their Premier Sponsorship of Town Hall. Their dedication to the on-going efforts of Town Hall is appreciated.

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

**GOLD:** City of Maricopa

**BRONZE:** City of Apache Junction  
City of Coolidge  
City of Eloy

**COPPER:** Town of Kearny  
Town of Marana

## CORPORATE AND BUSINESS PARTNERS

**Platinum:** Robson Ranch

**GOLD:** Empire Cat

**SILVER:** Access Arizona  
AECOM  
Arizona Public Service (APS)  
Harrah's AK-CHIN Casino Resort  
Salt River Project (SRP)

**BRONZE:** ARCADIS

**COPPER:** Pinal County Federal Credit Union  
Wilson and Company

**SUSTAINING:** the Dolly Steamboat at Canyon Lake, Arizona

**29<sup>th</sup> Annual Pinal County Town Hall 2016**

**Raffle Prize**

the Dolly Steamboat at Canyon Lake, Arizona

**Door Prize Donations**

On Behalf of the Pinal County Town Hall Advisory Committee and staff, we wish to thank all those donating to the raffle drawings, gift bags, and baskets for the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Pinal County Town Hall. We express our extreme gratitude for your support and assistance with the event.

**WITH SPECIAL THANKS AND RECOGNITION**

Pinal County Town Hall Advisory Committee would like to send a special thank you to:

**Kathy Borquez**

**Pinal County Public Works Staff**

**Pinal County Economic Development Staff**

**Robson Ranch and Staff**

**Holiday Inn Express & Suites Staff, Casa Grande**

## **PINAL COUNTY TOWN HALL HISTORY AND INFORMATION**

**MISSION:** Through leadership, Pinal County Town Hall aspires to engage and educate Delegates to build consensus and achieve positive change.

**VISION:** Pinal County Town Hall's Vision is to preserve and improve the quality of life for all who live, work, and visit Pinal County.

### **Pinal County Town Hall History**

Pinal County Town Hall is an assembly of delegates, annually convened, that identifies critical issues facing Pinal County; creates a forum for education/exploration of the topic and fosters networking/collaboration among its participants. By drawing upon Pinal County's diversity of citizens the Town Hall process promotes public consideration of these issues, offering information and ideas for public review, and grassroots efforts for desired outcomes.

The overall goal of Pinal County Town Hall is to educate citizens to affect positive change. The strategies are developed in such a manner that a Town Hall delegate or group of delegates can identify and pool resources from their community or extended networks and launch a grassroots campaign to educate others in the issues discussed.

The Pinal County Town Hall began in 1988. A few individuals and organizations realized the importance of convening a cross-section of county citizens to discuss issues of importance, especially those related to economic development.

Pinal County Town Hall receives substantial financial support from the County Board of Supervisors, as well as its many "Partners in Economic Progress." A committee of volunteers, the Pinal County Town Hall Advisory Committee, meets monthly to plan and facilitate the annual conferences.

Each fall, approximately 140 to 160 delegates assemble to discuss a topic that impacts the county, as a whole, and its respective communities and citizens.

Topics over the past 29 years include:

- 1988 A Symposium on Economic Development

## 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Pinal County Town Hall 2016

- 1989 Pinal County Futures: Tomorrow's Vision – Today's Plan
- 1990 Horizon 2000: Strategies For Action
- 1991 An Inside Look at Pinal County Government: Taxes vs. Services – A Delicate Balance
- 1992 The Year for Action: Implementing a County-Wide Economic Development Plan
- 1993 The Changing Workplace: Education's Challenge
- 1994 Today's Crisis: Confronting Juvenile Crime In Our Communities
- 1995 Pinal Tomorrow: Building Healthier Communities
- 1996 Volunteers in Service to Communities: People Making A Difference
- 1997 Environment and Growth: The Delicate Balance
- 1998 Aging of the Population: A Public and Private Challenge
- 1999 Pinal's Commitment To The Future: Meeting The Needs Of Our Youth
- 2000 Charting Our Future
- 2001 Intellectual Capital – Tomorrow's Dividend
- 2002 A Call To Serve: Being Vigilant, Being Normal
- 2003 Rural Health Care: Today's Challenge
- 2004 The Changing Face of Pinal County
- 2005 The Economic Puzzle: How to Put It Together
- 2006 Safe At Home: Residential Emergency Preparedness
- 2007 Rediscovering Our Neighborhoods
- 2008 The Greening of Pinal County: Conserving for Future Generations
- 2009 GangBusters: It Takes a Community
- 2010 Exploiting Technology for Success – Building Connections Using Social Media
- 2011 Reactivating The Regional Economy
- 2012 Workforce Next Gen: Cultivating Success In Pinal County
- 2013 Step Up, Involve, Connect: Uniting Communities through Volunteerism
- 2014 Economics of a Healthy Community
- 2015 Where Your Tax \$ Goes!

- 2016 Linking Transportation: Paving the Way to Economic Growth

An annual report, which includes recommendations and/or suggestions, is prepared after each Town Hall, and distributed to delegates and partners. While Town Hall possesses no official power or authority, it is significant to note that many of the delegate recommendations and/or ideas have been implemented as a result of the Town Hall process.

The report serves not only as documentation of the delegates' hard work and collaborative spirit, but a guide to assist in taking the next step – educating residents of Pinal County. The report is designed so it can be shared with friends, co-workers, members of local civic groups and others that can help spread the information in local neighborhoods and communities.

#### **WAYNE G. GERKEN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

The Wayne G. Gerken Memorial Scholarship – Pinal County Town Hall Youth of the Year Scholarship exists to memorialize Wayne Gerken who led the Pinal County Town Hall for 20 years. The purpose of the Scholarship Committee is to provide encouragement and financial assistance to deserving students who demonstrate exemplary leadership qualities and a personal interest in improving the quality of life in Pinal County.

High school students in their junior or senior year attending Pinal County Town Hall are eligible to apply. A subcommittee of the Pinal County Town Hall Advisory Committee evaluates student participation and applications based on established criteria.

For more information about the 2016 Town Hall contact: Maxine Brown, Executive Director, Pinal County Town Hall at (480) 322-1626 or by email at [m.leather@mchsi.com](mailto:m.leather@mchsi.com).

## **Delegate Directory**

**Quote from James Goldsmith**

**“If you see a bandwagon, it’s too late.”**



## 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Pinal County Town Hall 2016

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### 2016 Pinal County Town Hall Advisory Committee

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