NEWSLETTER



AUGUST 2026

www.azsae.org



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF

Tonya Deskins, CAE
2026 AzSAE President

Dear AzSAE Members,

The AzSAE Getaway was held in early August. One of the sessions offered was in regards to stress management, and for many executives, the message came at the perfect time. Many association professionals are working through the annual strategic planning and budgeting process, which is easily one of the most stressful times of the year. Learning how to manage the chaos is key to managing the stress.

As association professionals, we are "givers" by nature. We support our members, our boards, our volunteers, and our staff. We pride ourselves on being responsive, resourceful, and dependable. Yet while serving others, it is easy to overlook our own well-being.

The answer is simple...more self-care. Self-care is often misunderstood as being too indulgent. What do they say during the preflight instructions? "Please put on your own mask, before helping others". We cannot serve others if we do not make ourselves a priority. The most effective leaders understand that taking time to recharge is not selfish. It is essential.

Self-care is self-directed. No one can do self-care for you. For me, self-care means more yoga or spending time with family. For you, it might mean going for a run, reading a book or sitting in your car with the music as loud as you want it. These small gifts to ourselves can have a profound impact on our health, perspective, and effectiveness. It's hard to find the time, but often the most productive thing we can do is pause in a world that doesn't stop.









AzSAE is a Community for All Association Professionals and those who serve the association industry.
Join Us!
Learn | Grow | Connect

https://www.azsae.org/join

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President's Message cont.

As we continue navigating the busy season of association management, I hope that each of you can find time to do what provides stress relief for you. Set healthy boundaries. Give yourself permission to rest and recharge.
Remember, by taking care of ourselves first, we are able to help others and encourage them to honor their self-care.

Tonya Deskins, CAE
2026 AzSAE President



HARRY & IZZY'S

Thank you for hosting the AzSAE reception at ASAE in Indianapolis!

YOU'RE INVITED

Elevate *Live!*
NSA Arizona Speaker Showcase

Do you books speakers - corporate, association, nonprofit, anywhere in the Valley or beyond? This event is for you!

NSA-AZ Speaker Showcase
Friday, September 18, 2026
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
MAC6
1438 W Broadway Rd #101, Tempe, AZ 85282
For more details visit: www.NSAAzShowcase.com



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Get Involved!

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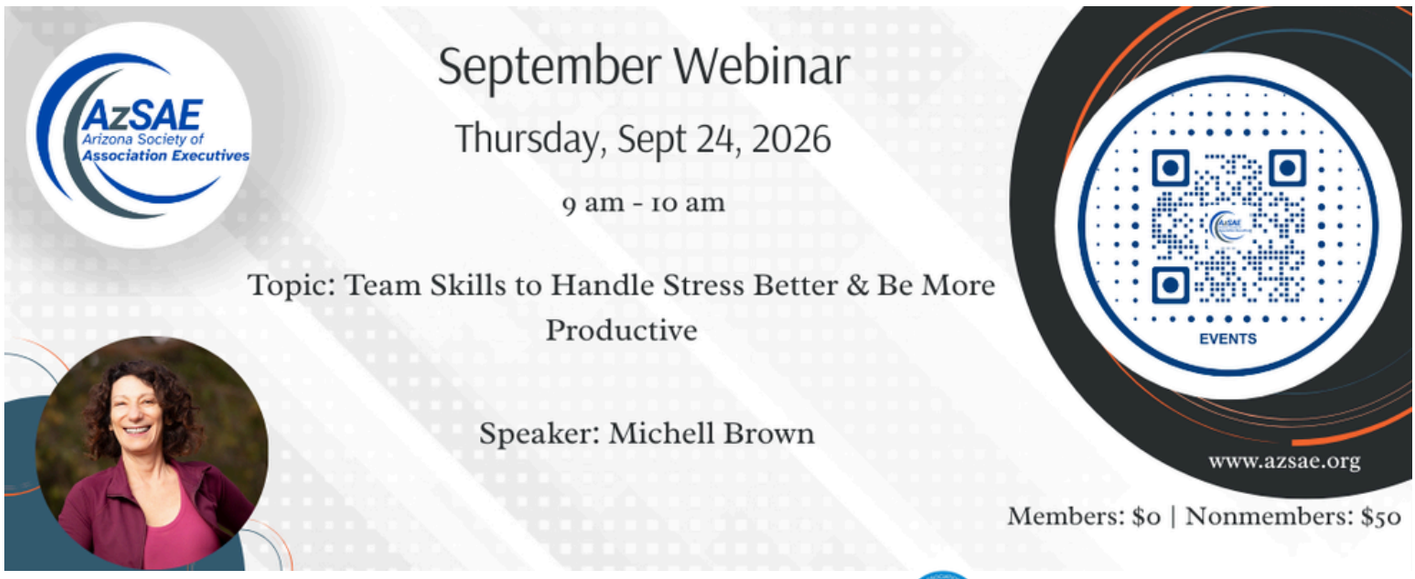
UPCOMING EVENTS



Approved for 1.0 hour CAE credit.



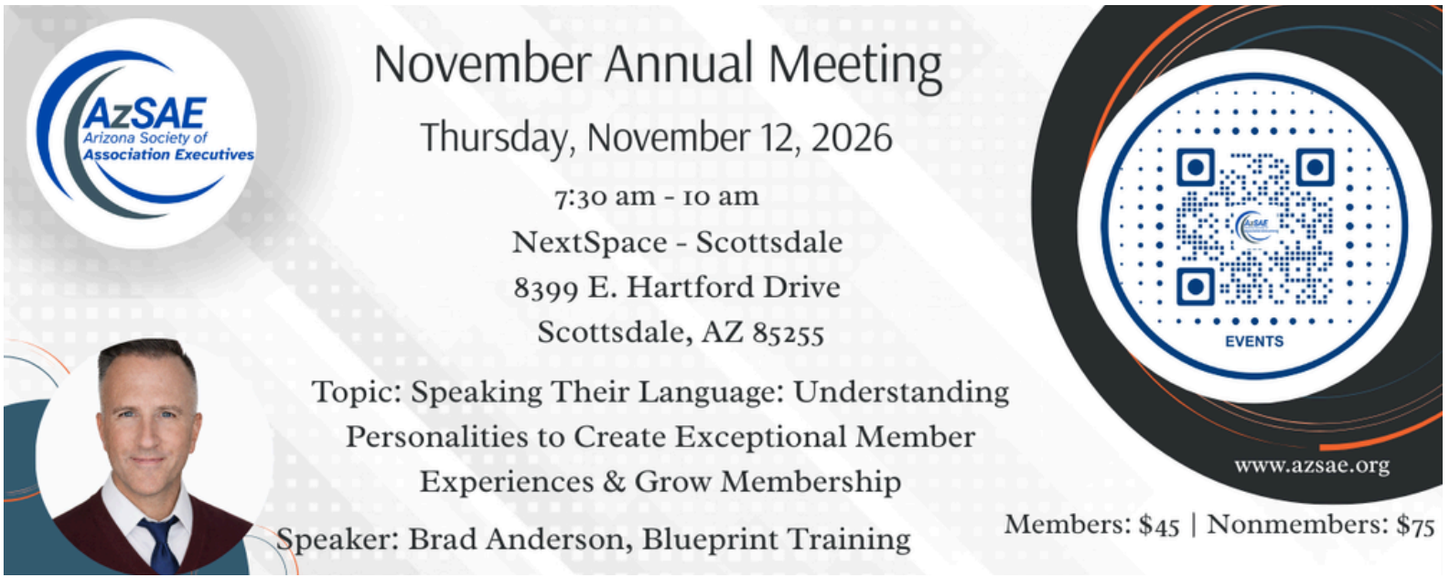
Approved for 1.0 hour CAE credit.

OCTOBER MIXER



UPCOMING EVENTS - Cont.

Annual Meeting & Breakfast







Now accepting SPONSORS

Now accepting DONATIONS-AUCTION ITEMS

AWARD NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN - Due by Oct. 23,

AzSAE Getaway 2026



View More Pictures

Thank you once again for your support!



MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

Congratulations

Arizona State Bar Member of the Year 2026...

Established in May 1991, this award is presented to that attorney(s) who has rendered extraordinary contributions to the programs and activities of the State Bar in the prior year. Hundreds, even thousands, of the Bar's members contribute their time and talent to the work of the Bar, but this award is limited to that individual(s) whose contributions are exceptional.



Alexis Firehawk practices in the areas of real property, contracts, business law and litigation. She is a Fellow in the College of Community Association Lawyers. Alexis counsels nonprofit and for-profit organizations of all sizes, across industries, regarding business transactions, strategy and conflict resolution.

Read more...

Scholarships Information page on website
https://www.azsae.org/Scholarships

Membership News



Congratulations
New CAE!

Jenica Hickey, CAE

New Membership Type in 2026
Organization Membership

For only $500, you and your whole team can now become AzSAE members for a full year!
(Must be a non-profit to qualify)

Applications are now open | Apply Today >>

We are pleased to announce these members who have joined or upgraded their membership to an **Organization Membership.**

Credit Management Association
National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SERVING ON OUR BOARD?
To view requirements and complete application, please download application: 2027 BOD APP
Applications due AUGUST 28, 2026

DO YOU WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR SERVICE COMMITTEES? GET INVOLVED



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



President
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West and SouthEast REALTORS of the Valley

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Arizona Association of Community Managers

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Pamela Frestedt, CAE
West and SouthEast REALTORS of the Valley

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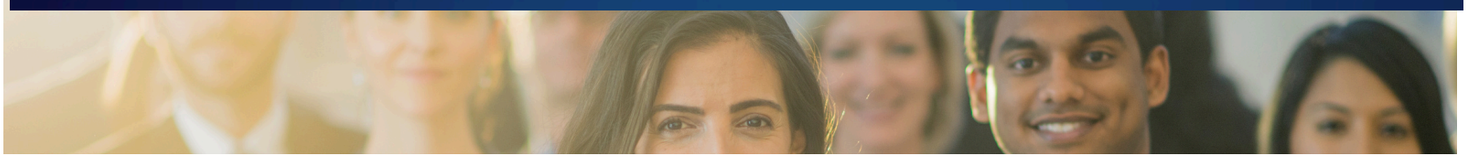
Scholarship Opportunity



EXCLUSIVE SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY FOR AZSAE MEMBERS!

THUNDERBIRD SCHOOL OF GLOBAL MANAGEMENT | ASU Arizona State University

AzSAE Arizona Society of Association Executives

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



NEW:
Joe Atredies
Sechler Morgan CPAs PLLC

Jackie Skaggs
Central Arizona Associaton Realtors

Haley St Paul
Arizona Multihousing Association

Ann Westpy
Credit Management Association

RENEWED:
Nikki Augsburger
Stringfellow Management Group, Inc.

Devin Boisvert
SMACNA-AZ

RENEWED:
Brent Davis
Group Management, Inc

Susan Stein Kregar, CAE

Kristina Morgan
Sechler Morgan CPAs PLLC

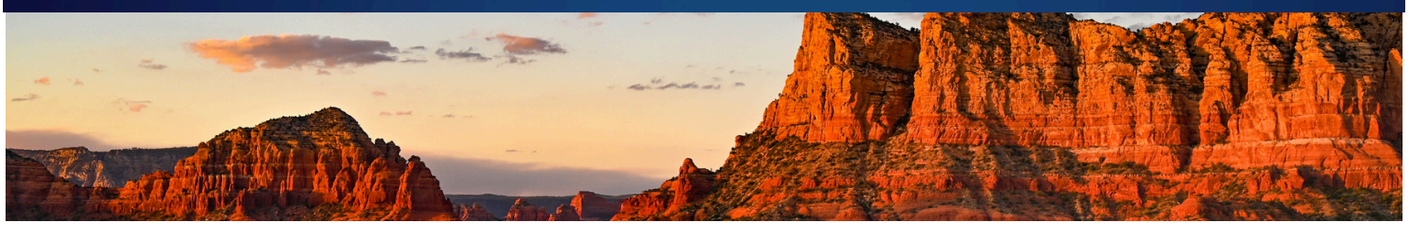
Heather Pace
Arida Consulting Group, LLC

Nicole Pope
National Board for Health & Wellness Coaching

Brandi Reynolds
RENCO Roofing

David Twigger
Vermilion Events

AzSAE Member Exclusive Offer





Have you visited our Career Center?



Visit our Career Center Guide

All approved posts will be announced to our AzSAE network once by email.

EMPLOYERS:

AzSAE members may post position to AzSAE's Career Center for free. NON-MEMBERS: $25. Please note the invoice must be paid before the career posting is approved.

Professional Development

CAE CERTIFIED ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE PREP COURSES

Fall Course Registration

- CRAM Course - 1 week Intensive
- Fall 2026 Dates: Nov 10 - 13

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

- **Live Webinars (2 per month)** – Access the latest trends & insights from top speakers nationwide.

70+ Self-Study Courses

WEBINAR **AzSAE Webinar Archives**

Exclusive Member Access
This valuable resource is available for our members to view our growing collection of recorded education webinars anytime!
(Must be logged into member account to access the recordings).
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CAE Study Resource

QAS 2.0 QUALIFIED ASSOCIATION SPECIALIST

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

STRATEGIC PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



Elevate Your Next Event at Avion Center

When selecting a venue for your next board retreat, educational program, strategic planning session, networking event, or annual meeting, the right environment can make all the difference.

Located in Chandler, Arizona, the Avion Center offers a modern, professional setting designed to help organizations create meaningful and memorable experiences.

The Avion Center combines flexible meeting space with exceptional hospitality, making it an ideal choice for associations, nonprofits, chambers of commerce, corporate teams, and professional organizations. Whether you're hosting a small leadership meeting or a large conference, the facility can accommodate a variety of room configurations, including classroom, banquet, and roundtable setups. Standard room rentals include meeting room setup, registration space, complimentary Wi-Fi, and audiovisual capabilities to support productive and engaging events.

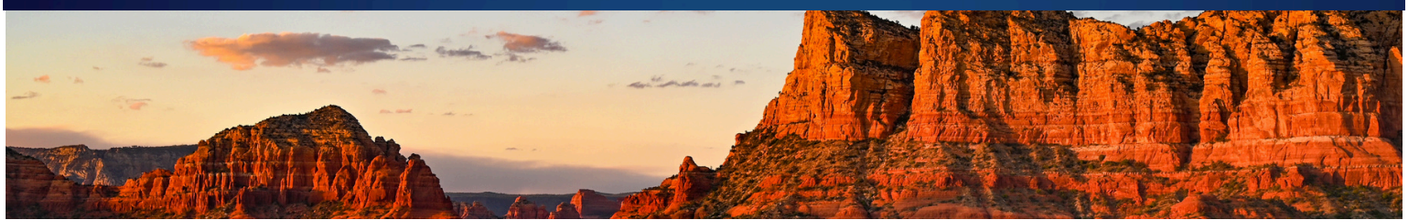
What sets the Avion Center apart is its ability to provide a seamless event experience. The venue offers spacious and comfortable meeting rooms, experienced event support staff, ample parking, and convenient access from throughout the Valley. Organizations can focus on delivering exceptional content and attendee engagement while knowing the logistics are in capable hands. Complimentary high-speed Wi-Fi is available throughout the facility, and onsite support is provided during events to ensure everything runs smoothly.

For AzSAE members seeking a venue that reflects professionalism while offering flexibility and value, the Avion Center is worth a closer look. From executive meetings and volunteer leadership training to membership events and fundraising programs, the facility provides the space and support needed to create successful outcomes.

Your next great meeting starts with the right venue. Let the Avion Center help bring your vision to life.

Interested in learning more or scheduling a tour? Contact the Avion Center team to explore room options, availability, and customized solutions for your organization's next event. Website -www.avioncenter.com or call KristinPaden at 480.477.5903

STRATEGIC PARTNERS



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AzSAE Arizona Society of Association Executives

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