

ATIC Board Agenda for Wednesday, May 8, 2024

1. Administrative

- 1.1. Self-Introductions
- 1.2. Modifications to and Acceptance of Agenda Draft
- 1.3. Acceptance of Minutes from April 10, 2024, Board Meeting
- 1.4. Treasurer's Report (Ron Schott)
- 1.5. ATIC Board Membership Considerations
 - 1.5.1. ATIC Broadband Providers Working Group Meeting & Next Steps
- 1.6. Review of Outstanding Action Items as Documented in April 10, 2024, Minutes

2. Informational Presentations

- 2.1. None Scheduled

3. Activity Reports

- 3.1. Arizona Broadband Office Report (Sandip Bhowmick)
 - 3.1.1. Broadband Grants, Rural Community Outreach & Projects
 - 3.1.2. Digital Equity Initiatives & Opportunities
 - 3.1.3. ACA Broadband Strategy & ATIC Role/Support
- 3.2. Arizona Broadband Stakeholder Network (Steve Peters)
 - 3.2.1. AZBSN Digital Access Task Force Updates
 - 3.2.2. AZBSN Leadership Group, Committees & Initiatives
 - 3.2.3. Outreach Activities with Newsletters & Webinars
- 3.3. Technology in Education/eLearning
 - 3.3.1. Arizona Technology in Education Association (AzTEA) (Nan Williams)
 - 3.3.2. Greater Arizona Educational Leadership (GAZEL) (Steve Peters)
 - 3.3.3. Sun Corridor Network (SCN) (Laura Etter)
- 3.4. Arizona State Library (Holly Henley, Mala Muralidharan)
- 3.5. Telehealth (Michael Holcomb)
- 3.6. Government Affairs
 - 3.6.1. Arizona Broadband Policy Update (John Kelly, Mark Goldstein)
 - 3.6.2. Federal Broadband Policy Update (Nicole Umayam/NTIA, Mark Goldstein)

4. Information and Action Plans

- 4.1. ATIC Website & Teleconferencing (All)
 - 4.1.1. AZBSN Communications & Newsletter
- 4.2. ATIC Mailing List & CRM (All)
- 4.3. New Business and Motion Considerations (All)

5. Events Attended and Upcoming Meetings

6. Announcements

7. Adjourn

ATIC Board Meeting Minutes

May 8, 2024

Attendees:

ATIC Board Members:

Mark Goldstein, Henry Goldberg, Oris Friesen, Ron Schott, John Kelly, Kirk Busch, Corey Christians, Jerry Crow, Heather Floyd, Holly Henley, Andy Phelan, Dario Solis, PJ Way and Nan Williams.

ATIC Associates & Guests:

Brett Semans (Program Manager, Data Centers Deployed), David Krassa (IT Project Manager, City of Mesa), Mala Muralidharan (State E-rate Administrator for Public Libraries, Arizona State Library), Steve Peters (Coordinator, AZBSN Digital Access Task Force), Bill D'Agostino (Adviser, Wireless Infrastructure Association), Lucy Howell (Co-founder and CEO, Force for Health Network), Caroline Klebacha (Compliance Specialist for Broadband Projects, Arizona State Historic Preservation Office), Marjorie Sabido, (Executive Assistant, Thinkzilla Consulting), Sean Banks (Development Specialist, Millionaire Mastermind Academy), Shereka Jackson (Founder and CEO, Future Stars Inc.), Tamara Rosenberg (State Broadband Coordinator for Arizona and New Mexico, Resound Networks), Vaughn Croft (Assistant Professor, Northern Arizona University and Business Community Liaison, Fred Acosta Job Corps Center), Peter Costa (CEO and Co-Founder, Baltu Technologies) and Kimber Tower (Sustainability Director, Televeda).

Quorum Met with 14 ATIC Board Members Present (Quorum = 9)

A replay of the meeting is available at <https://youtu.be/VMdcm-fu0S8>.

Many thanks to Nan Williams and the Arizona Technology in Education Association (AzTEA, <http://aztea.org/>) for the use of their Zoom Video account for video conferencing and dial-in capabilities and to the Arizona State Library for providing additional support.

The next ATIC Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 12, 2024, virtually. The schedule of ATIC Board Meetings for the balance of 2024 can be found towards the end of these minutes.

1. Administrative

1.1. Self-Introductions

See the list of attendees above.

1.2. Modifications to and Acceptance of Agenda Draft

MOTION: To accept the Agenda

MOVE: Henry Goldberg
SECOND: Corey Christians
Passed (1 Abstention: Nan Williams)

1.3. Acceptance of Minutes from April 10, 2024, Board Meeting

Oris Friesen writes the draft minutes, after which they are reviewed carefully by Henry Goldberg, and Mark Goldstein does a final edit of the draft minutes before issuing them to the Board as a draft for review, comment, and approval.

MOTION: To accept the Minutes

MOVE: Nan Williams
SECOND: PJ Way
Passed Unanimously

Historical minutes from past Board Meetings can be found on the website at <https://www.arizonatele.org/board-minutes.html>.

1.4. Treasurer's Report

Ron Schott, Treasurer, circulated via email the Desert Financial Credit Union statement with account and transaction details for Board reference, which are included at the back of these Minutes. Ron reported that current funds on hand total \$7791.29. All major bills have been paid including the monthly Century Link bill, the check to Mark Goldstein for \$155.45 for minor payments has cleared as has the ACC \$10 annual filing fee.

At the October Board meeting John Kelly had commented that ATIC might wish to consider dropping the Directors & Officers insurance since it may not be necessary for our type of organization. John stated he spoke to an insurance broker about this, and this may be an expense ATIC does need to have. John said there seems to be no risk-associated tasks that ATIC is engaged in, such as consulting, operational, or financial exposure. Henry Goldberg stated he does

not feel comfortable dropping this insurance since the directors/officers are doing this work pro-bono and have no protection against any possible lawsuits, and some officers such as Mark and Henry are doing or may do consulting work in areas that relate to ATIC activities. Mark pointed out that the consulting he does is not for ATIC, and he carries his own professional liability insurance for his consulting firm. Kirk said that if we decide to do some tasks for ACA that may change our risk status so we should probably keep it for now. Mark also noted that we may be involved in some new state broadband and digital equity projects. John explained that the insurance does not protect us against frivolous lawsuits other than if, as officers, we act in ways that are incompatible with our fiduciary responsibilities, and his firm carries liability insurance protection against lawsuits rather than Directors & Officers Insurance. He suggested that we talk to our broker about this. Mark suggested that we take a wait-and-see position, especially since the insurance is paid up through the middle of 2024 and take no action at this time. ATIC continues to consider making a decision on this.

Steve Peters reported at a previous meeting that there are no funds remaining in the Arizona Broadband Stakeholder Network account and no new sponsorship funding has been contributed. Steve clarified that there is about \$2,000 remaining in the account to cover AZBSN expenses but no funds available to pay his salary. The most recent sponsors were Karen Ziegler Consulting Services and Triad Wireless. Steve has launched a sponsorship drive to raise further funding (<https://www.arizonatele.org/funding-request-2020.html>) and needs to become more active in securing some sponsorship renewals and new sponsorships. He is speaking with Sandip Bhowmick (State Broadband Office Director) and others about obtaining funding.

Mark has noted at previous meetings that the ATIC bank balance has been drifting down, but with remote ATIC Board meetings we no longer have to pay for lunches for attendees. Mark has commented in the past that ATIC needs to pursue its own funding, which would include sponsorships. ATIC needs to initiate a financial campaign for sponsors and other sources of funding to support and undertake new projects. Mark noted that in the past ATIC has been paid to host rural broadband workshops and has pursued various projects when it had more funds.

1.4.1. ATIC Board Membership Considerations

Mark Goldstein reviewed some recent changes to the ATIC Board membership noting that Mike Keeling has retired and resigned from the Board, Janet Major has retired and has been replaced by Michael Holcomb of the Arizona Telemedicine Program, and Dario Solis of ASU has been elected to the Board recently.

This brings our current Board membership to 27. Our bylaws allow for 30 Board Members plus 5 officers, and so still have the capacity for up to 8 new Board members.

Mark also said that Tamara Rosenberg of Resound Networks and Brian Fickett of the Tohono O'odham Utility have expressed interest in joining the Board. Steve Peters mentioned that Brian Daly, Assistant Vice President of Wireless Technology and Standards at AT&T, has expressed interest in re-joining the ATIC Board and re-engaging with AZBSN. Mark noted that Brian Daly had been elected to the ATIC Board in the past but had to resign, and Steve explained that AT&T has now approved Brian joining the ATIC Board. Mark was glad to hear that and will follow up with Brian.

Mignonne Hollis of the Arizona Regional Economic Development Foundation (AREDF, <https://www.aredf.org/>) who organized the recent "Arizona Broadband for All" meeting, and is located in Sierra Vista remains interested and. Mark has encouraged her to engage with ATIC and attend future ATIC Board meetings.

Mark asked Tamara Rosenberg if she was interested in joining the ATIC Board, and she affirmed that she was. Tamara introduced herself and said that she is involved with community engagement for Resound Networks where she meets with communities throughout Arizona to understand their broadband needs. Resound Networks is focused on fixed wireless broadband solutions, they also offer FTTH, and they have received RDOF funding for Arizona. Her Resound Networks colleague Pam Waggoner, who has attended some ATIC meetings, focuses mainly on federal activities.

MOTION: To nominate Tamara Rosenberg to become an ATIC Board member

- . **MOVE: Mark Goldstein**
- . **SECOND: Heather Floyd**
- . **Passed (1 Abstention: PJ Way)**

Mark is still waiting to hear from Brent Nelson of the Navajo Nation Department of Diné Education and from Joy Whiting, the Apache County Superintendent of Schools, about joining the ATIC Board. Mark has also asked Ian Hathcock of CellularOne about contacting Sonia Nez, the Navajo Nation Broadband Manager to join the Board. Ian is waiting to hear from Sonia. Mala Muralidharan has followed up with Sonia Nez since both of them participate in a weekly meeting and Sonia is interested but she is very busy. She will contact Mark to discuss this. Mark will reach out to Brent Nelson and Joy Whiting again. Mark also plans to talk to Jeff Mirasola of

Lumen Technologies about staying on the Board or providing a replacement. Steve commented that he had recently spoken to Mirasola and he did not sound enthusiastic about participating in ATIC or AZBSN.

Mark also spoke with Shaun Story of Calix Networks, who is potentially interested in becoming a sponsor of ATIC and/or AZBSN. Mark noted that we are looking for tribal representation on the ATIC Board such as Sonia Nez mentioned above. Regarding tribal representation, at a previous meeting Shereka Jackson mentioned a Native American as a possibility, whose coordinates are RJ Huskey, of Hozho Cybersecurity (www.gohozho.com, rj@gohozho.com, 602-999-9369). Mala also suggested Mikhail Sundust of the Gila River Indian Community as a potential tribal board member.

1.4.2. ATIC Broadband Provider Working Group Meeting and Next Steps

As reported previously, an outcome of the January 2022 ATIC Board meeting was to create an ATIC Broadband Provider Working Group whose function would be to provide a platform for providers to share information, meet & network, and engage on policy issues since there is no telecom service provider trade association in Arizona. The goal of this working group is to focus on addressing common issues and opportunities for the broadband service providers in Arizona. The group was launched on April 6, 2022, with a hybrid gathering hosted at Big Data Southwest's DataCenter & SmartCity IoT Infrastructure Summit

Mark had started a Slack channel populated with a list of about 160 provider representatives across about 80 companies from his spreadsheet. Mark circulated this spreadsheet to Sandip Bhowmick and Nicole Umayam for their reference and any additions/changes.

Mark convened a second meeting of the ATIC Broadband Provider Working Group, as a part of the Big Data Southwest's DataCenter & SmartCity IoT Infrastructure Summit (#USDC23, <https://www.bigdatasw.org/>) on January 26, 2023, at the Desert Willow Conference Center in Phoenix. He has activated the Slack channel and about fifteen people have joined it, but it is not very active yet.

At a previous ATIC board meeting Mark suggested we might create parallel Slack channels for two working groups with the Broadband Providers Working Group focusing on concerns of the communications providers, as initially planned. The second group would deal with topics and issues of economic development that include localized concerns as well as those that transcend county boundaries.

Mark noted that the Slack Channel has not taken off as he had hoped and he is open to taking comments on this and/or suggestions for alternate broadband provider engagement strategies/initiatives. Mark referred to this effort as “hibernating.”

1.5. Review of Outstanding Action Items as Documented in the April 10, 2024, Minutes

Nothing to report

2. Informational Presentations

2.1. None were scheduled.

3. Activity Reports

3.1. Arizona Broadband Office Report (Sandip Bhowmick)

Sandip Bhowmick, State Broadband Director at the Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA) State Broadband Office, was unable to be present. Mark provided a brief update.

Mark briefly recapped what is happening. BEAD Initial Proposal Volumes I and II have been submitted to NTIA. Volume I has been approved by NTIA and NTIA is still in discussion with the State Broadband Office about Volume II. The earlier BEAD Five-Year Action Plan has also been approved. The State Digital Equity Plan has been approved by NTIA

The BEAD Challenge Process is nearing completion with respect to confirming unserved, underserved or served households with broadband. The State has a public facing portal with a map that displays the status of households. Mark reviewed the challenge process in some detail.

The state map classifies the broadband-serviceable household locations to be unserved (under 25/3 Mbps), underserved (under 100/20 Mbps) or served. The state map classifies Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) as served if they have at least 1 Gbps symmetrical service.

Challenges are what people believe to be false positives or false negatives. False positives are where a service provider declares they are serving locations that are currently showing as unserved/underserved or they have a funded grant or enforceable commitment to service a location. False negatives are where the map shows a location is served but an entity (e.g., a community) declares that

the service provider has not delivered the service or provided the appropriate speed (as measured by speed tests).

The Arizona Challenge Process Portal is now open at <https://az.broadbandnavigator.com/map?zoom=7¢er=-12460707%2C4061995> with all challenge submissions due by May 14, 2024. The ISP rebuttal window is open for 15 days following each challenge, so the overall Challenge Process will be completed by the end of May. It will likely take about another month for the State Broadband Office to publish the final map of unserved/underserved locations for the BEAD bidding process. The State Broadband Office is also hosting open office hours on Tuesday afternoons for the challenge process one-off meetings with permissible challengers and members of the public to answer questions on the BEAD Challenge Process.

After the challenge process is completed, the State Broadband Office will group the unserved/underserved locations geographically into project areas to be bid on for BEAD grant funding, and these responses will be scored according to the criteria in the BEAD Volume II Initial Proposal. This bidding process will likely begin in the late 3rd quarter or 4th quarter of 2024, and Arizona has been allocated \$993 million by NTIA for BEAD grants. NTIA and the State Broadband Office favor FTTP solutions in the scoring criteria, but if the cost of FTTP deployment exceeds a specified threshold in high-cost sparsely-populated rural areas then alternative solutions such as fixed wireless or satellite will be considered.

Arizona has been allocated \$16.1 million by NTIA in their first allocation for the Digital Equity Capacity Grants Program. The State Broadband Office is now writing a Digital Equity Program Capacity Grants Application to be submitted to NTIA on how they will award the funding to sub-grantees, which will include local governments, state government agencies, and non-profit organizations.

Mark initiated a discussion on how ATIC and AZBSN might participate in applying for a Digital Equity Program grant. For example, in 2010-2014 ATIC received a grant from ACA for producing regional broadband workshops.

Steve Peters suggested AZBSN could consider applying for Digital Equity Program grant funding for such projects as: 1) developing a state cybersecurity alliance to make recommendations for educating end-users on online cybersecurity; 2) helping communities develop their digital equity plans; or 3) long-term sustainability of digital equity programs after the Digital Equity Program funding expires. Mark and Steve both commented that ATIC/AZBSN could have a formal role here in community engagement.

Steve also commented that ATIC/AZBSN could have more of an advocacy role

on federal broadband legislation such as ACP.

Holly Henley was asked to comment on what the Arizona State Library role would be in applying for a Digital Equity Program grant. Holly responded that the Arizona State Library is looking to determine the opportunities in this area. The State Library has put a lot of resources into its digital navigators program and could look into expanding that program since libraries are great places for digital equity assistance and instruction. Mark suggested expanding their telemedicine in libraries program as another possibility. Holly replied that Mala will lead the LSTA-funded telemedicine in libraries program through September, and they have put pods in libraries for telehealth appointments.

Mala said the LSTA telemedicine in libraries program is expanding on the lessons learned from the Pima County pilot project and will support Yavapai, Graham, and Greenlee counties, and they are advertising the availability of telehealth in libraries there. Mala suggested they could create a toolkit for any library planning to start a telehealth program. She added there is also a need for telehealth navigators to support telemedicine in libraries. Mala concluded saying that libraries are key CAIs in communities, and they are waiting to see how the State Broadband Office will allocate funding to sub-grantees for the Digital Equity Program.

Steve said part of the \$16.1 million for Digital Equity Program funding may be used to form partnerships with state agencies and this may be where the State Library could have a role. Steve commented that organizations applying for Digital Equity Program funding will have significant reporting requirements, which may prove difficult for smaller organizations. Mark and Henry noted that there will probably be a second smaller wave of Digital Equity Capacity Grants Program funding due to the full amount not having been completely allocated initially. Steve added that there is also a separate Digital Equity Competitive Grants Program, where organizations apply to NTIA directly for grants awarded nationally.

Lucy Howell said ATIC/AZBSN could play a pivotal role in convening expert consortiums, such as a telehealth navigators training academy in which she would be interested. Caroline Klebacha commented that for BEAD sub-grantees installing fiber lines she can provide assistance on environmental and cultural preservation impact assessments related to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and state historic preservation requirements on state lands. Vaughn Croft emphasized the importance of sustainability of digital equity funding past this round of grants as raised by Steve.

Mark noted that Governor Hobbs' Interagency and Community Broadband Advisory Council has only met once so there seems to be a lack of engagement

on that, but the Council has four active working groups that meet monthly and are open to all.

Sandip Bhowmick has hired Amy Dorman as a Deputy Director of the State Broadband Office. The State Broadband Office has about eight staff members, but the tribal liaison recently resigned so they have one opening.

3.1.1. Broadband Grants, Rural Community Outreach & Projects

The content for this section is included above in Section 3.1.

3.1.2. Digital Equity Initiatives & Opportunities

The content for this section is included above in Section 3.1.

3.1.3. ACA Broadband Strategy & ATIC Role/Support

The content for this section is included above in Section 3.1.

3.2. Arizona Broadband Stakeholder Network (Steve Peters)

3.2.1. AZBSN Digital Access Task Force Updates

Steve Peters, Coordinator of the AZBSN Digital Access Task reported at a previous meeting that the Task Force continues to meet every Thursday morning at 8 am. In addition to presentations at meetings, the AZBSN Task Force regularly receives briefings from the Arizona State Broadband Office, the State Library, Arizona Department of Education, and others involved in broadband and digital equity work in the state. Steve sends out a newsletter after every meeting that recaps the most recent meeting and conveys information about upcoming events, policy reports, and other relevant information and links to recordings and transcripts of the weekly Task Force meetings.

Steve reported that he plans to change the format of the weekly AZBSN Task Force meetings. He is doing this in response to suggestions from members of the Task Force. The meetings format will alternate between weeks where updates are provided by state agencies (not needed every week) with invited presentations as in the past, and weeks where we have panel discussions intended to promote action on important areas. For example, the next meeting will feature a panel and open discussion on community planning at the county level with Michelle Simon, Executive Director of the Pima County Office of Digital Inclusion, PJ Way, Broadband Program Manager of Yuma County, and Joy Whiting, Apache County

Schools Superintendent. They will discuss the path forward especially as it relates to questions like: What has enabled your county plans to be successful? What obstacles have you encountered? What are your plans going forward? and what can AZBSN do to help with their planning? The intent is to have an open dialog and be action-focused. AZBSN will also have sessions on telehealth and municipal networks. Steve concluded saying AZBSN wants to become more action-focused rather than only sharing information and hosting presentations.

3.2.1.1. Updates to AZBSN Task Force Report

Steve said at a previous meeting that Karen Ziegler and John Kelly had been unable to get traction on the proposed project. So, there has been no progress on working on an update to the November 2020 AZBSN Digital Access Strategy Report and there is nothing new to report.

3.2.2. AZBSN Leadership Group & New Initiatives

Steve said at a previous meeting he will report on these topics after an updated plan has been issued.

Mark Goldstein urged Steve to initiate some action on re-constituting the AZBSN Leadership Team and involve some additional people to generate strategic and operational plans as well as assist in making this happen so the full load is not carried only by Steve. Steve agreed.

3.2.3. Return to Outreach Activities with Newsletters & Webinars

No new action to report in this area.

3.3. Technology in Education/eLearning

3.3.1. Arizona Technology in Education Association (AzTEA) (Nan Williams)

Nan Williams serves as Executive Director of AzTEA (<https://aztea.org/>) and sits on the EDTechCommittee for the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) which is rewriting the Educational Technology standards this year. She is also participating in the ADE Technology Task Force on the Digital Learning Subcommittee and she is part of the ISTE policy group on digital equity access. She has also been working with the Arizona Rural Schools Association and their Final Mile Project (<https://www.finalmileproject.com/>).

Nan reported that the ADE and AzTEA Technology Town Hall will be held

tomorrow on cyber-trends and suggestions on how best to communicate. AzTEA is also putting a survey on what systems for communication different organizations are using.

AzTEA is also conducting virtual Professional Development (PD) sessions and there will be one on AI.

3.3.2. Greater Arizona Educational Leadership (GAZEL) (Steve Peters)

The GAZEL Board hasn't met since early 2022 and needs reactivation and refreshing to further operationalize GAZEL. Steve has been in touch with existing Board members in an effort to revitalize the Board as a functional entity. The Board still needs to acquire Directors & Officers (D&O) insurance for good governance and proper protections especially if funded projects are to be undertaken.

Work to produce a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between GAZEL and ATIC on the AZBSN has been on hold and a determination should be made about whether this is still necessary and if so, how to accomplish it. Mark Goldstein stated that GAZEL needs to be reinvigorated including its interaction with ATIC on the AZBSN Digital Access Task Force. Steve stated he is looking into reactivating the GAZEL Board, and is talking to past GAZEL Board members to come up with a plan as well as engage new Board members.

3.3.3. Sun Corridor Network (SCN) (Laura Etter)

The Sun Corridor Network (SCN) is Arizona's Research & Education Network supporting the state universities, education, healthcare, government and CAIs. Laura Etter's contact points are: Sun Corridor Network - <https://suncorridor.org/> and Laura@suncorridor.org.

Laura Etter was absent and there was no report.

At the previous board meeting Henry Goldberg reported that he met with Kelly Chung Mukherjee, who manages the Maricopa County Broadband Initiative and its broadband mapping portal AZ-1 as discussed by Laura Etter at the February ATIC Board meeting. Kelly suggested that she could include ATIC and/or AZBSN as a supporting resource/partner listing on the AZ-1 portal if we send her the organization's logo and a brief description of what the organization does to support broadband and digital inclusion in the state. Henry e-mailed Mark and Steve Peters about this, and the ATIC logo and description have been added to the AZ-1 resources section.

3.4. Arizona State Library (Holly Henley, Mala Muralidharan)

Mala Muralidharan reported that the E-rate application deadline for the coming fiscal year was March 27. This year Arizona Schools and Libraries applied for pre-discount \$85 million and post-discount \$65 million. The total national applications were \$3.19 billion, which is below the FCC cap of \$4.9 billion. So there will be surplus money available. The new programs, such as the cybersecurity pilot program, the hotspots program and the WiFi on buses program will have funding available due to this surplus.

At the congressional level Senator Schatz from Hawaii introduced the Healthy Kids Act, aiming to prevent social media platforms from allowing children to set up their own account. The Eyes on the Board Act was introduced simultaneously by Senator Cruz of Texas, which is a bill to prohibit the use of school broadband subsidies for access to social media platforms. These bills have been merged into a single bill called the Kids Off Social Media Act (KOSMA). Mala believes this bill is an overreach since schools must already meet the requirements for the Childrens Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and it will be a barrier for schools/libraries to apply for E-rate funding. There should be ways to prevent students from exploiting social media during school hours without attaching it to E-rate applications. Several organizations have expressed concerns about the linkage to E-rate eligibility, including SHLB, the American Library Association (ALA), COSN and the State Educational Technology Directors Association. The concerns are that parents may need to have access to social media during emergency situations and teachers may want to demonstrate the dangers of social media and responsible use of social media to the students.

Regarding ACP, April 30 was the last day of full funding for that program. FCC Commissioner Starks participated in an ACP rally and made points about the impacts of ending ACP: students will have to go back to doing homework in parking lots, coffee shops, or libraries rather than at home; job seekers will miss out on skills development at home; and seniors will lose telehealth capabilities. The Benton Institute has called on Speaker Johnson to hold a vote on the ACP Extension Act. Mark said a majority of House representatives have signed on in support of the ACP Extension Act, however there is not a majority in support of a discharge petition to bypass the Speaker and bring the bill to a vote on the floor. Mala added that Senators Cantwell and Lujan have tried to introduce another track whereby funding could be drawn from the spectrum auction revenues, and there is also an amendment being added to the FAA Bill to include ACP funding for this year. Even if ACP extended funding is approved in some manner, there will be significant disruptions to the program.

Steve asked Holly if the digital navigator program is funded. Holly said as long as the LSTA funding remains available, the digital navigator program will be

sustained.

For more details, see the State Library Report below, submitted by Mala.

ATIC Board Meeting May 8, 2024, State Library Report

E-RATE : In total, 2024 Application is for about **\$3.196 Billion**. Federal Communications Commission announced that the E-rate program funding cap for **FY2024 will be \$4.940 billion**. This is a **3.6% inflation-adjusted increase from FY2023 cap of \$4.768 billion**. There will be funds left over for other projects that the FCC is planning like the Hot Spot Lending; WiFi on school Buses; Cybersecurity Services for Schools and Libraries.

E-rate Survey : The 14th annual nationwide survey of E-rate applicants being conducted by Funds For Learning. It is an opportunity to make your voice heard and help shape the future of the E-rate program. Here is the link to the survey. **SURVEY LINK:**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2024USF>

You can see the results of earlier annual surveys results at:

<https://www.fundsforlearning.com/e-rate-data/trendsreport/>

REASONS WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT: Many new services are likely to be added to the eligible service School Bus Wi-Fi ; Cybersecurity Pilot Program; Hot Spots (or other technologies) for patrons until Fiber is built out throughout Arizona. That is why I am personally asking for each of you to fill the survey. Last year, a total of 2,110 applicants participated in the survey, including 62 applicants in AZ. The results of the 2023 survey were presented to the FCC. See [ex parte presentation](#).

EYES ON BOARD ACT: Here's the situation: Senator Schatz (D-HI) introduced the [Healthy Kids Act](#), aiming to prevent social media platforms from allowing children to set up their own accounts—an eminently reasonable goal. Simultaneously, Senator Cruz (R-TX) proposed the [Eyes on the Board Act](#), modeled after the Children's Internet Protection Act. This act would require schools to certify plans for blocking social media access to qualify for E-rate funding.

Recently, the two Senators merged their bills into the [Kids Off Social Media Act](#) (KOSMA). This comprehensive legislation also mandates that schools and libraries establish screen time policies.

Although there are genuine concerns about social media's impact on children's health. However, it is generally believed that social media policies should be set by local school authorities who can tailor their policies to suit the unique needs of their communities.

1. **Purpose:** The act ensures that federal funding allocated to technology in schools is used exclusively for educational purposes. It aims to prevent misuse of these funds and restricts social media companies from exploiting students during school hours

2. **Blocking Access:** Schools receiving federal broadband funding through the **E-Rate program** would be required to block access to certain services, devices, and networks. This measure is intended to limit students' exposure to social media platforms during school hours
3. **Bipartisan Support:** The act has garnered bipartisan support, indicating recognition of the importance of safeguarding students' educational experience and minimizing distractions from social media.

In summary, the **Eyes on the Board Act** seeks to strike a balance between technology use in schools and protecting students from potential distractions during learning hours. By ensuring that federal dollars are used effectively and responsibly, it aims to create a conducive learning environment for students.

Congress is currently deliberating changes to the E-rate program, and the proposal requiring schools to ban social media access over their networks as a condition for receiving E-rate funding, has raised concerns. While the intention—to protect children from social media risks—is commendable, the reservations is about using the E-rate program as a lever to address this issue. SHLB joined forces with the American Library Association (ALA), the Coalition for School Networking (CoSN), and the State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA) to [express their concerns](#)

Some positive uses of the social media in schools:

- **Emergency Notifications:** Schools may want to use social media to notify students and parents during emergencies, such as school shootings or tornadoes.
- **Educational Opportunities:** Journalism teachers may leverage social media to train students in responsible usage.
- **Protecting Educational Time:** The act aims to protect valuable educational time. Students spend a significant portion of their day in school, and ensuring that they engage in meaningful learning activities without unnecessary interruptions is crucial. By restricting social media access, schools can enhance productivity and academic performance.
- **Responsible Use of Federal Funds:** The act ensures that federal funding allocated for technology in schools is used exclusively for educational purposes. By blocking access to non-educational platforms, schools can demonstrate responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

Arguments Against the Eyes on Board Act:

1. **Freedom of Expression:** Critics argue that restricting social media access infringes upon students' freedom of expression. Social media platforms provide spaces for students to express their opinions, engage in discussions, and connect with peers beyond the classroom. Blocking access may limit their ability to participate in online discourse.

2. **Overreach and Censorship:** Some opponents view the act as government overreach. They believe that schools should not dictate students' online behavior during non-instructional hours. Additionally, blocking specific services may be seen as a form of censorship, preventing students from accessing information and diverse viewpoints.
3. **Unintended Consequences:** Critics worry about unintended consequences. For instance, blocking social media may lead to students finding alternative ways to access these platforms, potentially using personal devices or circumventing school restrictions. Additionally, some argue that students should learn responsible digital citizenship rather than having access restricted outright.

Arguments For the Eyes on Board Act:

Minimizing Distractions: Supporters argue that limiting access to social media during school hours is essential for maintaining a focused learning environment. By blocking certain services and devices, students are less likely to be distracted by notifications, messages, or irrelevant content.

We hope Senators take the time to thoroughly understand the implications of this legislation before rushing to pass it through the Senate. Schatz and Cruz are trying to get this now bipartisan bill attached to the FAA Reauthorization bill that is on the Senate floor this week. On behalf of the Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband Coalition (SHLB Coalition), the Consortium for School Networking (CoSN), the State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA), and the American Library Association (ALA), wrote to express grave concerns about the plans to incorporate the deeply flawed "Eyes on the Board Act" (S.3074) into the Protecting Kids on Social Media Act (S.1291), when the Senate Commerce Committee marks up S.1291 mid-week.

Affordable Connectivity Program:

At the ACP Rally on April 30, Commissioner Starks emphasized the urgent need for connectivity, spotlighting:

- Students relegated to fast-food parking lots for Wi-Fi to do their homework.
- Job seekers at risk of missing out on skill development without internet access.
- Seniors potentially losing vital connections to Telehealth services.

SHLB stands firmly in agreement: It's unjust to deprive millions of access to these essential services should the ACP lapse.

Two proposed action items by BENTON Institute:

1. Adrienne Furniss, Exec Dir of the Benton Institute has called on Speaker Johnson to hold a vote on the ACP Extension Act. <https://www.benton.org/blog/congress-call-vote-affordable-connectivity-program-extension-act>
<https://www.benton.org/blog/congress-call-vote-affordable-connectivity-program-extension-act>
2. The most likely way to get ACP funding is for it to be attached to "must-pass" legislation (i.e. essential bills that Congress routinely passes—although sometimes under great

pressure). The next "must-pass" legislation is the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reauthorization bill, which has a deadline of May 10th. Rep. Clarke, the author of the ACP Extension Act, is actively persuading the committee to include ACP funding in the FAA bill.

End of Library Report

3.5. Telehealth (Mike Holcomb)

Mike Holcomb Interim Director of the Arizona Telemedicine Program (ATP, <https://telemedicine.arizona.edu/>) and newly elected to ATIC's Board, was absent, and there was no report.

3.6. Government Affairs

3.6.1. Arizona Broadband Policy Update (John Kelly, Mark Goldstein)

John Kelly, the ATIC Lobbyist, reported briefly on recent government activity. Mark noted that John's firm provides ATIC officers and selected Board members with weekly reports on activities at the State Legislature.

John said there is not much to report. The main emphasis is on the budget, which includes the continuation of ACA (the home of the State Broadband Office), ADOA and ADOT. Results are several weeks off in the future.

3.6.2. Federal Broadband Policy Update (Nicole Umayam/NTIA, Mark Goldstein)

Mark noted that under USDA the distance learning and telemedicine grants program is open. He also reported that the ReConnect Loan and Grant Program Round 5 is open until May 21. Steve Peters commented that the USDA Arizona General Field Representative gave a good presentation overviewing all USDA grant/loan programs at the AZBSN May 2nd meeting.

The NTIA Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) submission deadline for its second round for \$980 million has closed and no further round is currently funded.

Mark commented that it is unclear what future federal grant programs will come after BEAD since BEAD is funding broadband infrastructure to all unserved/underserved households and CAIs. Federal programs have not

funded competitive overbuilds or middle-mile redundancy. However, it is likely that programs like USDA's Community Connect and ReConnect will have future rounds going forward.

4. Information and Action Plans

4.1. ATIC Website & Teleconferencing (All)

As noted previously by Mark and Steve, the ATIC website is aging a bit so this is an opportunity to clean it up and restructure it. The website is shared with AZBSN.

The website needs to be leveraged to publicize the Digital Access Task Force Report recommendations as well as using it for communications and public engagement, such as newsletters. Kirk noted that he will continue to promote ATIC/AZBSN on LinkedIn and elsewhere.

Kirk Busch needs to update the website regarding board members who have left and new members who have been added. There are four people listed who are no longer ATIC Board members: Bill Bolin, Matt Dostal, Janet Major, and Mike Keeling. There are three new people that must be added as new ATIC Board members: Mike Holcomb and Dario Solis as well as Tamara Rosenberg (who was elected to the Board at today's meeting).

Kirk also needs to add the bios (as either a pdf or link to their LinkedIn profile) for all ATIC Board members. Kirk had e-mailed ATIC Board members to submit their bios.

4.1.1. AZBSN Communications & Newsletter

Mark at a previous meeting suggested that we should think about how to leverage some of the information sessions from AZBSN Digital Access Task Force meetings.

There remains a continuing need for volunteers to work
(1) on regular maintenance of the Weebly ATIC website and
(2) on providing a regular newsletter about all that's going on in the broadband world.

4.2. ATIC Mailing List & CRM (All)

Steve is discussing with Mark and Kirk Busch subscribing to a CRM/E-mail management service to meet the needs of the AZBSN Task Force.

4.3. New Business and Motion Considerations (All)

ATIC vs. AZBSN Roles and AZBSN Governance.

At a previous meeting Mark added that we did start to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 2020 and the Executive Committee held several meetings on this topic. One of the decisions that was made was to let the finances of AZBSN operate under the management of GAZEL. However, the GAZEL Board has not met for some time and is not effectively acting in an operational capacity. Kirk Busch asked about the state of the draft MOU and Mark said he would send him a copy.

5. Events Attended and Upcoming Meetings

6. Announcements

7. Adjourn

At 1:25 pm.

Upcoming ATIC Board Meetings

Upcoming ATIC Board Meetings for 2024 are scheduled for the second Wednesdays of the month (except August and December) from 12:00-2:00 p.m. and will be held fully virtually until further notice. Board Meetings are open for all to participate. Please plan to join us.

- June 12, 2024 from 12:00-2:00 pm
- July 10, 2024 from 12:00-2:00 pm
- No Board Meeting in August (Summer Break)
- September 11, 2024 from 12:00-2:00 pm
- October 9, 2024 from 12:00-2:00 pm
- November 13, 2024 from 12:00-2:00 pm
- No Board Meeting in December (Happy Holidays!)

ATIC Special and Public Meetings

AZBSN Digital Access Task Force continues to hold meetings every Thursday morning (except holidays) at 8:00 a.m. See the Planning page at <https://www.arizonatele.org/covid19-planning.html> for details.

Also see Task Force information and related resources at <https://www.arizonatele.org/covid19-about.html>.

Future AZBSN newsletter, webinars, and roundtables are under development.

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Dashboard

Is your contact information up to date?

Accounts

Checking
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▲ \$215.38
\$215.38

Savings
\$7,575.91

ATIC 073206
****04081-0000

▲ \$7,575.91
\$7,600.91

▲ Available Balance

Important Information

Don't Get Duped by Government Impersonation Scams

Protect your personal and financial information from government impersonation schemes like student loan and precious metals scams. Learn how these scams work and get tips to avoid falling for them.

April 29, 2024

Short-Term CDs and Savings Certificates: Maximizing Your Savings

Whether you're eager to boost your savings, earn attractive interest rates or add a touch of flexibility to your financial strategy, short-term CDs and savings certificates are popular options in 2024.

June 27, 2023

Quick Links

- Credit Card Login
- Investments (Raymond James)
- Mortgage Loans (MLOS)
- Identity Secure
- Mobile App 101

Link External Accounts

Desert Financial Credit Union

Arizona Telecommunications And Information
ATIC 434041 *****04081-0400

Transaction History

Statement Period: **All Dates** | Date of Statement: **05/06/2024**

Posted Transactions (83)

DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	BALANCE
04/23/24	DRAFT #2228 TRACER 58733152	-\$10.00	\$215.38
04/16/24	DRAFT #2227 TRACER 58589343	-\$155.45	\$225.38
04/10/24	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-\$26.01	\$380.83
03/12/24	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-\$26.87	\$406.84
02/12/24	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-\$25.77	\$433.71
01/10/24	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-\$26.01	\$459.48
12/12/23	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-\$26.27	\$485.49
11/10/23	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-\$26.27	\$511.76
10/11/23	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-\$26.61	\$538.03
09/12/23	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-\$26.85	\$564.64
08/10/23	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-\$26.49	\$591.49
07/11/23	DRAFT #2226 TRACER 53197395	-\$933.00	\$617.98
07/11/23	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-\$26.37	\$1,550.98
06/27/23	ARIZONA TECHNOLOGY 8699 WWW.AZTECHCOU AZ IGOQJ9JX	-\$400.00	\$1,577.35
06/20/23	ONLINE BANKING TRANSFER FROM 0000	\$1,000.00	\$1,977.35
06/12/23	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-\$26.75	\$977.35
06/05/23	DRAFT #2225 TRACER 52470921	-\$10.00	\$1,004.10
05/19/23	DRAFT #2224 TRACER 52175931	-\$500.00	\$1,014.10
05/12/23	ONLINE BANKING TRANSFER FROM 0000	\$1,000.00	\$1,514.10