



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

AV EDGE drives economic growth and retention across the Antelope Valley region through collaboration, advocacy, and business engagement.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Suzy Ghazarossian – President | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ryan Duke |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art Minasyan – Vice President (via phone) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rob Duchow |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dianne Knippel – Secretary | <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew Gaines |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ben Gocke – Treasurer | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mary Beth Garrison |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Martin Tompkins – Past President | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark Hemstreet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mark Bozigan – Director at Large | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kathy MacLaren-Gomez |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Theresa Howard – Director at Large | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regina Rossall |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Megan Taggart – EC Member | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michelle Royal |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sydney Yeseta – EC Member | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Karen Sanders |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monica Banken | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Smith |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bob Bowman | <input type="checkbox"/> Seffi Toneman |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ashley Cortes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jennifer Zellet |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steven Derryberry | |

Staff Roll Call

- Drew Mercy – Executive Director
- Eric Gamez
- Leidy Villarreal

Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2026

Time: 8:30 a.m.



1. **Call to Order** - in person 8:35 a.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes** - Martin motioned, Kathy seconded; approved at presented.
3. **Presentations** - None
4. **Reports**
 - President's Report - no report
 - Vice President's Report - no report
 - Treasurer's Report (including review of financials) - Leidy presented the financial reports. Overall, Financials are on track to plan. Outstanding invoices are still be worked.
 - Executive Director's Report: Projects & MOU Deliverables (updates shown in red)

Type	MOU Description	Status/Notes
MOU	1. Lead Generation	<p>Lead Generation has picked up. We have three leads for SNFs from the Healthcare/BATF efforts.</p> <p>Continue to pursue aerospace lead for Plant 42 site.</p> <p>Hydrogen company lead in communications with Lancaster, introduced to Palmdale for potential fueling station</p>
MOU	2. Commercial & Industrial Vacancy Listings	<p>AV EDGE Region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active: 341 • New: 25 • Off Market: 23 <p>Lancaster</p> <p>Active: 101 New: 6 Off Market: 11</p> <p>Palmdale</p> <p>Active: 87 New: 5 Off Market: 4</p>



MOU	3. Economic Development Forums	Spring Business Summit 3/19 is on track. We are working on final execution to ensure smooth program. We do need volunteers from the Board of Directors to help with welcoming and setup if anyone is available.
MOU	4. Broker Site Events	N/A
MOU	5. Annual Economic Roundtable Report	Completed 3/17/26
MOU	6. Broker Newsletter	Issued 1/30/2026 on schedule. Next issue is July 2026.
MOU	7. Business Attraction Task Force (BATF)	In process scheduling our next meeting. We've developed several SNF leads and continue to focus on SNF and youth oriented recreational activities.
MOU	8. Conferences (Industrial/Real Estate)	Attended LA Business Journal's "Valley Market Outlook" and Inland Empire Commercial Real Estate Conference.
MOU	9. Marketing & Publications	No new materials this month.
MOU	10. Governance Representation	Lancaster: Sydney Yeseta Palmdale: Megan Taggart
MOU	11. Labor Market Study	Publication Date: Spring 2027 Next Action: Seek economics firm, October 2026
MOU	12. City Meeting Participation	Lancaster has requested support for upcoming hydrogen activities at CC, dates TBD. Spoke during public comment at Palmdale



		CC on 2/18/26. Scheduled for presentation on 4/6/26
MOU	13. Industry Deep Dives	Healthcare Deep Dive scheduled for 4/2/2026 at PRMC. Had our first planning meeting to narrow topics. Securing panelists/guests.
MOU	14. Regional Film Industry Engagement	Planned for May. Held our first planning meeting, have identified several topics and invitees. In process of scheduling.
MOU	15. Startup & Small Business Support	We have made several updates to our Small Business Support page on our website.
MOU	16. Workforce Development	Scheduling meeting with Boys and Girls Club and BIA for Jr. Builder Program. Held first planning meeting for AI Task Force Meeting.
MOU	17. Transportation Advocacy	Meeting with LA Metro this week on several topics including Center for Transportation Technology Excellence.
MOU	18. Summary / Key Wins This Month	Significant progress to deliver RTR and SBS this month and Industry Deep Dives, Film Roundtable, and lead generation.
MOU	19. Challenges / Needs from MOU Partners	Providing input and guidance for industry roundtables and deep dives. We do need Lancaster assistance to connect Community Calendar.
MOU	20. Community Calendar	We are in process of connecting the two large Chambers. Need Lancaster's connection.
Project	21. Infrastructure Fund	Awaiting more information
Project	22. MARRC Fund	Grant application has been submitted.
Project	23. Chamber Coordination	Seeking Board direction next week.



Event	24. Installation	Rescheduled to June 18, 2026 to avoid Chamber of Commerce conflict. 5:30 - 8:00 p.m., Harley Building at Fair Grounds
	25.	

5. Committee Reports

- Healthcare – Chair Ben Gocke. EC Liaison: Mark Bozigian. Reported by Drew. April 2 industry deep dive from 2:00 - 4:00 at Palmdale Regional. Issues are skilled nursing facilities, transportation and communication from hospitals and Kaiser Permanente with Edwards Air Force Base.
- Aerospace – Chair Dr. David Smith. EC Liaison Dianne Knippel. Realigned goals with MOUs. Affordable house outside the EAFB gate being considered.
- Workforce Development & Education – Co-Chairs Teresa Howard, Van Rider. EC Liaison Suzy Ghazarossian. Will meet next month. AV Union High School District received \$4M in CTE grants..

- Legislative – Chair Mark Hemstreet. EC Liaison Ben Gocke.
 - SB 811 (Caballero) – Regulations affecting metal recyclers. Rec: Oppose Unless Amended
 - AB 1808 (Carrillo) – Streamline Joshua Tree mitigation. Rec: Support
 - AB 2301 (Soria) – Limited pilot project expanding Baccalaureate degrees programs at community colleges. Rec: Support

Mark motioned with a second from Jennifer - approved to support with recommendations above.

- Infrastructure/Transportation – Chair Matt Gaines. EC Liaison Martin Tompkins - Met with a new Metro regional representative.
- Developer-Agency Working Group (Drew Mercy) - will meet on 3/25
- Spring Business Summit / Fall Forum (Drew Mercy) - on track
 - Navigating Change Award
- Nominating Committee (Drew Mercy)
- Directors whose terms are ending: Ben Gocke (PRMC), MaryBeth Garrison (Rio Tinto), Martin Tompkins (AVTA), Mark Bozigian (Bayshore Consulting), Regina Rossall (Westside USD), Bob Bowman (Lockheed-Martin), Steven Derryberry (Derryberry Law Firm)
 - Suzy to nominate: A nomination committee was formed: Jennifer Zellet, Kathy MacLaren, Sydney Yeseta, Dan Jacobs and Monica Grado. April will be the slate of nominees and the Board will approve in May.



- Committee Sponsors/Liaisons (Drew/Leidy will review survey) - all board members need to select a committee to join.

6. Old Business - none.

7. New Business

- Discussion/Possible Action – Coordinating with the Chambers of Commerce. A task force was established to address: Mark Hemstreet, Gina Rossal, Kathy MacLaren, with member from the AV Chamber, plus Hispanic and Black chambers.

8. Action Items & Deadlines Tracking

- Review of Open Action Items:

Action Item Description	Person Assigned	Due Date	Status/Notes
Roundtable Report	Erick Gamez	3/19/2026	Printed
Rebranding	Drew Mercy	N/A	Discussion
Coordination with Chamber of Commerce	Drew Mercy/ Suzy Ghazarossian	N/A	Discussion/ Task Force Appointment

9. Announcements

- Westside Union School District's 80th anniversary celebration coming on May 7th at fairgrounds. Celebrating Marvin Crist, Ben Gocke, Palmdale Regional Medical Center, Lancaster West Rotary, and others
- Antelope Valley College Wine Walk on April 25, 2026; August 8 Techachapi's Wine and Beer Festival; August 29 - Meet the Commander's event
- Drew announced that there are civic contribution funds available. Dianne suggested that once requests are made, that Drew and Suzy decide on funding.



10. Closed Session

- No closed session scheduled for today - None.

11. Adjournment

- Adjourn the meeting if there are no objections - adjourned at 9:40.

Dates to Remember

- **Spring Business Summit: March 19, 2026, 7:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**
- Executive Committee Meeting: Second Tuesday, monthly, 7:30 a.m.
- Board of Directors Meeting: Third Tuesday, monthly, 7:30 a.m.
- Joint Legislative Committee Meeting: Second Monday, monthly, 3:00 p.m.
- Transportation & Infrastructure Committee: Fourth Thursday, monthly, 7:30 a.m.
- Healthcare Committee: First Thursday, every other month, 8:30 a.m. (Next: May 7, 2026)
- Aerospace Meeting: Second Thursday, every other month, even months, 10:00 a.m. (Next: April 9, 2026)
- Workforce Development & Education Committee: Second Thursday, every other month, odd months, 10:00 a.m. (Next: May 14th, 2026)
- Installation Dinner – Thursday, June 18, 2026, 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.