Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

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

Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2026

Time: 8:30 a.m.

- ☑ Suzy Ghazarossian – President
- ☐ Art Minasyan – Vice President
- ☑ Dianne Knippel – Secretary
- ☑ Ben Gocke – Treasurer
- ☑ Martin Tompkins – Past President
- ☑ Mark Bozigian – Director at Large (via phone)
- ☑ Theresa Howard – Director at Large
- ☐ Zach Glynn – EC Member
- ☑ Sydney Yeseta – EC Member
- ☑ Drew Mercy – Executive Director

1. **Call to Order -** via zoom 8:32 a.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes -** Martin motioned and Ben seconded; approved as presented.
3. **Presentations**
4. **Reports**
   - President's Report - no report
   - Vice President's Report - no report
   - Treasurer's Report (including review of financials)
     Overall on track, expenses under budget; working on renewing memberships and sponsorships; good revenue.

Executive Director's Report: Projects & MOU Deliverables

Type	MOU Description	Status/Notes
MOU	**1.** Lead Generation Drew thanked Congressman Whitesides with making a connection with the defense company	Two strong leads have come in since our last meeting 1. Commercial developer with history in the AV, Tom Lenny. He attended SBS and introduced him to Palmdale and Lancaster.

	and a possible textile company.	2. Defense company looking for manufacturing space. We have scheduled a meeting for this week.
MOU	**2.** Commercial & Industrial Vacancy Listings	• **AV EDGE Region** • Active: 320 • New: 13 • Off Market: 26 • **Lancaster** • Active: 99 • New: 4 • Off Market: 6 • **Palmdale** • Active: 88 • New: 4 • Off Market: 2
MOU	**3.** Economic Development Forums	Spring Business Summit held 3/19. We are developing our post-summit report and feedback. We have set the Fall Forum for 10/29 at the Palmdale Playhouse, and the Committee is developing the program. We are discussing big changes for 2027.
MOU	**4.** Broker Site Events	N/A Five to 6 out of town developers interested in site visits.
MOU	**5.** Annual Economic Roundtable Report	Published 3/19.
MOU	6. Broker Newsletter	Issued 1/30/2026 on schedule. Next issue is July 2026.
MOU	**7.** Business Attraction Task Force (BATF)	Meeting scheduled for later this month.

MOU	**8.** Conferences (Industrial/Real Estate)	Will be traveling to Littlerock, AR for the IAMC National Forum next week, 4/19-22.
MOU	**9.** Marketing & Publications	No new materials this month.
MOU	**10.** Governance Representation	Lancaster: Sydney Yeseta Palmdale: Zach Glynn
MOU	**11.** Labor Market Study	Publication Date: Spring 2027 Next Action: Seek economics firm, October 2026
MOU	**12.** City Meeting Participation	Next scheduled: 4/28/2026: Council Members Elected on 4/14 will take office.
MOU	**13.** Industry Deep Dives - Mark mentioned and the committee agreed that this deep dive was well done.	Healthcare Deep Dive held on 4/2. We received very positive feedback and are finalizing our report out and assigned tasks.
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	No changes this month.
MOU	**16.** Workforce Development	Several Workforce matters discussed at Healthcare Deep Dive that will be addressed. AVC and AVUHSD are both circulating needs assessments required for grant funding. We are assisting in distribution. Please help by responding and sharing.
MOU	**17.** Transportation Advocacy	Met with Metro's new north county regional liaison, Rosalba Gonzalez. We discussed

		importance of CTTE, and our advocacy to return focus to that project.
MOU	**18.** Summary / Key Wins This Month	Published RTR, held SBS and our first Industry Deep Dive on Health Care.
MOU	**19.** Challenges / Needs from MOU Partners Palmdale is connected.	Community Calendar is lagging. We have had trouble getting through the process to connect Lancaster. We're moving ahead reaching out to the Chambers and GAVAR.
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	We are waiting to hear back from the Chamber on when they're ready to meet with Kathy MacLaren-Gomez, Regina Rossall and Sydney Yeseta to begin discussions.
Event	24. Installation	Rescheduled to June 18, 2026 to avoid Chamber of Commerce conflict.

5. Old Business

A. LookUP Contract and Partnership Program - a briefing was provided explaining the Partnership Program. Basically turning sponsors into partners with customizable agreements. This would be an additional cost to the LookUp contract and the committee voted to ensure this will be metric based. Detailed cost and info will be presented at the next Board meeting in April. If approved at the Board meeting the plan is to launch in June 2026. **Martin motioned to approve for the board presentation and Dianne seconded; committee approved as discussed and presented.**

B. Rebranding - will be put on hold until early fall as we continue to work on MOU requirements.

C. Event support - five community events will be given sponsorship support with the established budget.

6. New Business

A. Rose Parade Float (Drew & Suzy) - City of Palmdale asked if AVEDGE would lead this effort. The Committee declined. Drew will reach out to the Chamber and Destination Lancaster to determine interest.

B. IAMC Conference Sponsorship (Drew) - Drew requested sponsorship support for the IAMC Conference and ICSC through Team Cal. There is existing budget funding. **Dianne motioned to approve and Ben seconded; approved as presented.**

7. Action Items & Deadlines Tracking

- Review of Open Action Items:

Action Item Description	Person Assigned	Due Date	Status/Notes
Chamber Discussions	Drew		
Nominations for 2026-2029 BOD Terms	Drew		Coming to April Board meeting.
Aerospace Deep Dive			Being planned for July 2026
Film Industry Roundtable			

8. Announcements

- Open floor for announcements - Theresa Howard announced she had been selected as the regional and state CTE administrator of the year.

9. Closed Session

10. Adjournment

- Meeting was adjourned at 9:31 a.m.

Dates to Remember

- Executive Committee Meeting: Second Tuesday, monthly, 8:30 a.m.
- Board of Directors Meeting: Third Tuesday, monthly, 8:30 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, 10:00 a.m. (Next: June 11, 2026)
- Workforce & Education Committee: Second Thursday, every other month at 10:00 a.m. (Next: May 7, 2026)

- Fall Forum, October 29, 2026, Palmdale Playhouse