



For Immediate Release

The ICA Holds Commission Meeting In Safford, AZ

Phoenix, AZ, 10-03-2018

The Industrial Commission of Arizona continued its outreach tradition of holding a quarterly commission meeting outside of Maricopa County for the 11th time. Thursday's commission meeting was held in Safford, AZ. The Commissioners were joined by the ICA Director, James Ashley, and ADOSH Director, Jessie Atencio.

The ICA toured the Graham County Rehabilitation Center, a local non-profit which places individuals with disabilities into the workforce. The ICA Commissioners and Director learned about the unique challenges of running such an operation but also heard about the support they receive from the Safford community. The Commission appreciated the efforts of the employees and the importance of the work they do, discussed assistance within the workers' compensation system, as well as with ADOSH consultation services.



The ICA with Wendy Bolinger and Lane Hegel from the Graham County Rehabilitation Center

The Commission also met with the Graham County Chamber of Commerce to discuss issues specific to Graham County and local industries. The conversation touched on the importance of the mining industry in the area and that the business community was very tight-knit and often worked to put on events for the Graham County community, specifically a recent salsa competition which was attended by over 5,000 people.

The ICA Commissioners and Director discussed how the agency serves as a resource to stakeholders and how employers could improve their workplace safety by taking advantage of the ADOSH Consultation program. The ADOSH Director, Jessie Atencio, explained that all ICA Consultation visits are free and no citations or fines are assessed.



Chairman Dale Schultz, Vice Chairman Joseph Hennelly, Director James Ashley, and ADOSH Director Jessie Atencio meeting with the Graham County Chamber of Commerce

"Our consultation visits are the best way to prevent injuries at the workplace," Jessie Atencio said of the consultation visits, "Working proactively with an ADOSH safety professional not only decreases injuries but also increases employee morale."

The following day the Industrial Commission met with the Graham County Manager, Dustin Welker, to discuss the Public Entity Partnership Program (PEPP) of which Graham County is a participant. The PEPP program is the ADOSH consultation service for Arizona public entities of which Graham County was the second to join.



The ICA stand for a picture with a historic stone Arizona seal at the Graham County Highway Yard

Concluding an in-depth conversation with Mr. Welker the ICA toured the Graham County Highway Yard which services all county vehicles. The Commissioners pointed out how well organized their shop was and how well labeled tools and spaces were - evidence that the PEPP program was working.

After the tour of the Graham County Highway Yard and the historical Safford courthouse the Industrial Commission met with two members of the Safford City Council. The discussion included Safford's economic outlook and what the ICA could do to promote workplace safety in town and the surrounding area.



Left to Right: ADOSH Dir. Atencio, Commissioner LeMarr, Chairman Schultz, Director Ashley, Vice-chair Hennelly

Following the meeting with the City Council members the Industrial Commission held its Commission meeting where they discussed requests for renewals of self-insurance authority, ADOSH proposed citations and penalties, ICA objectives and goals, and took a moment for public comments.

If you would like more information on the ICA, the ADOSH Partnership Programs, or future public meetings, please visit www.azica.gov.

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