

2026 ARIZONA HOMICIDE INVESTIGATORS ASSOCIATION



ANNUAL CONFERENCE

WELCOME TO THE 2026 ARIZONA HOMICIDE INVESTIGATORS ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE

On behalf of the Association and the Board of Directors, we would like to extend our sincere appreciation to each of you for attending and continuing to support AHIA and its mission. As always, the Association is proud to host this annual conference in support of our members and, through them, the communities they serve every day. Your dedication to professional excellence, continued education, and collaborative partnerships helps strengthen Arizona agencies and entities to conduct efficient, thorough, and professional death and critical incident investigations. AHIA remains committed to providing relevant training and professional resources that equip investigators, supervisors, prosecutors, forensic professionals, and support personnel with the tools necessary to meet the evolving challenges of the past, present & future. We are grateful for the commitment each of you has made to advancing the standards of investigative excellence throughout Arizona.

The Association would also like to extend our sincere gratitude to the many vendors, sponsors, and professional partners whose generous support helped make this conference possible. We encourage all attendees to take time throughout the week to meet with them during breaks and learn more about the services and resources they provide to our profession. In addition to the outstanding presentations scheduled this week, we encourage everyone to use this opportunity to build lasting professional relationships. Communication, cooperation, and networking remain essential to success in our duty, and we strongly encourage you to introduce yourself to fellow attendees, vendors, and AHIA Board members throughout the conference.

The Association will also host several social events during the week, including **Comedy Night** on Monday, a **Top Golf Social** on Tuesday, a **Cornhole Tournament** on Wednesday, and Thursday's **Luncheon** where we will recognize several distinguished individuals as well as those who were elected or re-elected to the AHIA Board of Directors.

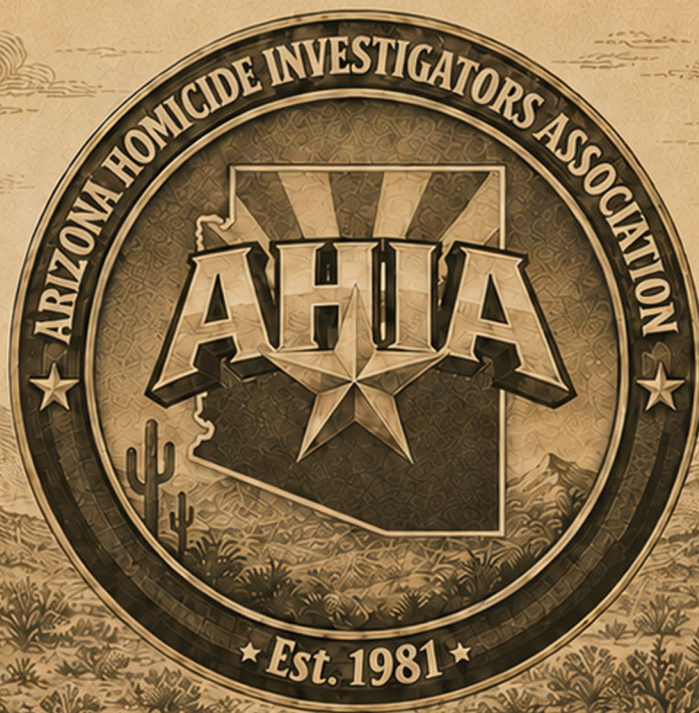
Early-registration will be held Sunday from 4PM to 8PM, with main registration beginning Monday at 7AM. Thank you again for attending, have a safe and productive week, and most importantly, take the opportunity to meet new people and strengthen the professional network that supports all of us in this important work.



WELCOME!

Stephen Palmer

Stephen Palmer, President
Arizona Homicide Investigators Association



AHIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE BOARD:

- PRESIDENT** – Stephen Palmer of the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office
VICE PRESIDENT – Mike Rayburn of the Mesa Police Department
TREASURER – Jennifer Kochanski of the AZ Department of Public Safety
SECRETARY – Chris Miller of the Tempe Police Department

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

- **Cassie Ynclan** of the Chandler Police Department
- **Chris Gardner** of the AZ Department of Public Safety
- **Chris Palmer** of the Casa Grande Police Department
- **Ed Bills** of the Yavapai County Attorney's Office
- **Jeff Johnson** of the Phoenix Police Department
- **Lois Weiss** of the AZ Department of Public Safety
- **Stephanie Low** of the Maricopa County Attorney's Office
- **Suzi Dodt** of the Pinal County Medical Examiner's Office
- **Todd Martinet** of the Flagstaff Police Department
- ★ **Todd Ruggeri** – Web Administrator

WILD HORSE PASS RESORT
@ 5040 WILD HORSE PASS BLVD,
CHANDLER, AZ 85226



Sunday, August 30th, 2026



PRE-CONFERENCE

EARLY REGISTRATION & SOCIAL EVENT



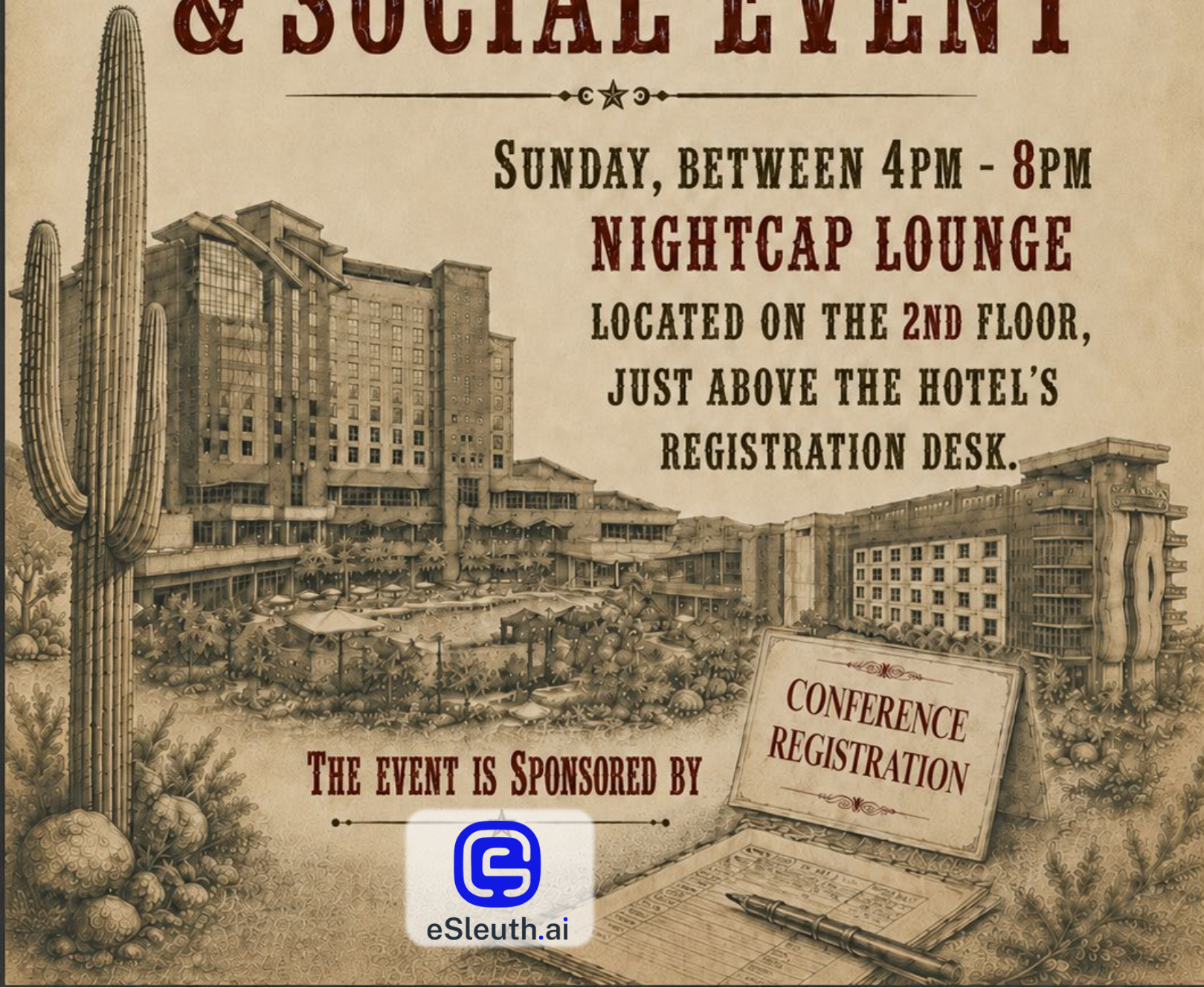
SUNDAY, BETWEEN 4PM - 8PM
NIGHTCAP LOUNGE
LOCATED ON THE 2ND FLOOR,
JUST ABOVE THE HOTEL'S
REGISTRATION DESK.

THE EVENT IS SPONSORED BY



eSleuth.ai

CONFERENCE
REGISTRATION



Monday, August 31st, 2026

8AM

PRESENTATION OF COLORS

BY THE
MESA POLICE DEPARTMENT'S
HONOR GUARD

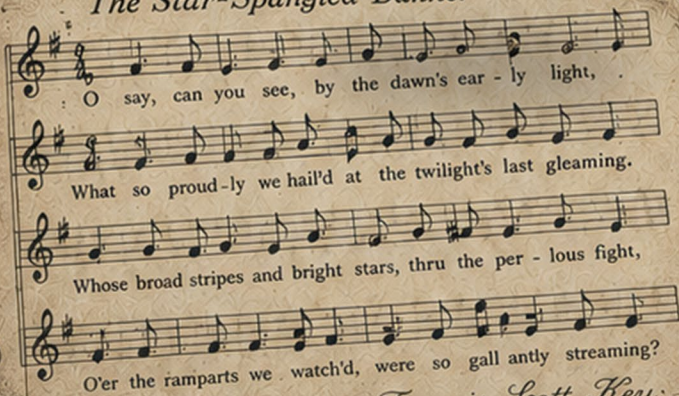
NATIONAL ANTHEM

SUNG BY
OFFICER STEPHEN DIEU (RET.)

OF THE
CHANDLER POLICE DEPARTMENT

WELCOME REMARKS BY
AHIA PRESIDENT, STEPHEN PALMER

The Star-Spangled Banner



Francis Scott Key



Monday, August 31st, 2026

7:00^{AM}

- Breakfast Sponsored By -

veritone

9^{AM}

100 CLUB - WELLNESS FUNDS PRESENTATION



10^{AM}

CASE STUDY:

MEXICAN MAFIA MURDER

PRESENTED BY

DETECTIVE
CASSANDRA YNCLAN

OF THE
CHANDLER POLICE
DEPARTMENT



CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS



AHIA

★ PRESENTS ★

COMEDY NIGHT

Food & Beverages!

★ FEATURING ★

PATRICK GARRITY!

6PM – **9**PM

★ SPONSORED BY ★



VALOR
TECHNICAL CLEANING

Tuesday, September 1st, 2026

7:00^{AM}

- Breakfast Sponsored By -



Peregrine



8^{AM}

CASE STUDY: ★ BEVER MURDERS

— PRESENTED BY —

INVESTIGATOR
JACKIE SMITHSON
OF THE SMITHSON
SCIENTIFIC, LLC.

1^{PM}

WELLNESS IN LAW ENFORCEMENT

— PRESENTED BY —

LAUREN JONES GOLDBACH
LCSW, CCTP
— & —
ASHLEIGH McDONNELL
PMHNP



EAST VALLEY TRAUMA COUNSELING

- Afternoon Snack Sponsored By -



POLICE DO

RESILIENCE

★ AHIA ★
PRESENTS
TOP GOLF
★ & ★
SOCIAL

AT THE
Upper Deck Lounge

Food & Beverages!

6 PM – 9 PM

Sponsored by -

AB CODE 3

ADVANCED BIOHAZARD + HANDLED WITH CARE

CONNECT.
COMPETE.
ENJOY.

TEE UP
THE FUN
★
STAY FOR
THE SOCIAL
★

7:00AM

- Breakfast Sponsored By -

Wednesday, September 2nd, 2026



MEDICAL

8AM

CHILD DEATH INVESTIGATIONS

★ PRESENTED BY ★

DR. KATHERINE MALONEY
OF THE ERIE COUNTY
MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE
(NY)



1 PM

★ CASE STUDY: ★ THE MURDER OF DEE WARNER

★ PRESENTED BY ★

DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT
DAN DREWYOR
DETECTIVE SERGEANT
SCOTT SINGLETON (RET.)
OF THE MICHIGAN STATE POLICE



CRIME SCENE DO

Wednesday, September 2nd, 2026

★ **AHIA** ★

~ Presents ~

— THE 6TH ANNUAL —

CORNHOLE

Tourney!

SPONSORED BY

Food & Beverages!

6 PM – 9 PM



GALLOWAY

GOOD FRIENDS

GREAT TIMES

★ FAIR PLAY ★

COLD DRINKS

FAIR PLAY



7:00AM

- Breakfast Sponsored By -



Thursday, September 3rd, 2026

8AM

CASE STUDY:

AURORA, CO MOVIE THEATER MASSACRE

★ PRESENTED BY ★

COMMANDER

MIKE DAILEY (Ret.)

OF THE AURORA POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF

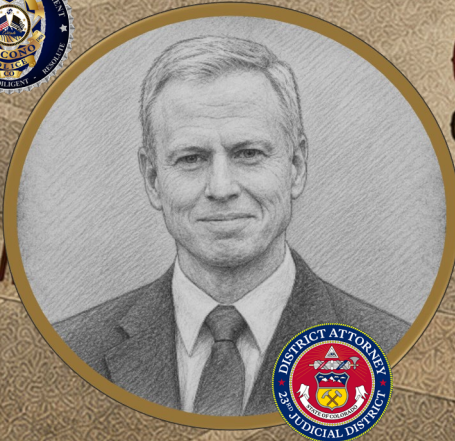
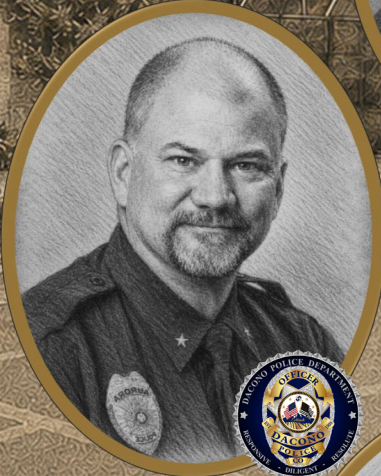
JAD LANIGAN

OF THE DAcono POLICE DEPARTMENT

& DISTRICT ATTORNEY

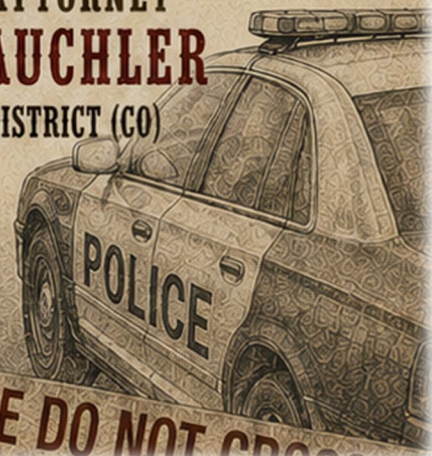
GEORGE BRAUCHLER

OF THE 23RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT (CO)



CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS

CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS



Thursday, September 3rd, 2026

12^{PM} – 1^{PM}

★ AHIA's ★ LUNCHEON!

PRESENTATIONS FOR:

- ★ 2026 INVESTIGATOR OF THE YEAR
- ★ ELECTION RESULTS FOR THE AHIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
- ★ AND OTHER RECOGNITIONS.



The End



As with all things, we have reached the end of this year's conference. I would like to thank each of you for attending, and I hope you were able to take away something beneficial to your professional career and/or personal life, whether it was a lesson learned, a new contact made, or an idea sparked while speaking with a vendor. That is our Association's goal: to improve things every year, and that includes supporting and strengthening our members.

If you are not yet a member of AHIA, we encourage you to consider joining and becoming an active part of our Association. Membership provides free access to AHIA training, early registration opportunities for sponsored courses, and first announcement of both our annual Homicide School and the Annual Conference. If you are interested in becoming a member, please visit www.azhia.com for additional information.

Finally, we also encourage all members, and anyone interested, to sign up for the Association's email distribution list, available at the bottom of our website. This is the best way to stay informed about upcoming training opportunities and important updates. Our talented web administrator, Todd Ruggeri, works diligently to keep the site current and user-friendly. Please take a moment to explore it when you have the chance. Again, it's www.azhia.com



Stay safe and vigilant,

Stephen Palmer

Stephen Palmer, President

Arizona Homicide Investigators Association

THANK YOU TO THE 2026
SPONSORS & VENDORS

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GOLD Sponsors

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 **VALOR**
TECHNICAL CLEANING

 **GALLOWAY**

 **ThermoFisher**
SCIENTIFIC

SILVER Sponsors

 **SSG**

 **T.A.C.T.**
THE LAST RESPONDERS



NATIONAL POLICE

FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

 **Peregrine**

 **DATeline**

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BRONZE Sponsors



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PROFORCE
LAW ENFORCEMENT



AB CODE 3

ADVANCED BIOHAZARD + HANDLED WITH CARE



THANK YOU TO OUR

VALUED PARTNERS



Eyedentity



GILA RIVER[®]
RESORTS & CASINOS



