



November 2025



Greetings everyone!

As President of the Arizona Homicide Investigators Association, it is my privilege and honor to share some exciting news with all of you. As many of you know, the Board of Directors recently voted to expand our board by two additional positions to better meet the growing demands of our Association and to continue providing high-quality support to you, our valued members.

After a focused and thorough selection process, the vote has concluded, and the Board is pleased to announce the addition of two new members to the AHIA Board of Directors. Their terms will officially begin on January 1, 2026. Please join me in welcoming:

- **Suzi Dodt** of the *Pinal County Medical Examiner's Office*
- **Jeff Johnson** of the *Phoenix Police Department*

Your Board of Directors is truly looking forward to the fresh ideas, energy, and perspectives Suzi and Jeff will bring to future training, schools, conferences, and planning efforts.

In addition, I would like to acknowledge an important change within the current Board of Directors. Unfortunately, **Michele Cervantes**, of the Phoenix Police Department, has stepped down due to circumstances beyond her control. On behalf of the entire Board, I want to extend our sincere appreciation for her dedication, time, and contributions throughout her years of service to AHIA and its members. We wish Michele all the very best moving forward and hope to continue seeing her as an active member of the Association.

To fill this vacancy, **Chris Gardner**, of the *Arizona Department of Public Safety*, has been appointed to the Board as Michele's replacement. Chris was the next runner-up in the most recent election, making him the appropriate successor. Please be sure to welcome him to the Board of Directors when you see him, as his tenure starts immediately.



Lastly, I would like to remind everyone that AHIA's next election cycle will take place in **fall 2026**. If you are interested in running for a seat on the Board of Directors, please keep an eye out next year for announcements regarding the election process. And as always, we encourage all members to sign up for our email distribution list through our website to ensure you receive the latest updates and information: www.azhia.com

Thank you all for your continued support and commitment to AHIA.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Stephen Palmer'.

Stephen Palmer, President
Arizona Homicide Investigators Association