

Portal Rescue, Inc.



**P.O. Box 16331, Portal,
AZ 85632
(520) 558-2206**

Board Meeting Minutes

Saturday, March 28, 2026, 12:00 PM (Arizona time) Portal Ambulance Bay

Active Members: Rolf Koford, Aaron Smith, Carolyn Nordstrom, Alina Downer, Scott Huber, Bonnie Bowen, David Newton, Matthew Downer, Brian Whitehorn & Jackie Lewis

Community Members: Heather Hiscox, Jon Cook, Penni Parrish, Cary Booth, Dennis McAvoy, Bill Wilbur, Rybecca Webster, Laurie Lewis, Erik Lee, Naomi Lee, Ayano Juliet Lee, Glenna Winnie, Kathleen Huber, Dinah Davidson, JJ Pooley, Jeff Cooper, Mary Barber, Marilyn Forestell & Barbara Miller

1. Called Board Meeting to order at 12:03 PM AZ.
2. Adoption of agenda
 - a. Cary moved to adopt agenda as written, Alina seconded. Non-opposed, motion carried.
3. Approval of Minutes of Board meeting on May 15, 2025 found at https://www.portalrescue.com/gallery/PR_Board_Meeting_Minutes_2026-01-15.pdf
 - a. Cary moved to approve the meeting minutes as written, Jackie seconded. Non-opposed, motion carried.
4. Reports - inclusive of updates on projects or tasks not included in agenda below
 - a. Fire Chief: David Newton
 - i. Operations: No fires since the February board meeting, firefighters assisted on EMS calls.
 - ii. Training: Trainings have been well-attended.
 - iii. Vehicles: All vehicles currently in service. Pump control on Tender1 has been restored
 - iv. Grants: Portal Rescue was awarded a 50/50 Rural Fire Capacity grant to be used for twelve new fire shelters to replace older shelters.
 - v. Facilities: No special maintenance.
 - b. EMS Chief: Alina Downer
 - i. Operations: Approximately five EMS dispatches since the February board meeting, firefighters assisted on calls.

- ii. Training: Trainings attended regularly by available EMTs. Pending EMS conferences later this year.
 - iii. Vehicles: All vehicles currently in service, A/C charged in vehicles by David Newton and Lance Shultis and ready for summer use. O₂ cascade system operational.
- c. Treasurer: Jackie Lewis
 - i. See **Appendix A** for the 2026 year-to-date Treasurer's Report.
- d. Member without Portfolio: Dennis McAvoy
 - i. On behalf of Portal Rescue, Dennis presented David Newton with a plaque in recognition of outstanding service, honoring and commemorating David as a critical member of Portal Rescue since 2006.
- e. Secretary: Bec Webster
 - i. No new reports.
- f. VP Report: Aaron Smith
 - i. No new reports.
 - ii. Working to upgrade heating/cooling systems in the Portal Rescue classroom.
- g. President: Cary Booth
 - i. No new reports.
 - ii. Any and all website changes to be submitted to Cary for implementation.

5. Continued Business

- a. Building project progress
 - i. Responders Lounge
 - 1. No progress.
 - ii. Fire Building storage
 - 1. One of two new storage racks has been installed, with organization ongoing.
- b. Land search for radio tower status update
 - i. No progress.
- c. Grant application review and status
 - i. See section **4.a.iv** above for grant information.

6. New Business:

- a. Vote to accept new EMT
 - i. Rose Apol was nominated to be the newest EMT for Portal Rescue, Cary seconded. Non-opposed, motion carried.
- b. Discussion regarding how PR may assist PR patients with no family or friends in the area and who have been transported some distance away for treatment to return to the Portal area to be reunited with their property.
 - i. Extensive discussion was held regarding how best to assist our community members in need of transportation, temporary lodging, pet-sitting, and meals after an emergency event. There were numerous suggestions from board and community members alike, with many offering their own time and assistance however possible.
- c. Discussion on Portal Rescue joining Cochise County Adopt a Roadway for a portion of Portal Rd.
 - i. Cochise County personnel to provide supplies, necessary training, and road signage

- ii. Penni Parrish to follow up with county officials and Howard Topoff in regard to logistics involved in adopting part of Portal Rd
- iii. Discussion tabled until further information available.
- d. 2026 Portal Rescue Board Election
 - i. Active members Jackie Lewis and Aaron Smith were nominated and accepted by acclimation to remain on the board.
 - ii. David Newton continues as Fire Chief with Alina Downer as EMS Chief as elected by firefighters and EMTs respectively.
 - iii. Jeff Cooper was nominated by Carolyn Nordstrom and accepted.
 - iv. Bec Webster was nominated by Cary Booth and accepted.
 - v. Cary Booth was nominated by Aaron Smith and accepted.
 - vi. Dennis McAvoy volunteered to continue as a board member.
 - vii. After voting, the Portal Rescue 2026 Board Members and their respective positions are as follows:
 - President- Cary Booth
 - Vice President-Aaron Smith
 - Treasurer- Jackie Lewis
 - Secretary- Bec Webster
 - Member without Portfolio- Jeff Cooper
 - Fire Chief- David Newton
 - EMS Chief- Alina Downer

7. For the Good of the Order

a. Blood Drive Updates

- i. 24 units collected for March, around 40 units collected in January.
- ii. Next Blood Drive on Thursday, May 14th.
- iii. Portal Rescue achieved Premiere Status again for our blood collection efforts.

b. Rodeo Community Association's Annual Rummage Sale will be April 25, 2026 8am-2pm AZ time.

- i. Sew What rummage sale outside the Portal Post Office on April 11th.

c. Community Open Mic

- i. JJ Pooley sought volunteer transport roundtrip to Safford for a community member and their spouse, volunteer was found before meetings end.
- ii. Suggestion about potential for use of Starlink Mini mounted on ambulances to increase communication services in more limited areas during a call. Board members will gather more information on the plausibility of using the Starlink Mini before proceeding.

8. Adjourned at 1:27 PM AZ time.

Appendix A: Treasurer's 2026 Year-to-date Report

Jan 1 thru March 27, 2028

Beginning Checking Balance: \$155,825.71

INCOME: \$19,315.59

Donations: \$6,485.00

Fire Income:

Fundraising Inc: \$9,646.29 (includes donated expenses)

Grants:

Interest Deposit: \$3,063.09

Misc Inc: \$21.21

Phone Book Sales:

Rent: \$100.00

EXPENSES: \$12,290.08

Chief's Meetings:

Dues:

EMS Supply/Equip: \$459.68

EMS Training:

Fire Supply/Equip: \$184.16

Fundraising Exp: \$2,477.01 (includes donated expenses)

Insurance: \$3,281

Heli Membership: \$3,080

Misc. Exp:

Office: \$1,449.41

Radio Ops: \$691.55

Structure Maint:

Uniforms: \$1,693.73

Utilities: \$1,043.40

Vehicle Ops: \$124.45

Petty Cash on hand: \$119.30

Gift Certificate to Animas Merc: \$30

Excess stamps on hand: \$156.00

EDWARD JONES CURRENT BALANCE:

Money Market Checking: \$96,251.95

EDWARD JONES CDs: \$270,000

Bank America (4.05%) \$30K – 4/2/26

Wells Fargo (4.15%) \$30K – 7/22/26

Wells Fargo (3.75%) \$30K – 9/18/26

Bank America (3.55%) \$40K – 10/14/26

Wells Fargo (3.75%) \$30K – 11/27/26

MCNB BK & TR CO (3.5%) \$40K – 1/15/27

American Express (4.15%) \$40K – 1/22/27

*Morgan Stanley (4.15%) \$15K – 1/22/27

*Dedicated MUMA – interest use only

Goldman Sachs (3.7%) \$15K – 1/27/28