

Portal Rescue, Inc.



**P.O. Box 16331, Portal,
AZ 85632
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Board Meeting Minutes

Thurs, May 14th, 2026, 6:00 PM (Arizona time) Portal Rescue Classroom

Board: Cary Booth, Aaron Smith, David Newton, Jackie Lewis, Jeff Cooper, Alina Downer, & Bec Webster

Community: Erik and Ayano Lee

1. Called Board Meeting to order at 6:02 PM AZ.
2. Adoption of agenda
 - a. Cary moved to adopt agenda as written, Jackie seconded. Non-opposed, motion carried.
3. Approval of Minutes of Board meeting on March 28th, 2026 found at https://portalrescue.com/gallery/PR_Board_Meeting_Minutes_2026-03-28.pdf
 - a. Jackie requested '2028' in the March Treasurer's report be changed to '2026'
 - b. Cary moved to adopt the amended meeting minutes, Aaron 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 new operations since the May board meeting. Firefighters have assisted EMTs on all calls.
 - ii. Training: Attendance has been okay at training.
 - iii. Vehicles: All vehicles currently in service.
 - iv. Grants: Equipment from the Rural Fire Capacity Grant has arrived and PR has paid our 50 percent contribution.
 - v. Facilities: The GMRS repeater is functional and accessible as far as Rodeo. David to acquire a backup battery for the repeater.
 - b. EMS Chief: Alina Downer
 - i. Operations: EMT's responded to 7 calls since the March 14th meeting. Good support from volunteers, lots of fire fighters available to assist.
 - ii. Training: PR had an EMT attend the New Mexico Ruidoso EMS Conference.
 - iii. Vehicles: Both rescue vehicles are operational.

iv. Other: Alina submitted a State Farm fire grant for EMS equipment and will find out if we have received the grant in a few months. Alina and other Portal Rescue volunteers will be attending the Friends of Cave Creek Canyon garden party on May 23rd.

c. Treasurer: Jackie Lewis

i. Thank you notes, with donations, were received for two recent EMT calls. Both had accolades for Alina and the rest of the response team. Appreciation was also expressed for all Portal Rescue volunteers and assistance provided.

ii. An extension was filed and accepted for the 2025 990 tax return. I need to contact Tax990 and possibly the IRS for assistance with the fundraising income section. As it stands, the form is adding the gross & the net fundraising income.

iii. Thanks to Delane Blondeau for donating the proceeds of her book

sales to Portal Rescue.

iv. See **Appendix A** for Treasurer's Report.

d. Member without Portfolio: Jeff Cooper

i. No new reports.

e. Secretary: Bec Webster

i. No new reports.

c. VP Report: Aaron Smith

i. Aaron has reached out to several HVAC companies in regard to upgrading the heating and cooling system in the classroom and will present his findings at the next board meeting.

ii. Thanks to Cindy and Edward La Russa for their donation of a replacement fridge for the Portal Rescue ambulance bay.

d. President: Cary Booth

i. Filed Arizona Corporate Commission paperwork.

ii. Will be out of town for July board meeting, Aaron to run in his place.

5. Continued Business

a. Building project progress

i. Responders Lounge

1. Cleaning and equipment organization ongoing.

ii. Fire Building storage

1. Cleaning and equipment organization ongoing.

b. Land search for radio tower status update

i. No progress.

c. Continued discussion regarding improving communication on emergency vehicles in remote areas. Cary to acquire.

i. The Starlink Mini service and capabilities were researched by Cary, who found that available, portable options should be more than adequate for our needs in improving communication from Portal rescue emergency vehicles in limited areas. He also found that the service was within our current communications budget and capable of being cancelled at any time, as well as maintained on 'standby' mode without sacrificing the quality of the service.

ii. Much discussion was had amongst the board members, including cost, storage, maintenance, troubleshooting, and connection quality of the service. As a result, it was decided that the best route was to experiment with the service in the field, report the findings to the board, and see if there is marked improvement with our remote communications.

iii. Cary moved to acquire and set up an account for Starlink Mini and proceed with the service on standby mode. Alina seconds. Non-opposed, motion carried.

iv. Thanks to Rose Apol for the suggestion of the Starlink Mini.

d. Continued discussion on Portal Rescue joining Cochise County Adopt-a-Roadway for a portion of Portal Rd.

i. Tabled for next board meeting.

e. Continued 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. Cary to follow up with Dinah and VoIP solution-Google number or other

i. Community members Erik and Ayano Lee presented their findings on prospective transportation and temporary lodging for Portal Rescue patients after their release from the hospital.

ii. For temporary lodging, specifically in Tucson, Mr. Lee explored options with Extended Stay American Suites and the Sheraton hotels and found that while it was possible to authorize and obtain temporary lodging for patients, there were many issues surrounding liability, the need for extensive policy, and especially the need for patients to have some form of I.D.

iii. Due to logistic limitations on Portal Rescue's end, it was suggested that we explore options through the Social Services department of the hospitals most frequented by our patients and see what they would suggest.

iv. Jeff will follow up with the Social Services departments at Tucson Medical Center, St. Joseph's, and Banner hospitals in Tucson.

v. For transportation, Miss Lee presented a number of options to the board, with the most encouraging being Lyft, specifically their 'LyftUp' program for non-profit businesses. More local options included compiling a list of available local volunteers, as well as reaching out to the Men's Service Group. Some concerns included not just patient transportation but transportation of loved ones, as well as ensuring patients have a HIPPA authorized agent in the event of being unable to communicate their wishes or talk to loved ones after being admitted.

vi. Jackie will do further research into the LyftUp program while Cary will work with Dinah Davidson to compile a list of volunteers for patient assistance ranging from pet-care to transportation.

vii. Alina will check the library and other public information sources for general HIPPA forms to provide patients.

6. New Business:

a. Replacement battery for the repeater

i. The current backup battery on our VHF repeater is around nine years old, David suggests replacing it with a new one and repurposing the nine-year-old battery into a backup for the GMRS repeater.

ii. David moves to buy a new battery to replace the nine-year-old one. Aaron seconds. Non-opposed, motion carried.

7. For the Good of the Order

a. Blood Drive Updates

i. Next Blood Drive: July 16th

ii. 28 donors attended the last blood drive, with 30 units total collected. 95 total units have been collected this year so far.

iii. Jackie to attend a blood drive coordinator lunch May 15th.

- b. Community open mic
 - i. No community comments.
- 8. Adjourned at 7:41 PM AZ time.

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

Jan 1 thru May 14, 2026

Beginning Checking Balance: \$155,825.71

INCOME: \$23,912.79

Donations: \$6,485.00

Fire Income:

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

Grants: \$3,181.40

Interest Deposit: \$4,476.09

Misc Inc: \$21.21

Phone Book Sales:

Rent: \$100.00

EXPENSES: \$27,407.32

Chief's Meetings:

Dues:

EMS Supply/Equip: \$459.68

EMS Training:

Fire Supply/Equip: \$6,550.96 (*50/50 grant above)

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

Insurance: \$3,281

Heli Membership: \$5,841

Misc. Exp:

Office: \$1,449.41

Radio Ops: \$691.55

Structure Maint:

Uniforms: \$1,693.73

Utilities: \$1,743.03

Vehicle Ops: \$3,420.95

EDWARD JONES CURRENT BALANCE:

Money Market Checking: \$63,741.97

EDWARD JONES CDs: \$300,0000

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

State Bank India NY (3.9%) 30K – 4/8/27

Goldman Sachs (3.7%) 15K 1/27/28

Morgan Stanley (4.%) 30K 4/10/28

CHECKS TO DEPOSIT (\$6,866.00):

Donations: \$6,690

Fundraising Inc: \$56

Phone Book Sales: \$120

CASH TO DEPOSIT:

Donations: \$100

ADDITIONAL CASH ON HAND

Petty Cash on hand: \$119.30

Gift Certificate to Animas Merc: \$30

Excess stamps on hand: \$140.40

BELOW NUMBERS INCLUDE DEPOSITS NOT MADE AND EXPENSE FUNDS FOR FUEL PAYMENT

Total Income to date: \$30,778.78

Total Expenses to date: \$27,407.32

