



## Upcoming Events

### January

#### Legislators' Breakfast

Jan. 10 | 7:30 -9 a.m.

Community Colleg of Aurora - Rotunda Room

#### Business Before Hours

Jan. 12 | 7:30-8:30 a.m.

Aurora Municipal Center Lobby  
15151 E. Alameda Parkway

#### Annual State of the Base

Jan. 12 | 12 -1:30 p.m.

Doubletree Hotel SE

#### ChamberMaster Training

Jan. 13 | 12-1 p.m.

Chamber Office

#### Noontime "Niche" Networking

Jan. 19 | 11:30 a.m.

Carrabba's Italian Grill

#### Business After Hours

Jan. 27 | 5-7 p.m.

Hyatt Summerfield Suites DIA

### February

#### Lunch and Learn Workshop #1

Build Professional Balance and Resilience

Feb. 3 | 3 p.m.

Chamber Office

#### Member Orientation

Feb. 10 | 4-5:30 p.m.

Chamber Office

#### Noontime "Niche" Networking

Feb. 16 | 11:30 a.m.

Lifecare Center of Aurora

#### Lunch and Learn Workshop #2

The Confident Communicator

Feb. 17 | 3 p.m.

#### Women in Business Luncheon

Feb. 18 | 11:30 a.m.

Denver Marriott DTC

#### Business After Hours

Feb. 24 | 5-7 p.m.

Medical Center of Aurora

### Connect With Us!



[www.meetup.com/The-Aurora-Chamber-of-Commerce/](http://www.meetup.com/The-Aurora-Chamber-of-Commerce/)



## Come meet Colorado PTAC at the Chamber

The Colorado Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) has taken up permanent residence at the Chamber – and they mean business!



Colorado PTAC provides no-fee and confidential procurement technical assistance counseling for selling products and services to local, state and federal government agencies.

The non-profit 501(c)3 corporation is funded by federal, state and local grant money and in-kind support. The PTAC partners with universities, community colleges, local economic development centers and other business programs or local institutions – like the Aurora Chamber – to deliver services statewide.

The purpose of the Colorado PTAC is to generate employment and improve the economic condition of the state by assisting Colorado companies, including those eligible for

preferential consideration, in obtaining and performing under local, state and federal contracts.

The PTAC program is based on counseling and education. Counselors provide assistance in a number of areas, including:

- Providing information on government procurement processes and procedures
- Understanding solicitation requirements and terminology
- Searching government databases and identifying opportunities
- Locating specifications and standards
- Reviewing bids and proposals
- Assisting in completing registrations
- Explaining how government entities use electronic transactions
- Researching contract award histories
- Identifying preference eligibility and assisting in completing applicable certifications

If you are interested in learning more about PTAC, contact Tom Thompson, procurement counselor at 303-344-1500 or [T.Thompson@ColoradoPTAC.org](mailto:T.Thompson@ColoradoPTAC.org).

## MEMBER FEATURE:

### Fitzsimons Life Science District - a great place to raise an idea!

The Fitzsimons Life Science District is the center of Colorado's bioscience community and is one of the largest bioscience developments in the country. The District has everything a bioscience company needs to nurture an idea. Within walking distance are world-class research, resources and facilities, all designed to inspire collaboration.

The 184-acre Colorado Science + Technology Park at Fitzsimons can accommodate businesses at incubator stage, multi-building campus stage, or any stage in between. Companies have plenty of room to grow, and they also have access to the core laboratories of the University of Colorado's Anschutz Medical Campus, located just across the street. This collaborative environment provides a great advantage to the growth of Colorado's bioscience and cleantech industries.

There are 35 companies growing in the Park today. These companies are doing research in medical devices, therapeutics, diagnostics, and cleantech. There are also companies located in the Park that provide resources to researchers.

The cutting edge research being done by these companies is important for the future of health care. As an example, Sharklet™ Technologies is one of the incubator companies located in the Bioscience Park Center at Fitzsimons, and they have developed the world's first technology to inhibit bacterial growth through pattern alone. Their antimicrobial surface is comprised of millions of tiny



diamonds arranged in a distinct pattern that mimics the microbe-resistant properties of shark skin. Sharklet™ Technologies is able to place this into adhesive-backed films, and it manufactures the pattern into medical devices and consumer goods to prevent bacteria growth.

But it takes more than research to birth a new product. That's why there are also conference facilities, restaurants, apartments, parks, a hotel — even daycare — growing up right in the neighborhood. Some of these amenities exist today; others are planned for the near future. To learn more about this vital economic engine for Aurora and the State of Colorado, visit [www.FitzScience.com](http://www.FitzScience.com).

*Article provided by Vicki Jennings, Director of Business Development, Fitzsimons Redevelopment Authority.*

Receive  
the **IMPACT**  
online

## Do you want to receive the Chamber IMPACT Newsletter Online only?

If you would like to get the IMPACT newsletter online only, please email [Mitzi.Schindler@aurorachamber.org](mailto:Mitzi.Schindler@aurorachamber.org), and you will no longer receive a printed copy in the mail. Instead, you will get a message via email each month to view the newsletter online.



**Mark Moses**  
*Chair*

# Chair's Letter

**"The State of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce is sound and secure..."**

You may have heard Chamber President Kevin Hougen give this same assessment at our State of the Chamber Breakfast in early December. I'd like take a few minutes of your time to make some observations of my own about the past year—a year in which I have been able to watch our Chamber at work from the inside; first as vice chair, then as chair of this hardworking organization.

First, let me say that I fully agree with Kevin's assessment: the Aurora Chamber is sound and secure. I believe that this is due, for the most part, to the superb management by the president and CEO of this 110 year old institution. Despite some very challenging times, Kevin and his staff have done a great job of maintaining a high level of personal service as well as a high profile as a business advocate in the political arena. And while we've seen some slippage in membership, it hasn't been because businesses and organizations aren't satisfied with their Chamber benefits; it has been because some of our small businesses have simply not been able to survive these difficult times.

And yet, despite these difficult times, the Chamber has realized some successes that benefit members during this past year. We continue to have an outstanding relationship with our military, due in no small part to the **460th Space Wing** commander Col. Clint Crosier, who embodies all the superb qualities we expect from our military leadership. Also, during the year, Colonel Crosier took a personal interest in energizing the Wounded Warrior and Deployed Spouse Support programs, and we have had a substantial number of entities—from business to non-profits—step up and contribute to this dynamic and much-needed program though our Chamber Foundation.

We also witnessed the continued vitality of our community at what proved to be our largest Annual Awards Banquet in 55 years. "International Aurora" was our theme, and it was a blast! We honored 10 of the best of the best in our community including Man of the Year Matt Cook and Woman of the Year Kate Tauer. And, I must confess that I took great pride in standing with my **Outback Steakhouse** colleagues when our organization was named Business of the Year.

The other major Chamber event that I'm very proud to be associated with is the Annual Armed Forces Recognition Luncheon (AFRL). In case you haven't heard, your Aurora Chamber is one of only two chambers in the

State that has a formal relationship with the military through our Defense Council. And while there may have been some drop-off in other areas, the Defense Council has continued to grow. One of the best reflections of that growth is the AFRL. Managed by one of our hardest working board members Suzanne Pitrusu from **Wells Fargo Bank**, and sponsored by **Lockheed Martin**, this luncheon, now in its 34th year, was full to capacity—with close to 700 in attendance.

The strength of our Defense Council under the leadership of Dave Gruber with **Merlin International**, and his vice chair, Lisa Buckley with **American Automation Building Services**, speaks to the inherent vitality of the Chamber.

Another area in which I've seen continued strength is in the Public Issues arena. I have to admit that I'm a novice when it comes to politics and legislation, but our Government Affairs/Education, and Transportation committees have helped me enormously. I take my hat off to Jim Suss (**Suss Buick GMC**), Bob LeGare (**LeGare Commercial Property Mgmt**), Dr. Linda Bowman (**Community College of Aurora**), Jeff Thompson (**University of Colorado Hospital**), Steve Hogan, Chris Fasching (**Felsburg Holt & Ullevig**), and Dave Frazier (**Merrick & Company**). They have led these committees and have had an especially positive impact on all our businesses. Working closely with our lobbyists, **Axiom Strategies**, and with the State Chamber, I've also seen the positive influence these committees have had on our hardworking state legislators.

Speaking of positive influences, we all owe a debt of gratitude to Kevin who put an inordinate amount of time and energy into defeating the "ugly three" measures on the November ballot—Amendments 60-61 and Proposition 101—effectively saving millions of dollars and an estimated 73,000 jobs. If you have had any doubts about the value of your Chamber membership to you business, this alone should erase them.

Yes, the State of the Chamber is sound and strong, and growing stronger. You can be certain that with your ongoing support, we will continue to rally efforts that ultimately lead to job creation. And you can rest assured that your Chamber will continue to do everything possible to protect and enhance our business climate.

Together, through the strength of your membership, we will bring Aurora and the Eastern Metro area back to realizing the strength and vitality we know it has.

## The Chamber's Mission

The mission of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce is to serve as a voice for the business community, acting as an advocate for its members on issues that affect their growth and long-term economic vitality.

## DON'T FORGET: "Every employee of a Chamber member is a member of The Chamber"

Please route this issue to your sales reps, account managers, marketing directors, HR and PR departments. You can also access each month's newsletter online at our website, [www.aurorachamber.org](http://www.aurorachamber.org), so you can forward it to every employee in your company!

## Chamber Board

### Executive Directors

*Chair of the Board*  
Mark Moses | Outback Steakhouses  
*Chair Elect*  
David Gruber | Merlin International  
*Secretary*  
Judy Booth | Fitzsimons Credit Union  
*Treasurer*  
David Maxwell | 1st Bank of Aurora  
*Immediate Past Chair*  
Craig Ward | Padgett Business Services

*Past Chair Once Removed*  
Jo Snell | E-470 Public Hwy. Authority

*Vice Chair-Healthcare*  
Bob Barké | BAR-K Insurance Solutions

*Vice Chair-Business Development*  
Harrison Cochran | Aurora Sentinel

*Vice Chair-Member Services*  
Tammy Fernandez | University of Phoenix

*Vice Chair-Public Affairs*  
Jeff Thompson | University of Colorado Hospital

### Directors

Rich Allison | *Adolfson & Peterson Construction Company*  
Joe Barela | *Arapahoe/Douglas Works! Workforce Center*  
Bill Becker | *Adams County Economic Development*  
Brigadier General Trulan Eyre | *140th Wing COANG*  
Mickey Hunt | *Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs*  
Bob Jamieson | *Mutual of Omaha*  
Todd Landgrave | *Northrop Grumman*  
Michael Martin | *Qwest Communications*  
John McCloy | *Westerra Credit Union*  
Todd Miller | *City of Centennial*  
Wendy Mitchell | *Aurora Economic Development Council*  
Alfonso Nuñez | *La Cueva Restaurant*  
David Patterson | *Rural/Metro Ambulance*  
Suzanne Pitrusu | *Wells Fargo Bank*  
Jim Suss | *Suss Buick, GMC*  
The Honorable Ed Tauer | *Mayor, City of Aurora*  
Julie Taylor | *The Medical Center of Aurora*  
Dwight Taylor | *Edwards & Taylor LLC*  
Frank Weddig | *Commissioner, Arapahoe County*  
Michael Wukitsch | *The Children's Hospital*

### Staff

*President & CEO*  
Kevin Hougen  
*Sales & Marketing*  
Naomi Colwell  
*Leadership Director*  
Kimberly Curtis  
*Secretary*  
Janice Cooper  
*Finance Director*  
Linda Lillyblad  
*Senior Vice President*  
George Peck  
*VP, Membership Development*  
Paul Rosenberg  
*Communications*  
Mitzi Schindler  
*Membership Services*  
Mary Beth Sharp  
.....  
*Newsletter Design*  
Mario Waller / Six & Six, inc.

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## Save the Dates!

### January 10, 2011 Legislators' Breakfast

Join fellow Chamber members for a continental breakfast and the opportunity to talk with veteran and freshman members of the Eastern Metro delegation to the Colorado General Assembly.

### January 12, 2011 State of the Base

Featuring Col. Clint Crosier, Commander, 460th Space Wing

### February 18, 2011 Women Making a Difference Luncheon

Join us as we celebrate extraordinary women who make a difference in our community. Guest speaker: Polly Letofsky, the first woman to walk around the world.

### April 8, 2011 Annual Chamber Awards Banquet

Celebrating those who make substantial contributions to the Aurora Chamber of Commerce or the Aurora Community

For more information about these events, go to [www.aurorachamber.org](http://www.aurorachamber.org) or call 303-344-1500.



## Scott Mueller and Ken Preuss exemplify commitment to Ambassadors

Most Chamber members know the Ambassadors as a group of fun-loving people – easily identified by their golden name badges – who greet people at the Business Before Hours (BBH) and Business After Hours (BAH). However, some members might not know that the Ambassadors also spend time each month delivering new and renewal member packets, and attending ribbon cuttings and Ambassador meetings – in addition to the BBH and BAH.

In order to be an Ambassador, Chamber members must apply and be accepted into the program, as well as able to commit to four-to-six hours per month for the above listed responsibilities. The Ambassadors of the Aurora Chamber are a highly participative group, and their hard work and gift of time is greatly appreciated by the Chamber staff. You know that people are committed when they give their

time – which is a priceless gift, indeed!

In the Nov/Dec 2010 Impact newsletter, 14 “Essential Piece” winners were listed. Each of these dedicated Ambassadors receive a commemorative puzzle piece pin that attaches to their name badges, for each year that they receive the award. Scott Mueller with **MuellerTime Designs** and Ken Preuss with **E Travel Unlimited**, share the honor of being third year winners – just piling up the puzzle pieces! It takes dedication and loyalty to the Chamber to do what they have consistently done for the past three years, and they deserve special thanks and recognition for all of their hard work and efforts.

If you're interested in being a part of the Chamber's high-energy Ambassador program contact Mary Beth Sharp at 303.344.1500 or email her at [marybeth.sharp@aurorachamber.org](mailto:marybeth.sharp@aurorachamber.org).

## Where in the world?

In November of 2010, Chamber members received a survey about their interest in a “Global” Networking trip. The survey asked six questions pertaining to where, when, why and how much, about a potential international trip—and the results are in! When asked “Which country most appeals to you for potential business opportunities?”, of the six locations offered, Canada fared best with 28.08 percent; followed by Mexico at 15.68 percent; then Switzerland at 15.18 percent; followed by Japan and India both at 14.42 percent; and China at 12.22 percent. The second question pertained to what kind of business interactions members would like to experience on a trip like this. Although healthcare was the top scorer of the given areas of interest, followed by finance and insurance, IT, manufacturing, and hospitality— 47 percent of respondents chose to provide their own area



of interest. These include education, media, tourism, logistics, travel, art, pharmaceuticals, consulting, motivational speaking, prison operations, photography and professional services. The third and fourth questions asked about cost and when people would like to travel. A

majority of respondents (77.3 percent) would be willing to pay approximately \$2,000-\$3,000 for an 8-10 day trip, and 34.9 percent would like to travel in the spring. In response to the fifth question, a majority of 81 percent would like to bring their spouse and/or a friend on the journey.

Finally, of the 45 members who responded to the survey, the majority are between 40-49 years old, followed by the age groups of 50-59, 30-39, 60+ and 18-29, respectively. Based on these survey results, the Chamber will explore available possibilities for a Chamber networking trip—probably in the spring of 2012!

## Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration

January 9-17 marks the City of Aurora's Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration celebration. The events kick off with a performance by the Aurora Symphony Brass Quintet and other multicultural music and dancers on Sunday, January 9, at the Red Lion Hotel, SE at 3200 S. Parker Rd.

For more information about the January 9 event and the additional events through January 17, go to [www.auroragov.org](http://www.auroragov.org).





# Member News

## A&P welcomes new director of human capital

**Adolfson & Peterson Construction** (A&P) has appointed JoAnn Stork as their new director of Human Capital. Stork is a human capital professional with experience leading human resource organizations in a variety of industries.

"We are delighted to welcome JoAnn to our team, to build and strengthen the people side of our business," said Doug Jaeger, A&P's CEO. "Her experience partnering with diverse geographic regions, coupled with her depth of knowledge in the human capital area, makes her a great fit for A&P as our business continues to expand."

## APD names Sentinel "Business of the Year"

Cops Fighting Cancer named the **Aurora Sentinel** as their 2010 "Business of the Year." **Aurora Police Department** Officer

Jim Seneca commended The Sentinel – and its president and publisher, Harrison Cochran – as a major factor of the success of the program. The **Aurora Sentinel** has been a dedicated supporter of Cops Fighting Cancer since its inception eight years ago.



Harrison Cochran (left) and Jim Seneca

## Centennial is safest city in Colorado

For the sixth consecutive year, **Centennial** is ranked as the safest city in Colorado with a population of more than 75,000.

"I am proud that **Centennial** has once again made the list as the safest city in Colorado. Thank you to our Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office for continuing to keep all of us safe," said Mayor Cathy Noon.

## Perlmutter's efforts spare 450 jobs

**Congressman Ed Perlmutter** saved 450 jobs at Raytheon and Ball Aerospace, by successfully lobbying to keep a Colorado-based satellite project studying climate change in tact that was slated to be eliminated this year. The program, called the Joint Polar Satellite System, is funded through the National Oceanic Atmospheric Institute and is part of the 40-year project recording climate data and monitoring climate change.

## Arapahoe County purchases land for regional trail

Plans are underway to provide a new trailhead with access to the Cherry Creek Regional Trail and opportunities for wildlife viewing now that Arapahoe County has purchased land for open space in Centennial. In December, Arapahoe County bought approximately 13 acres at 15200 E Arapahoe Road, adjacent to the Cherry Creek Soccer Complex for \$735,000 using Arapahoe County Open Space funds. The vacant land consists of 3.5 acres historically used as a private tree farm and 9.5 acres of Cherry Creek that features diverse vegetation and wildlife habitat. The purchase is part of the County's master plan for developing an inter-connected system of open space, parks and trails, protecting water resources and conserving prime wildlife habitats. To learn more about the County's Open Space program, visit [www.co.arapahoe.co.us](http://www.co.arapahoe.co.us) and sign up to receive the Open Space newsletter.



Robert Streblow

## Streblow joins Merrick Consultancy

Robert Streblow has joined the **Merrick Consultancy**, a management, technical, and operations consulting service provider focused on the renewable, refining, and utilities markets. As a consulting team member, Streblow will



First place, grades 7-8: Isabella Ello, 8th grade, Fox Ridge Middle School, for Happiness is...finally getting a dog.

focus on renewable energy projects for clients located throughout the Americas. His work will include consulting services in program and project development, construction management, equipment and operations trouble shooting, energy audits and problem solving, and contract management.

## Local students honored through art by AMHC

The 2010 annual celebration and art contest, "Living Life to the Fullest," received 429 pieces of art from 27 local schools. Top honors were given to 12 students for their entries. The contest is sponsored by **Aurora Mental Health Center**, and the awards were presented at AMHC's 35th Annual Celebration, and 4th Annual Art Contest and Show. This event offers an opportunity for AMHC to make available their wealth of information about mental health and wellness.

## Chamber participates in Buckley Newcomers

The Aurora Chamber has been invited to be part of the monthly Newcomer's Orientation at **Buckley AFB**. That puts us in front of 40-50 military members, their families and DoD civilians each month who are reporting in to the many units supported by Buckley throughout the area. The Chamber distributes materials to orient them to their new home in the Eastern metro area including maps, an Aurora Guide, and information on recreation opportunities in the area. We think they would also be interested in other benefits that Chamber members may have to offer, such as discount cards and other special offers for military and their families. If you have something you would like to present to new military members and their families as they arrive at their new assignment at Buckley, please contact George Peck at the Chamber to discuss your ideas.

## Notary service available for Chamber members

Janice Cooper, receptionist and administrative specialist at the Aurora Chamber, is certified by the Colorado Secretary of State to serve as a Notary Public. Notary services are free for Chamber members and non-members will be charged a fee commensurate with the type of document notarized. For more information, call Janice at 303-344-1500.

## Aurora Center for Life Skills wins Eli Lilly Award



Left to Right: Ralph Aquila, MD, chair, Lilly Reintegration Awards Judging Panel; Sarah Avrin, PhD, ACLS Program Director, **Aurora Mental Health Center**; Suzi Scherzer, MS, LPC, ACLS, therapist, **Aurora Mental Health Center**; and Bart Peterson, Senior Vice President, Corporate Affairs and Communications at Lilly USA, LLC.

Aurora Center for Life Skills, a program of the **Aurora Mental Health Center**, received the first place award for Clinical Medicine from Eli Lilly and Company at their 2010 National Lilly Reintegration Awards ceremony. The awards recognize mental health professionals and individuals battling severe mental illness, for their exceptional contributions and achievements. Specifically, the awards honor treatment teams, programs and services that assist those with severe mental illness as they re-enter the community.

"The Lilly Reintegration Award is an affirmation that what we do is important in supporting clients in their recovery process. It is gratifying to be recognized for treatment that we know to be effective, and to know that an effective treatment will be available to more people, and that they will have the opportunity to recover, achieve life goals, and significantly improve their quality of life," said Randy Stith, PhD, CEO and executive director of the **Aurora Mental Health Center**.

# “Rib” and Ribbon Cuttings



**A little to the left** – Aurora City Council member Bob Broom guides *Famous Dave's* General Manager Matt Duguay as he makes the first cut at the “Rib Cutting,” signifying the grand opening of the newest *Famous Dave's* at the Cornerstar Shopping Center located at the southwest corner of the intersection of Parker Rd. and Arapahoe Rd. The two are closely supervised by Wilbur, *Famous Dave's* famous mascot. Famous Dave's serves award-winning BBQ ribs, chicken and BBQ sandwiches in a unique and family-friendly atmosphere.



**A good time was had by all** – On November 4, 2010, the *Quality Inn and Suites DIA* celebrated their renovation with an open house. Wendy Stone, sales manager, cuts the ribbon as employees, guests and Chamber Ambassadors pose for the picture! *Quality Inn* employees in the photo include Pam Hill, general manager, and Karmen Macklin and Shevel Land, guest services representatives. In addition, sales managers from the other Campbell Lodging, Inc. properties were on hand for the festivities, including Jane Jazayrli, Katie Provot, Billie Jo Perez, Lisa Burk, Annie Clark, and Mirinda Sildack. Guests at the *Quality Inn & Suites* can enjoy a number of free services and amenities, including full hot Q Corner Café Breakfast, high-speed Internet access, 24-hour airport shuttle service, local calls, and an Exercise room at the newly renovated property at 6890 Tower Road. (Photo courtesy Brian Molitoris, Photographer)



By Sharon Perry

Attending the Leadership Aurora Police Session brought back childhood memories of a desire to become a police officer because the fast-paced action appealed to me – and the speakers did not disappoint. The traffic cops spoke of catching drivers exceeding speeds of 100 MPH; The DART team displayed drugs, weapons and talked about street crime cases; and Larry Martinez exposed us to what Gang Life is like, and let the class know it is everywhere. For me, the most exciting part of the day was being at the Range; securing the area within the warehouse was incredible. I was so engaged in the exercise that I became disheartened when it had to end!

Firing an M4 was an added thrill, and then being attacked by a trained dog was as good as being sworn in, so I stopped for a Charlie's Angel photo opportunity. It was only fitting that the day should finish with a bang.

## Police Session



Posing for their “Charlie's Angels” moment during the Leadership Aurora Police Session are Andrea Williams, *Mesa Systems, Inc.*; Kim Sopoci, *Kim Sopoci Private Fitness Studio*; and Sharon Perry, *Citywide Banks*.

I have the utmost respect for the Aurora Police department. The officers work in high risk situations to protect the citizens. A great deal can be attributed to the leadership of Chief of Police Dan Oates, who does an exceptional job of building good will for the organization.

## Colorado Human Resource Association announces expansion in Aurora

Colorado Human Resource Association (CHRA) is excited to announce their expansion in Aurora in 2011. As a start, CHRA is hosting an introductory mixer at the Aurora Chamber of Commerce offices from 4-6:30 pm on Wednesday, January 12, 2011. Join us in a toast to the New Year – and CHRA will provide wine, beer and appetizers. CHRA President, Sylvia Francis, SPHR, and members of the CHRA Board will be available to discuss the benefits of joining CHRA, which is an affiliated chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management, the national professional organization for HR professionals. For more information and to register, go to [www.CHRA.org](http://www.CHRA.org) and click on calendar of events at the top of the page.

Human resource professionals should also plan to attend the 2011 CHRA Human Resources Conference: It's a ZOO out there! The conference will be held on January 21, at Invesco Field at Mile High. Expert speakers will share their hard-earned tips and trick of the trade, and will offer a view of what's new in their fields, as well as what's looming on the horizon.

Participants can earn more than six hours of HR Certification Institute credits, and can expand expertise in the following tracks:

- Legal & Benefits – talking about the 800 pound gorilla in the room
- Organizational Development – taking your organization to new heights
- Leadership – soaring above the rest
- Sustainability, Technology and Diversity – integrating your HR world

For more information and to register, go to <https://m360.chra.org/>, and click on calendar of events at the top of the page.



# State of the Chamber event serves as platform for presentation of 2010 Sloan Awards

The Dec. 10 State of the Chamber breakfast provided members with a broad overview of what their Chamber had been involved in during 2010. It also served as an ideal occasion to present the 2010 Alfred P. Sloan Awards for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility.

Caitlin Ward, programs and communications coordinator at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Institute for a Competitive Workforce began her presentation by explaining how the Sloan Awards came to be. She said that for many years, the U.S. Chamber had been asked for assistance in identifying effective workplace practices that would help businesses recruit talented workers as well as retain their best performers. The answer was to join forces with the Twiga Foundation and Families and Work Institute to promote the Alfred P. Sloan Awards for Workplace Flexibility; a program that has proven to be a great success.

The Aurora Chamber is proud to be involved in these efforts to encourage more effective, more efficient workplaces. The four companies honored this year exemplify workplace flexibility:

**Arapahoe/Douglas Works!** has done a great deal to engage staff with activities such as events during the workday, socials, and jeans days as well as by providing access to paid training programs and tuition reimbursement for participation in higher education programs. Leadership at the organization recognizes the importance of placing employees in positions where they can excel – which results in the continued success of the organization. In fact, last year **Arapahoe/Douglas Works!** met or exceeded all performance goals set for the fiscal year, and is on track to do the same this year.

**Aurora Mental Health Center** brings employees together through leadership training, faith-based programs, and focus groups. And employees appreciate the organization's flexibility and innovation, exemplified by allowing those who work together to work out their schedules among themselves, and also encouraging them to come up with creative ways to complete tasks. The Center's recognition program rewards employees for their innovation, because the **Aurora Mental Health Center** recognizes that "when our employees are happy, that the place runs better."

Since the **E-470 Public Highway Authority's** establishment in 1988, they have been involved in a number of successful workforce effectiveness programs, both through technology and inter-personal relationships. On-site, employees take part in educational "Lunch and Learns," and pot-lucks. Another benefit is employee access to an on-site workout room, which keeps turnover and sick-day usage low, by helping them to stay well and to manage stress through exercise. Other initiatives include flexible work schedules for special situations, and remote access to desktops and voicemail which increases efficiency and productivity. **E-470** is a charitable organization, which gives back to the community – as well as to its employees.

McGladrey, Incorporated, who was unable to attend the event to receive their award, provides financial, business consulting, CPA, tax and professional services to hundreds of client firms in more than 75 countries world-wide, and also provides a work environment that helps each employee reach their personal and professional goals. Their commitment to this is further solidified by their 2008 "Declaration of Flexibility" under which they guaranteed a long list of flexible work options.

For more information about the awards or how to apply, contact [mitzi.schindler@aurorachamber.org](mailto:mitzi.schindler@aurorachamber.org), or visit <http://whenworkworks.org>.



Left to right: Caitlin Ward, U.S. Chamber of Commerce; Tawney Bass, AMHC Special Events Coordinator; Peter Cukale, AMHC Board Member; Cindy Bohl, AMHC PR Director; and Marsha Berzins, AMHC Board Member and Aurora City Council.  
(Photo courtesy Brian Molitoris, Photographer)



Left to right: Kelly Folks, Talent AD Works! Development Manager; Najwa Khalaf, AD Works! Talent Enhancement Manager; Caitlin Ward, U.S. Chamber of Commerce; Joe Barela, Director of AD Works!; and Danny Sisneros, AD Works! Talent Placement Manager.  
(Photo courtesy Brian Molitoris, Photographer)

Left to right: John McCuskey, E-470 Executive Director; Caitlin Ward, U.S. Chamber of Commerce; and Jo Snell, E-470 Manager of Community/Public Relations and former Aurora Chamber of Commerce Board Chair.  
(Photo courtesy Brian Molitoris, Photographer)



# Acknowledging those who sponsor those who serve

The Aurora Credit Union Alliance and **Rural Metro Ambulance** were given plaques of appreciation for their sponsorship of the 2010 Armed Forces Recognition Luncheon (AFRL).



(left to right) Dave Gruber, **Merlin International**; David Patterson, **Rural Metro Ambulance**; and Suzanne Pitrusu, **Wells Fargo Bank**—who was also honored for her tireless work as chair of the AFRL.

(left to right) Mark Moses, **Outback Steakhouse** and Aurora Chamber board chair; Judy Booth, **Fitzsimons Credit Union**; John McCloy, **Westerra Credit Union**; and Suzanne Pitrusu. **Fitzsimons Credit Union** and **Westerra Credit Union** accepted the honor for The Aurora Credit Union Alliance – of which both credit unions are members.

## Aurora Rotary names top First Responders

Eleven people were honored as tops in their professions at the annual **Aurora Rotary First Responders Luncheon**. The gathering at the **Red Lion Hotel Denver SE** honored police officers, fire fighters and emergency medical technicians (EMTs) “for acts of heroism and going above and beyond the call of duty to serve our community,” said Tom Nicholas, president of the club.

Award winners included **Rural Metro** EMTs Michael Curtis and Julian Eighmy, as well as telecommunicator Ethel Nelson who works in the Tallyn’s Reach Municipal Center Consolidated Dispatch Center.

Firefighters with the **Aurora Fire Department** who were honored include Capt. John Hill, Lt. Laure Bridges and Sergeant Christopher Poppe. **Aurora Police Department** officers who were singled out for their extraordinary work include Officers Luke Mossburgh, Patrick McGinty, Joseph Duran and Dave Gallegos, as well as Detective Warren Miller.

Stephen Brunston of **Colorado Insurance Professionals** used the occasion to also raise funds for the Aurora Police Reward Fund that is managed by the **Aurora Chamber Foundation**, which Brunston helped to establish several years ago. **Body Beautiful Collision Repair** owners Joe and Janine Little, joined with the Aurora Rotary in matching all contributions up to \$1,000.


Guest speaker United States Attorney for the District of Colorado Joe Walsh told the crowd of nearly 500 that the Aurora Public Safety team is one of the top in the nation. He singled out the **Aurora Police Department** under the leadership of Chief Dan Oates for extraordinary support in antiterrorism efforts in the area, calling the work done by **APD** as a model for other departments to follow.

## Presenting the 2011 Women in Business Executive Board



Left to right: Karen Loucks-Rinedollar, the Interface Financial Group; Naomi Colwell, Aurora Chamber of Commerce; Sandie Preuss, E Travel Unlimited; Debora Gilliard, Metropolitan State College of Denver; and Marcy McGovern, Alternatives Pregnancy Center.





# Get yourself – and your car – ready for ice and snow

Here's a cold fact about winter driving: The leading cause of death during winter storms is transportation accidents. The good news is that by preparing your car for the winter season, your travels this winter — for work and for play — can be safer and less stressful.

## Be prepared:

- Know what your car can and cannot do in the snow. Be aware of whether you have front, rear, part-time or full-time four-wheel drive; antilock brakes; traction control; and stability control. Then make sure you know how all these things work and how they help or won't help you. You can practice driving in an empty parking lot on a snowy day so you know what to expect from your car in winter-driving conditions.
- Keep an emergency kit in your car with the following items: A car charger for your mobile phone; a snowbrush, ice scraper, collapsible shovel and bag of sand or kitty litter (for traction); extra windshield-washer fluid; an emergency blanket; warm gloves, hat, jacket and boots; jumper cables; water and non-

perishable snacks; a small LED flashlight; and flares and/or reflective triangles for visibility.

- Check your antifreeze level; fill your windshield-wiper reservoir with winter fluid; check your wiper blades to make sure they clean the windshield effectively; and replace tires that have worn spots or inadequate tread depth. Consider snow tires if you regularly drive in unplowed areas, even if you have all-wheel drive; they will not only help you get started, but also increase your traction when braking and turning.
- Keep your gas tank close to full. If you get stuck or stranded, the engine will be your only source of heat. You can run the engine indefinitely at idle (without harming it) to stay warm as long as you have gas.
- Listen to the radio for the latest road conditions or call 303.639.1111 for recorded Colorado road and weather information.

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*Article provided by Pinnacol Assurance.*

## Renewals

401(k) Advisors USA  
A-1 Discount Water  
AAA Colorado  
A Balanced Sole Reflexology  
AFLAC – John Reeves  
Aloft Denver International Airport  
Alpine Carstar Auto Body  
Altos Veterinary Clinic  
American National Insurance/  
Jerry Gray  
Approval Reverse Mortgage  
Arapahoe County Commissioner  
Arapahoe/Douglas Works!  
Workforce Center  
ARES Corporation  
Aurora Business Women  
Aurora Firefighters  
Protective Association  
Aurora Office of Emergency  
Management  
Aurora Police Department:  
Aurora Police Association  
Aurora Public Schools  
Education Foundation  
Aurora Public Schools  
Nutrition Services  
Aurora Sentinel  
BAR-K Insurance Solutions, Inc.  
Bellco Credit Union -  
Havana & Mississippi  
Bent Fork American Grill  
Bestway Disposal  
Beverage Distributors  
Blackjack Pizza  
Bob LeGare  
Brian Molitoris, Photographer  
Broadstone Cornerstar  
Canyons at Saddlerock Apartments  
CARIMA Colorado Inc.  
Carrabba's Italian Grill  
Cherry Creek Insurance Group  
Cherry Creek School District #5  
Chinese Divine Culture Association  
City Lights Apartments

Citywide Banks  
Coldwell Banker - Jerri Grable Mullis  
Component Specialties, Inc.  
Colorado Lending Source  
Concentra Medical Centers –  
Southeast/Iliff  
Cops Fighting Cancer  
Corporate Allocation Services  
Craig Wagner Law Firm  
Crowne Plaza Hotel DIA  
CSL Plasma  
David Evans & Associates, Inc.  
DPRA, Inc.  
Embassy Suites – DTC  
Enterprise Rent A Car  
Everest College  
Excelsior Youth Center  
FirstBank - Aurora - Havana Branch  
Forest City Stapleton, Inc.  
Foxridge Farm  
Front Range Airport  
George "Mel" Rawles  
Goodwill Industries of Denver  
Graebel/Denver Movers, Inc.  
Hampton Inn & Suites  
Denver Cherry Creek  
Handyman Matters of Central Denver  
Hillcrest Village  
Holiday Inn Denver East – Stapleton  
Holiday Inn Express-Aurora  
Intermountain Rural Electric  
Association  
Ironstone Bank  
Jason's Deli  
Joe's Crab Shack  
Landtech Contractors Inc.  
Legends of Aurora Sports Grill  
Lockheed Martin  
Lupita's Restaurant  
Marquis Marble, Inc.  
May Farms  
Members Federal Credit Union  
Metro Community Provider Network  
Michael Baker Corporation

Modular Interiors, Inc.  
Music Go Round  
National Association of Insurance  
& Finance  
Nancy Todd, State Representative  
Nelowet Business Machines, Ltd.  
New York Life  
NextCare Urgent Care  
NextGen Software  
Nilar, Inc.  
Northrop Grumman  
Oakwood Homes, LLC  
Omnitech Industries, Inc.  
Precision Glassblowing of Colorado  
Protection One  
Quality Inn & Suites - DIA  
Red Lion Hotel Denver Central  
Renaissance Denver Hotel  
Residence Inn Denver AirportRocky  
Mountain Urgent Care  
Rocky Mountain USO at DIA  
S & S Plumbing Services, Inc.  
Safeway, Inc.  
Seko Worldwide  
Sheraton DTC Hotel  
Sinton Dairy  
Stan's Alignment & Brake Service, Inc.  
Staybridge Suites Denver –  
Cherry Creek  
Summit Interiors  
Surgical Consultants of Aurora  
T. Charles Wilson Insurance Service  
Total Welding, Inc.  
Waste Management of Colorado  
Wave Audio Visual, Inc.  
Wells Fargo Bank  
Southlands  
Women Marines Association  
CO Columbine  
Westwind Management Group, Inc.  
Yellow Book USA  
Your World Our Lens, LLC

## NEW MEMBERS

AFLAC – Sarah Reavis  
Always Best Care Denver  
American Coach, Inc.  
Benefits & Incentives Group, Inc.  
Copper Canyon Basement Finishing, LLC  
Edward Jones – H.B. Smart II  
Executive Transportation  
Infiniti of Denver  
Marie Leslie Photography  
Merlin International, Inc.  
Military Events  
N.J.T. Marketing  
Office Depot #2640  
State Farm Insurance- Philip Willner  
Tanny Academy of Martial Arts  
Top Gunn, Ink  
Tribalco