



## Upcoming Events

### Business before Hours

March 11 | 7:30 a.m.  
Smoky Hill Library  
(Smoky Hill & Biscay)

### Member Orientation

March 12 | 4 p.m.  
Aurora Chamber  
(Sixth & Sable)

### Women in Business

Unsung Heroes Breakfast  
March 14 | 7:30 a.m.  
Doubletree Hotel SE  
(Iliff & I-225)

### Mid Term Legislator's Breakfast

March 17 | 7:15 a.m.  
The Medical Center of Aurora  
North Campus (6th & Potomac)

### Business after Hours

March 27 | 4:30 p.m.  
Holiday Inn Express  
(Florida & Abilene)

## Save the Date

### 53rd Chamber Awards Banquet

April 11 | 6 p.m.



Raddison Hotel  
RSVP by March 28

## Newsletter Online

Don't forget that the monthly *IMPACT* is on our Web site before you get it in the mail! The newsletter is sent via bulk mail at the end of every month, and can take up to 14 days to get into your hands.

The monthly package you receive in the mail is chock full of offers and information from your fellow Chamber members, as well as registration forms and meeting notices from The Chamber. Be sure to open it and look through the flyers as well as the newsletter!

# State of Economy Breakfast leaves attendees hopeful

A leading University of Colorado economist was joined by local economic developers to give Chamber members a look at the health of the Colorado economy.

Dr. Richard Wobbekind led a panel that included Aurora Economic Development Vice President Dick Hinson and Centennial's new economic development specialist Corri Spiegel.

They told about 180 people who attended the State of the Economy Breakfast on Feb. 20 that while the State and the Eastern Metro area were not experiencing the kind of high tempo growth it had in years past, the economy was far from failing.

Hinson pointed out that Aurora was well placed to continue to grow steadily especially in the aerospace and medical arenas thanks to **Buckley Air Force Base** and the activities on the Fitzsimons Campus.

In fact all pointed out that one of the biggest challenges Colorado and the Eastern metro area faced was finding enough qualified workers to fill the



**Smile if you have confidence** — ...in the economy that is. Joining together for a post event photo op following the highly successful State of the Economy breakfast on Feb. 20 are (l-r) Dr. Richard Wobbekind, CU Leeds School of Business; Bob Barké, The Chamber Chair; Corri Spiegel, Centennial Economic Development; Carol Reed, Aurora Board of Realtors; Dick Hinson, Aurora Economic Development Council; and Kevin Hougen, The Chamber President.

jobs that were continuing to expand at firms like **Raytheon, Northrop Grumman** and the **University of Colorado Hospital and Health Sciences Center**.

The breakfast, presented by The Chamber and the **Aurora Realtors Association** was sponsored by **1stBank of Colorado** and **Pinnacol Assurance**.

Dr. Wobbekind, who is Director of the Business Research at the University of Colorado's Leeds School of Business, was optimistic about Colorado's business future telling the crowd that while growth had not continued at the breakneck tempo of a few years ago, the state continued at steady pace in all the leading indicators.

## WIB Unsung Heroes Breakfast is "feel good" event

One of The Chamber's newest events will be held on Friday, March 14 at the Doubletree Hotel SE at Iliff & I-225.

The Women Making a Difference Breakfast, sponsored by the **Aurora Credit Union Alliance**, is a celebration of Unsung Heroes in business and in their community according to Janine Little of **Body Beautiful** who chairs the Women in Business Committee for The Chamber. "If you want to enjoy a really upbeat, feel good event, this is the one for you," said Little.

In addition to honoring a number



Jeannie Ritter

of women who have been nominated from throughout the community, the breakfast will feature as guest speaker perhaps one of the most important "behind the scenes" women in the State, Colorado First Lady Jeannie Ritter. "Jeannie Ritter is and inspirational leader who is a perfect fit for this event," said Naomi Colwell who is The Chamber liaison for the Women in Business Committee. "Between an outstanding

### Women Making a Difference Breakfast

March 14, 7:30 a.m.  
Doubletree Hotel SE  
(I-225 & Iliff)

group of women nominees and First Lady Ritter, this is one gathering you won't want to miss."

Cost for the breakfast is \$30 per person or \$300 for a table of ten. Call Trisha at 303-344-1500 or go to The Chamber website, [www.aurorachamber.org](http://www.aurorachamber.org), for details.



**Kevin Hougen**  
*President & CEO*

As we enter into the second half of the legislative year at the Colorado State Capitol, it's been an interesting year already. The spotlight has been shining bright on our legislators! We normally see good business people kicking and screaming to get their legislation passed, this year it's just a little different. We have already had a legislator kick his way into the front pages of our daily newspapers and one respected member resign over inappropriate behavior.

Even though we have seen some shocking behavior from this year's general assembly, we have seen some promising pro-business legislation taking a hold in 2008.

Business Personal Property Tax Threshold – the object of this bill is to raise the threshold of the business personal property tax exemption from \$2,500 up to \$7,000 over a 4-year period. By raising the threshold, we will exempt an additional 30,000 small businesses from having to pay and file for this onerous tax.

Bioscience Grant Program – this bill will create a \$3.5 million bioscience fund that will provide grants for offices of technology transfer and early stage bioscience companies. This fund is one of many steps our state is taking to continue to build

## President's Letter

our bioscience sector at the Fitzsimons Campus in Aurora.

Christmas in August – We were hopeful that when House Bill 1271 was introduced this year that the Legislature would step up to create a retail tax suspension in August for low income families as they buy necessities for their children as they go back to school. A number of states around the country have a “tax free holiday” and the results are amazing not only for low income families but for the local retail trade also. Unfortunately, the bill was postponed indefinitely shortly before we went to press.

The Chamber is opposing a number of introduced bills as they are currently written. The following two bills are unfriendly bills to the business community;

House Bill 1141 is a water bill as written is a thinly veiled anti-growth measure that would not allow any municipality, developer or builder to obtain a building permit unless they could prove that they have a renewable water supply for the next 100 years. Hope your crystal ball is as good as these legislators think it is...

Senate Bill 84 has such restrictive terms that nothing could be built in or on the current Lowry Range (land east of the Aurora Reservoir). Even a home owner wanting to add on an outside deck to their home, would not be allowed to. We are opposed to restrictive mandates such as this. The good news is that at press time the bill has been postponed indefinitely.

House Bill 1020 creates a clear disincentive for a plaintiff to accept a reasonable offer of settlement

because even a nominal finding in favor of the plaintiff would require that the defense pay all the plaintiff's pre-offer costs. It will discourage the settling of cases, increase the number of cases we have in court and it will increase the litigation costs for all businesses.

Though it seems like the 2008 political season started sometime last year, this is an important year for all of Colorado. The Democratic Convention in August will place a spotlight on Colorado that we have not seen in years past. Colorado's prospects for growth and prosperity could be heavily influenced by the outcomes at the General Assembly this year. All community leaders and business people need to ask our elected officials where they stand on keeping the Colorado economy strong and competitive. The next time you see one of our elected officials at a Chamber event, neighborhood meeting, city event or at the local supermarket, ask them if they want to prevent frivolous lawsuits, new regulation, and big taxes that could cripple our economy even further. Please ask them if they support public schools, support energy and health care reform to make them more affordable. And ask them if they support investments in transportation to ease our congested highways and save lives. Attend one of the numerous events we have this year, like the Legislator's Breakfast at The Medical Center of Aurora on March 17. Get involved, make change —informed change — for the communities we all call home.

### 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!

### 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.

### Board of Directors

*Chair of the Board*  
Bob Barké | BAR-K Insurance Solutions

*Chair Elect*  
Jo Snell | E-470 Public Hwy. Authority

*Secretary*  
Diane Garcia | 2G Associates

*Treasurer*  
David Patterson | Rural/Metro Ambulance

*Immediate Past Chair*  
Dr. Linda Bowman | Community College of Aurora

*Past Chair Once Removed*  
Dale Mingilton | Element Photography

*Vice Chair-Business Development*  
Margo Jamison | Kaiser Permanente

*Vice Chair-Community Services*  
Craig Ward | Padgett Business Services

*Vice Chair-Public Affairs*  
Jim Suss | Suss Buick, Pontiac, GMC

*Vice Chair-Member Services*  
Dr. Kathy Boyle | University of Colorado Denver Health Sciences Center

### Directors

Rich Allison | *Adolfson & Peterson Construction Company*  
Bob Barké | *BAR-K Insurance Solutions*  
Joe Barela | *Arapahoe/Douglas Works! Workforce Center*  
Bill Becker | *Adams County Economic Development*  
Judy Booth | *Fitzsimons Community Federal Credit Union*  
Dr. Linda Bowman | *Community College of Aurora*  
Dr. Kathy Boyle | *University of Colorado Hospital*  
Brigadier General Trulan Eyre | *140th Wing COANG*  
Diane Garcia | *2G Associates, LLC*  
Elyse Gellerman | *The Medical Center of Aurora*  
Mark Gouin | *Wells Fargo Banks*  
Margo Jamieson | *Kaiser Permanente*  
Todd Landgrave | *Northrop Grumman*  
Kelly Leid | *Oakwood Homes*  
Dale Mingilton | *Element Photography*  
Wendy Mitchell | *Aurora Economic Development Council*  
Mark Moses | *Outback Restaurants*  
Alfonso Nunez | *La Cueva Restaurant*  
David Patterson | *Rural/Metro Ambulance*  
Alan Peppers | *Westerra Credit Union*  
The Honorable Randy Pye | *Mayor, City of Centennial*  
Katie Roche | *Raytheon*  
Dan Sandos | *401(K) Advisors*  
Jo Snell | *E-470 Public Hwy. Authority*  
John Stanton | *Prudential Colorado Real Estate*  
Maran Stewart | *The Children's Hospital*  
Jim Suss | *Suss Buick, Pontiac, GMC*  
The Honorable Ed Tauer | *Mayor, City of Aurora*  
Craig Ward | *Padgett Business Services*  
Frank Weddig | *Commissioner, Arapahoe County*

### Executive Staff

*President & CEO*  
Kevin Hougen

*Marketing & Visitors' Advisory Board*  
Naomi Colwell

*Leadership Director*  
Kimberly Curtis

*Special Events*  
Debbie Lynch

*Administrative Assistant/Receptionist*  
Trisha Rose

*Membership Director*  
Marc Maxwell

*Administration Director*  
Stephanie McDonnell

*Vice President*  
George Peck

*VP, Membership Development*  
Paul Rosenberg

*Membership Services*  
Mary Beth Sharp

The **IMPACT** is published monthly for the members of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce. Subscription rate to nonmembers: \$50/year. Advertisers: The Chamber members—use the **IMPACT** to advertise your products and services to over 1700 Aurora Chamber members. Advertising space only available to members. The **IMPACT** also accepts preprinted inserts. Contact The Chamber for details. Deadlines: the 10th of the month prior to publication.

562 Sable Blvd., Suite 200  
Aurora, CO 80011-0809  
303-344-1500 • Fax 303-344-1564  
website: [www.aurorachamber.org](http://www.aurorachamber.org)

# Member News

## Aurora Housing Authority announces new Executive Director

Craig A. Maraschky has been named the new executive director of **Aurora Housing Authority** effective February 11, 2008. He has 15 years of experience in the affordable housing community and most recently served as the founding executive director of the Douglas County Housing Partnership. His background includes redevelopment, refinancing and management of a diversified multifamily housing portfolio, in addition to public housing, Housing Choice Voucher program, Community Development Block Grant, HOME, Low-Income Housing Tax Credits and Mortgage Revenue Bonds. Maraschky also served as a vice president of the Aurora Housing Corporation Board of Directors.

## Ryden announces for House District 36

Su Ryden announced she will be a candidate for the State House of Representatives in District 36 in Aurora.

A longtime Aurora resident, Ryden is a business owner and an active community supporter. Her firm, **Ryden & Associates Integrated Marketing**, has been in business since 1975. A member of the Aurora Chamber she has served on the board of Leadership Aurora since 2004. She is also on the **Aurora Fox Arts** Center Board and the Aurora Historic Preservation Commission. She is a Rotarian and serves on the board of the Colorado Ethics in



Su Ryden

Business Alliance (CEBA). She will run for the seat that Rep. Morgan Carroll has held for the past three years. Carroll has announced her intention to run for the State Senate in District 29 in the fall, a seat currently held by Sen. Bob Hagedorn who is term limited.

## Middleton takes District 42 seat

Karen Middleton has been selected to serve as Representative for House District 42 in Aurora, finishing out the term of Rep. Michael Garcia who has resigned. Middleton was sworn in by House Speaker Andrew Romanoff on Feb. 13. She is vacating her current position as a member of the Colorado State Board of Education. She will continue in her capacity as Chair of the **Aurora Symphony Ball** scheduled for March 8.



Karen Middleton

## Med studies all in on Anschutz Campus

University of Colorado officials report that all health science students of the **University of Colorado Denver** are now attending classes at the Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora. Approximately 3,000 School of Nursing, Pharmacy, Medicine, Graduate and Dental Medicine students now study in the education zone of the Fitzsimons campus, which was designed to encourage interaction and interdisciplinary discussions among students of the various health sciences schools.

## Barry named Tech-Savvy Superintendent of the Year Aurora Public Schools

Superintendent John L. Barry was recently named Tech-Savvy Superintendent of the Year by eSchool News. Barry is one of ten superintendents across the nation to earn the honor this year.



John L. Barry

Under Barry's leadership, APS has implemented a variety of technology improvements ranging from digital classrooms and chatrooms for staff, students and community to district supported online resource sites, webinars and language training.

## Mt. Fuji celebrates first anniversary

One of Aurora's premier sushi and hibachi restaurants, **Mt. Fuji**, is celebrating their first anniversary according to manager Al Liu. And to celebrate the occasion, the **Southlands**-based establishment is offering all Chamber members 20 percent off on selected items now through April 10. Check out details in the enclosed flyer or by checking their web site at [www.mtfujico.com](http://www.mtfujico.com).

## JDRF to Establish an Autoimmunity Center at Barbara Davis Center

Researchers at the Barbara Davis Center for Childhood Diabetes at the University of Colorado Denver in Aurora have new resources in their fight against type 1 diabetes: The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation has approved funding for the establishment of a JDRF

Autoimmunity Center at the Barbara Davis Center for Childhood Diabetes, only the seventh in the nation. The Autoimmunity Center will receive approximately \$1 million a year over the next five years to further fund research leading to a cure for type 1 diabetes.

"We are delighted to establish the JDRF Autoimmunity Center at the Barbara Davis Center," said Teodora Staeva, Ph.D. Program Director, Autoimmunology, at JDRF. "This JDRF Center will focus on developing novel antigen-specific approaches to predict, prevent, and possibly reverse type 1 diabetes."

The JDRF Center brings together a team of basic scientists and clinical researchers, and includes Dr. Hutton, along with George Eisenbarth, MD, PhD; Peter Gottlieb, MD; Howard Davidson, PhD; and Danny Zupris. The Barbara Davis Center for Childhood Diabetes will be the administrative hub of this JDRF Autoimmunity Center.

## TMCA to host Breakfast

The Medical Center of Aurora will host the mid-term Legislator's Breakfast on St. Patrick's Day, March 17 at 7:15 a.m. in the Dr. Ed Lord Room of their North Campus facility on Potomac and 6th Avenue. Legislators from the Eastern Metro area have been invited to give their assessment on how things are going at the Capitol at about the midpoint in the 2008 legislative session. The meeting begins at 7:15 a.m. RSVPs are requested to Trisha at 303-344-1500.

## Northrop Grumman signs on as AFRL leader

**Northrop Grumman** of Aurora has stepped forward to serve as lead sponsor for the annual Armed Forces Recognition Luncheon scheduled for May 16. Todd Landgrave, the company's manager of business management and a Director of the Aurora Chamber Board passed the news on to Chamber President Kevin Hougren. "We are delighted that **Northrop Grumman** is taking the lead in this important event," he said. "I think it indicates their commitment to recognizing especially the young troops that are serving here in the Eastern Metro area."

The luncheon, which will be held in the **Holiday Inn DIA**, honors all the military but concentrates on the junior enlisted people serving in this area. Full

of military ceremony, and hosted by popular **KEZW-AM** radio personality Rick Crandall, the luncheon begins at 11:30 a.m. and is the only one of its type in the Metro area.

Organized by the Chamber Defense Council's AFRL Committee under the leadership of Suzanne Pitrusu from **Wells Fargo Bank**, it features awards for the top young enlisted people from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard as well as their Guard and Reserve components.

Additional sponsorships are still available according to Pitrusu. "This is a great opportunity for the business community to show their support for our military," she said. Information on sponsorship,



**NORTHROP GRUMMAN**

advertising contributions to the event is available on the Chamber website, [www.aurorachamber.org](http://www.aurorachamber.org). Costs to attend are \$1500 for a Corporate Sponsorship, \$500 for a table or \$30 per person.



# Ribbon Cuttings



**Big crowd like big investor** – Ev Sequeira cuts the ribbon to celebrate the opening of his new **Edward Jones** office in the **Saint Andrews Village** Complex at Yale and Abilene. Sequeira, was joined by friends, family and colleagues for the grand opening that included food and, if you were inclined, plenty of advice on the safe and secure investment opportunities available through the **Edward Jones Investments** company. Sequeira can be reached at 303-751-1841. You can also check out the website at [www.edward-jones.com](http://www.edward-jones.com).



**How does this make you feel —**  
Using scissors instead of his excellent counseling skills, Michael Dawson gets the ribbon to open up in front of his new office at 13791 East Rice Place, Suite 200. Dawson, a professional counselor, as well as an author and speaker offers a wide variety of services. Check them out at his website at [www.michaeldawsoncounseling.com](http://www.michaeldawsoncounseling.com).



**Crowd says welcome home!** – More than 1,000 people gather at the start of a special picnic and barbecue in Hanger 909 at Buckley AFB Feb. 10. The crowd, representing a cross section of the community included Congressmen Tom Tancredo and Ed Perlmutter as well as a number of other community and political leaders came to welcome home members of the 140th Wing of the Colorado Air National Guard and their families from their most recent deployment to the Middle East. The gathering was organized by the United Veteran's Committee and managed by Clif Sams. (Photo courtesy SMSgt John Rohrer, 140th Wing Public Affairs)



*"I've spent most of my life golfing — the rest I've just wasted."*

— Author Unknown

Don't miss out on the premiere golf event of the summer! The 10th Annual Leadership Aurora Annual Golf Tournament is set for Thursday, June 19, 2008. We will return to the beautiful and challenging Heritage Eagle Bend Golf & Country Club. Individual player fees are \$150 and include cart, green fees, lunch, and a player ditty bag.

We celebrate a decade of success thanks to **Rural/Metro Ambulance** who has been the event sponsor since its inception. Other sponsors include **Adolfson & Peterson Construction**, **FirstBanks of Aurora**, **Metro Community Provider Network**, and **Pinnacol Assurance**.

Sponsorship opportunities are still available but going quickly. They range from \$200 Fairway sponsor to \$2,000 Gold Sponsor that includes golfer fees, signage, promotion and website links.

Please also consider advertising your business by donating items for ditty bags and door prizes. For the ditty bags, small items such as golf balls, tees, pens, and other advertising specialty-type items are requested. At least 160 of each item are needed for the ditty bags.



Larger items such as gift certificates, gift baskets, restaurant dinners, golf shirts, golf bags or clubs, or any non-related golf items will be used as door prizes. It's a great way to market your business!

Go to [www.aurorachamber.org](http://www.aurorachamber.org) to register online for the tournament or e-mail [kimberly.curtis@aurorachamber.org](mailto:kimberly.curtis@aurorachamber.org) for more information.

## I-225 FasTracks corridor update meeting set

The I-225 FasTracks corridor planning process continues at a rapid pace. Larry Warner, **RTD** project manager for the corridor, told the Chamber Transportation Committee on Feb. 6. Warner was joined at the meeting by Mike Turner, **RTD** project manager for the East Corridor.

The proposed 10.5-mile I-225 light rail extension will run from the existing Nine Mile Station at Parker Road through the Aurora City Center and the Anschutz Medical Campus and Fitzsimons Life Sciences District, to a future station at Peoria Street and Smith Road. **RTD** is currently refining the corridor light rail alignment and proposed station locations along the corridor.

Warner said **RTD** will share updated information at two public hearing meetings scheduled for Wednesday, March 12 at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. at the **Summit Conference and Event Center** located at 411 Sable Blvd. in Aurora. "We would like to hear what the public has to say regarding the proposed light rail alignment, station locations, and parking," he said, pointing out that the next big step was completion of the Environmental Evaluation. "We anticipate distributing a draft of the I-225 Environmental Evaluation in the fall of 2008 for public review," he concluded.



**Not your standard line-up** — Sheriff Grayson Robinson, **Arapahoe County** Commissioner Jim Dyer, and **Centennial** Mayor Randy Pye are obviously happy about a new intergovernmental agreement they signed recently to ensure that public safety services for the people of Centennial will continue to be provided by the **Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office**. The 10-year intergovernmental agreement, worth \$19.5 million annually, will be in place through December 31, 2018. Under the intergovernmental agreement, the Sheriff's Office will continue to provide Centennial with a full range of public safety services and programs that include patrol services, investigations, school resource officers, traffic education/enforcement, crime mapping, crime prevention, graffiti removal, online registered sex offender information, emergency management, and community emergency response training.

# Pinnacol offers convenient and inexpensive safety training

While most employers recognize that safety training is one of the best ways to reduce workplace injuries, they often don't want to interrupt operations by sending employees to classes that take them away from work for an entire day or longer. **Pinnacol Assurance** has a solution that enables employees to get the training they need anytime – from the comfort of their home or office.

**Pinnacol** is collaborating with ClickSafety, a nationally recognized provider of online training courses, to offer Online Safety Training for a wide range of industries at drastically reduced rates. To take advantage of these classes, all you need is a computer and Internet access. This training is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

If an employee has to stop in the middle of training, he or she can resume the class at a later date without having to start over again. Comprehension is checked with a test at the end of each course. For scores lower than 100 percent, there is a built-in program review before retesting. And, you can monitor your employees' progress at any time. Best of all, you can sign up one employee or your entire workforce.

For a complete list of courses, visit **Pinnacol's** Online Training Portal – [www.Pinnacol.com](http://www.Pinnacol.com) – and click on Online Safety Training. If you have questions, contact your Pinnacol marketing representative.

## It's Quick and Easy

There are more than 180 self-paced courses from which to choose. The areas in which courses are offered include:

- Safety awareness
- General industry
- Department of Transportation Management
- Certificate or OSHA-authorized courses
- Safety and health fundamentals
- Safety in Spanish

## How flexible is your business?

After some rousing successes last year the **Aurora Chamber of Commerce** has once again been selected as one of only 30 such organizations across the country that can offer employers an opportunity to apply for the prestigious national **Alfred P. Sloan Award**.

Today and into the near future, workforce retention and recruitment will be perhaps the key issues for human resource managers around the country. "We all know how difficult it is to attract the best talent to our companies and organizations," said Kevin Hougen, Chamber President and CEO who is coordinating the effort in the area. "As an employer, your organization may already be an effective, flexible workplace—and you may not even know it!" he exclaimed.

Hougen said applying for the **Alfred P. Sloan Award** will "help you evaluate and understand your organization's strengths and challenges. The award will provide the data for you to implement specific strategies to help

recruit, develop, and retain talent; have more productive and satisfied employees; and positively affect the bottom line performance of your organization."

He said that applying for the Sloan Awards was fast and easy. "If you think your organization could be characterized as having an effective and flexible workplace – or want to find out – you can self-nominate by filling out the on-line application at [www.whenworkworks.org](http://www.whenworkworks.org). This application usually takes about 20 minutes to complete," Hougen stated. "If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call me or Stephanie at The Chamber at 303-344-1500."

Last year, The Chamber's "Flex in the City" program had three nationally recognized winners who took away Sloan Awards presented by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. They included **Arapahoe/Douglas County Works!** and **The Medical Center of Aurora**.



## Annual Awards Banquet theme set

You can almost hear the organ pounding out the theme for this year's Aurora Chamber Awards Banquet—the falling crescendo of "The Phantom of the Opera."

Concentrate more on the "Opera" part than the "Phantom" says Naomi Colwell who helped the committee decide on this year's theme. "We want to create an air of elegance since this is the year's most prestigious event in the Eastern Metro area," she said, "but we also didn't want to lose the mystery part that comes with the anticipation of who will be our award winners."

The special evening, which will honor the best of the best in the Eastern Metro communities, is set for Friday, April 11. Activities begin at 6 p.m. with

hors d' oeuvres and the Chamber's famous silent auction. "I think you'll be pleased with all the great things we have lined up for the auction," said Marci Maxwell who coordinates the effort for the Chamber. "Come earlier for the finger food but stay for all the stuff we have available for you at the silent auction." Dinner with fine wine, a program and awards begins at 7:30 p.m.

This year, the banquet returns to the **Radisson Hotel SE** at I-225 where it has been held for many years. Cost for the elegant "black tie encouraged" evening is \$65 per person or \$850 for a table of ten. RSVPs are required. For more information call Trisha at 303-344-1500 or go to The Chamber web site, [www.aurorachamber.org](http://www.aurorachamber.org).

## Renewals

Image Brokers  
Intermountain REA  
JCPenney  
JDI Ventures, Inc.  
Kraus Enterprises  
Legends of Aurora  
Len Lyall Chevrolet, Inc.  
Lithia Cherry Creek Dodge  
Majestic Realty Co.  
Marquis Marble, Inc.  
Denver Marriott Tech Center  
Med-Well, Inc.  
Merry Maids  
Metro Community Provider Network, Inc.  
Metro State College of Denver  
Mile High Harley-Davidson  
Modular Interiors, Inc.  
James Moore & Associates, P.C.  
MuellerTime Designs  
National Guard Association of Colorado  
Now Hear This, Inc.  
Oakwood Homes, LLC  
Parker Adventist Hospital  
Profinish Painting & Design  
Pure Cycle Corporation  
Purewater Dynamics/Great American Coffee Co.  
Radisson Hotel Denver Southeast  
Raytheon Company  
RecycleUS.com/Ribbon Recyclers  
Red Lobster  
Remember When  
The Royal Hilltop  
Ryden & Associates  
Space Age Federal Credit Union  
Stampede  
Stan's Alignment & Brake Service, Inc.  
State Farm Insurance  
SuperValu, Inc.  
Technical Glass, Inc.  
The Timbers  
United Hebrew Cemetery Association  
Valley Country Club  
Wagner Equipment Co.  
Wells Fargo Home Mortgage  
Windsor Gardens Association  
Wyndham Hotel Denver Tech Center  
Y.M.C.A. of the Rockies

## NEW MEMBERS

AFLAC  
Benchmark Realty  
Blackstone Country Club  
Cold Stone Creamery  
DPRA, Inc.  
Drivetrain Industries  
Grand Prix Motorsports  
JBK Landscape, Inc.  
National Association of Insurance & Financial Advisors  
Unity Business Networks  
USO Rocky Mountain  
Wine Source of Colorado